

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026  
3:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 680**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL FAYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Michael Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Michael Faye, born on Kauai, represents a life of service to the Kauai Community that includes the Historical Society, Youth Soccer, Veterans Memorial Hospital, Business and Professional Association, Rotary, Environmental Council, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Contractor Association, and coupled with Kauai professional agriculture experience as Systems Analyst with the Lihue Plantation Company, VP and Manager for Kikialoa Land Company, Ltd., moving to President of the Kikialoa Construction Co, and currently as Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, he is extraordinarily qualified to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB) as the member from Kauai County.

Respectfully requesting your confirmation of Michael Faye as a member of BAB, representing Kauai County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Testimony of  
**Derek S.K. Kawakami**  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
March 4, 2026 at 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**GM 680 Michael Faye**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee for the**  
**Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity**

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Michael Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. There are few candidates who could bring his depth of practical knowledge, historical perspective, and hands-on agricultural experience to this board.

Mike grew up on the west side of Kaua'i immersed in plantation-era agriculture and has spent his career navigating the complex transition that followed the decline of sugar. Today, as Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, he oversees the Kekaha and Kōke'e Ditch systems, wells, reservoirs, pumps, two hydroelectric plants, roads, and the drainage system for the Mana Plain. This is exactly the kind of critical agricultural infrastructure the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity exists to support and protect.

Prior to his current role, Mike spent decades as President and co-owner of Kikiaola Construction Co., where he led major agricultural, commercial, and military construction projects across the state. He also served as Vice President and Manager of Kikiaola Land Co. His finance degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and early career as a systems analyst at Līhu'e Plantation round out a profile that is both technically sophisticated and operationally seasoned.

Mike's public service record is equally impressive, including leadership roles with the State of Hawai'i Environmental Council, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, and the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission. His civic engagement reflects a man who is genuinely invested in the health of his community and the sustainability of Hawai'i's land.

Mike Faye brings irreplaceable knowledge of Hawai'i's agricultural systems, infrastructure, and history to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to Mike Faye's nomination and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.

# OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Testimony of Nalani Kaaui Brun**  
Director, Office of Economic Development  
County of Kauai

**Before the Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026- 3:00pm**  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**RE: GM 680 – Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity – Michael Faye**

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Michael Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Michael has dedicated his life to serving the West Side of Kaua'i and the broader agricultural community. As Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, he oversees the operation and maintenance of critical agricultural infrastructure, including the Kekaha and Kōke'e ditch systems, wells, reservoirs, hydroelectric plants, and the drainage system serving the Mana plain. This is not theoretical experience—it is daily, on-the-ground responsibility for the systems that keep agriculture viable.

Throughout his career, Michael has demonstrated vision, resilience, and the ability to lead complex operations. As President of Kikiaola Construction Company, he transformed and expanded the business while completing significant restoration, agricultural, and infrastructure projects. His leadership extends beyond business into public service, including service on the State Environmental Council, where he also served as Chair.

Born and raised in Waimea, Michael understands the cultural, economic, and practical realities of agriculture in Hawai'i. He comes from a trusted kama'āina family that has long invested in projects benefiting not just the West Side, but the entire island. He is thoughtful, steady, and collaborative- someone who listens first and works toward practical solutions.

The Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity will benefit from his experience managing agricultural systems, navigating environmental issues, and working constructively with diverse stakeholders.

I respectfully urge your favorable confirmation of Michael Faye.

Mahalo for your consideration.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON GM 680**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture, Gubernatorial Nominee, Michael Faye, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.**

Mr. Faye currently serves as Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, where he oversees the day-to-day operation and management of critical agricultural infrastructure on the Mana Plain, including the Kekaha and Kokee ditch systems, wells, reservoirs, pumps, hydroelectric facilities, drainage systems, and agricultural roadways. This infrastructure is foundational to agricultural production on West Kaua'i, and his role provides him with direct insight into the challenges of water management, system maintenance, and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Mr. Faye also brings decades of business leadership experience in construction, land management, and large-scale project development. His background in managing complex operations, financing infrastructure improvements, and working with agricultural tenants provides him with a practical, solution-oriented perspective that will benefit Board deliberations.

In addition, Mr. Faye has extensive community and public service experience, including prior service on the State Environmental Council and various Kaua'i community boards. His familiarity with environmental review processes, infrastructure recovery, and long-term land planning adds valuable institutional knowledge to the Board.

HFB believes Mr. Faye's experience in agricultural infrastructure management and community leadership will be a strong asset to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, particularly as the State continues to address water system resilience, biosecurity challenges, and the long-term viability of our agricultural lands.

We respectfully urge the Committee to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**To:** Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**From:** Kekaha Agriculture Association

**Date:** March 3, 2026

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of GM 680, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL FAYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Mike Faye's appointment to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

As far back as I can remember, growing up in West Kaua`i, Mike has been a prominent and respected figure in the community, with deep family roots in both community governance and agriculture.

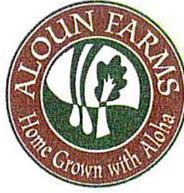
I have more recently had the pleasure of working with Mike at the Kekaha Agriculture Association, where I have been consistently impressed by his effective management of the organization, as well as the breadth of his knowledge and expertise, and his commitment to the community and local agriculture.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give its full and favorable consideration to the confirmation of Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I am confident that his experience, leadership, and dedication to Hawai'i's agricultural community will serve the State well, and I strongly support his appointment for the term ahead.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara

President of the Board of Directors  
Kekaha Agriculture Association



94-488 Kunia Road, Waipahu, HI 96797

Phone: (808) 927-4937 Email: jenny.s@alounfarms.com

February 28, 2026

**GM680 – Michael Faye  
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) – Kaua‘i Member**

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alec Sou, President of Aloun Farm, Inc., and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Michael Faye’s appointment as the Kaua‘i Member on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry faces increasing pressure from invasive species, plant and animal diseases, global trade vulnerabilities, and rising production costs. Biosecurity is not simply a regulatory function, it is a foundational pillar of our state’s food security and agricultural sustainability.

The Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity plays a critical role in safeguarding our farms, ranches, and food systems while balancing the need for regulatory oversight with practical realities faced by producers. Strong, consistent, and informed leadership is essential as Hawai‘i works to increase local food production and protect agricultural investments from biosecurity threats.

Through his entire life, growing up in a family that has over eight (8) decades & two (2) generations of involvement with the sugar plantation legacy, Michael Faye’s service and understanding of neighbor–island agricultural concerns will strengthen statewide decision-making. Ensuring Kaua‘i’s voice is represented on the Board is vital to maintaining balanced and equitable agricultural policy across the islands.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm this appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Sou  
President, Aloun Farm, Inc.

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:09:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Pajela	Testifying for Na Alii Protection Services, LLC.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I here by Nomminate Michael Faye, He has shown exemplary knowledge care and understanding for agruculture for the island of Kauai. I believe that with is appointment to the Board of Agriculture he will be an asset not only to the Board but also to the Agriculture Industry as well as the Community.

Mahalo,

Anthony Pajela

Operation Manager

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:04:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janoah Young	Testifying for Kani Wildlife Control	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate,

We are writing to express our full support for the appointment of Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mr. Faye brings an exceptional depth of knowledge and firsthand experience to this role. His longstanding involvement in Hawai'i agriculture, land stewardship, and resource management has given him a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges facing our islands. He recognizes that protecting our agricultural base and strengthening biosecurity measures are essential to ensuring resilient local food systems for future generations.

Strong leadership requires practical experience, institutional knowledge, and the ability to collaborate across sectors. Mr. Faye embodies these qualities. His appointment would strengthen the department's ability to address invasive species and wildlife threats, support local farmers and ranchers, and safeguard Hawai'i's agricultural future.

We respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Mike Faye's appointment.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people of Hawai'i.



March 3, 2026

Senator Mike Gabbard  
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 680 Nomination of Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mike Faye in his role as Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association since 2019. Mike has deep roots in Kauai's soil and is in tune with the issues that will be coming before the board. I have every confidence he will be a strong advocate for agriculture and a valuable addition to the board.

I urge your confirmation of Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Harold Edwards

President

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:04:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hans Peter Faye IV	Testifying for Kikiaola Land Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Kikiaola Land Company, Waimea Kauai, as the Chairman of it's Board of Directors I submit support for the nomination of Mike Faye to represent Kauai on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (BAB).

I have known Mike for 60 years. He is deeply aware of the issues facing agriculture in the islands through a lifetime of involvement in the industry. His current position as Manager of Kekaha Agriculture Association speaks to his expertise and current level of commitment.

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:58:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
stephanie iona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully submitting my full support of Michael Faye's appointment to the Board of Agriculture I have had the opportunity to know Mike for over 25 years on Kauai in his role in business, and for his lifetime legacy for Sugar and development of the community on the Westside of Kauai. In his role as GM of Kekaha Agriculture I always am impressed with his love for "history" in agriculture that include plantation lifestyle traditions.

Mike will bring a sensible path of keeping Agriculture in a good place for the future of our island economy. Thank you Stephanie Iona

resident of Waimea Kauai

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:41:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mike Faye is very qualified with a passion for Hawai'i agriculture.

Johnny Gordines

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:53:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Russell Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I proudly write this testimony and support of Mr. Michael Faye to represent the island of Kauai!!! on the board of agriculture and bio security. I have known Mr.Faye for many years and have never seen someone so committed to the protection, growth, and support of local agriculture. Our community needs someone not only driven and committed for this position, but someone who clearly understands not only the importance of agriculture, but what truly makes and allows this land to operate.

I can be available if any further comments or input is desired.

Mahalo,

-Russell Wagner

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:43:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick McLean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have worked with Mike Faye in a business capacity for over 20 years. His upbringing and several generation family heritage in Agriculture on Kauai position him to be the best possible candidate you can have to facilitate this endeavor. I recommend him whole heartedly.

Mahalo

Date: 3/2/2026

To: Committee AEN

From: Lauren Starner

Subject: Support GM680

I support Mike Faye taking this position. He has years of experience working in this area.

Thank you.



Lauren Starner

PO Box 766 Kekaha Hi, 96752

808-639-7115

lwstarner@gmail.com

Mark Bogner  
4175 Uka Ikena St  
Kalaheo, HI 96741

March 2, 2026

Letter of Support for Mike Faye  
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing in strong support of Mike Faye's nomination to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Mike over several years through his role as Manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association while I served as Farm Operations Manager at Hartung Brothers. Our farming operations relied heavily on Mike and his team to maintain critical agricultural infrastructure, including roads, drainage ditches, and most importantly the reliable delivery of irrigation water through the Kekaha Ditch to reservoirs across the Mana Plain.

Mike demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of water management and infrastructure maintenance to the success of agricultural operations. Under his leadership, the Kekaha Ditch system and associated hydropower facilities were managed with professionalism and care. Watching Mike and his team ensure that farms across the Mana Plain had the water and access they needed often while navigating complex operational challenges was consistently impressive.

When problems arose, Mike approached them with a practical, solutions-oriented mindset. He was always willing to collaborate, consider alternatives, and act decisively to ensure that crops and farmers were protected. His ability to balance operational realities with long-term stewardship of agricultural resources sets him apart.

Mike brings meaningful, real-world agricultural experience to this nomination. In addition to his leadership with the Kekaha Agriculture Association, his background with Kikiaola

Construction Company and his many contributions across Kaua'i reflect a strong understanding of both the operational and business sides of agriculture.

I fully support Mike's nomination and am confident he will bring practical insight, steady leadership, and positive momentum to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Bogner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Bogner

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Fern Holland  
Arryl Kaneshiro



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

March 2, 2026

**TESTIMONY OF ARRYL KANESHIRO  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**GM 680, Gubernatorial Nomination of Michael Faye to the  
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of GM 680, Gubernatorial Nomination of Michael Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity for a term to expire on June 30, 2030. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I have known Mike to be the longtime Executive Director of the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA), a farmer's cooperative tasked with responsibly managing former sugar plantation lands and irrigation systems on Kaua'i's westside. Importantly, KAA has an agreement with the State of Hawai'i Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to maintain the common areas and infrastructure of the Kekaha Agricultural Lands. Under his responsible stewardship, KAA has created lasting opportunities for farmers and diversified lands for ranching, native tree forests, and community programs.

Mike has demonstrated thoughtful leadership, integrity, and a generational commitment to supporting local agriculture. I am confident he will serve the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity with honor and help fortify Hawai'i's agricultural future. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this nomination.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 680. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

**ARRYL KANESHIRO**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

RM:ss

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:37:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In a world of AI and the internet, a simple call to Mike Faye would answer you're agricultural questions with more information and history than you ever wanted. Mike is a wealth of knowledge going back to the plantation days and covers from logistics and hauling to water systems and road management. From game management to supplying water to ranchers, he ensures the customers who count on Mike and his team are personally assisted in every way his team can.

I have full faith in Mike to be everything you need him to be. He has the support of myself and countless others. I wish him luck!

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:42:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emilie Bierly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha everyone,

My name is Emilie Bierly and I am a Kekaha resident, Rotary club member with Mike Faye. I am in support of his position to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Mike Faye has the experience, foresight, knowledge, and passion on these topics and I am confident he would be a great asset to the board. He is excellent to work with and is able to multitask, prioritize, and excel in his work and leads with creative and intent.

Thank you for your time in this matter,

Emilie Bierly

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:00:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adam Asquith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It would be hard to find a person more qualified for this position. I fully support the nomination of Mike Faye to the Board.

Adam Asquith

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:11:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kristy Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Micheal Faye's representation on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

March 4, 2026  
3:00 PM  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of GM 680**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Enright and I stand in strong support of Michael Faye's confirmation to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. I have known Mike Faye for decades and continue to work with him today. Mike Faye has been and continues to be a pillar of agriculture and economic development on the west side of Kauai. Mike's strong work ethic, a family trait for generations, has contributed to the success of agricultural operations at Kekaha Agriculture Association and elsewhere on the west side of Kauai. The Governor has put forward a great nominee and Hawaii's agricultural community will be well served with Mike Faye's service on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Again, I stand in strong support of Mike Faye and GM680.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Enright". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott Enright

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:44:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Berridge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Strong Support of the Nomination of Mike Faye to the Hawai‘i Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity**

Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Chaired by Mike Gabbard

Regarding the nomination by Josh Green

March 4, 2026

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Berridge, and I am an environmental scientist and planner with over 15 years of experience working in west Kaua‘i. In that time, I have supported federal, state, and private-sector clients on projects involving water resources, environmental compliance, land use planning, infrastructure, and agricultural operations. I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Mike Faye to represent Kaua‘i on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (“BAB”).

West Kaua‘i is a uniquely complex region. It is defined by its plantation history, its large-scale agricultural lands, its sensitive coastal and watershed environments, and its critical infrastructure systems. Decisions affecting agriculture and biosecurity on Kaua‘i are never made in a vacuum—they intersect with water allocation, invasive species management, wildfire risk, economic diversification, and community resilience.

Mike Faye understands this landscape—physically, politically, and historically—better than anyone I have worked with.

Over the years, I have observed firsthand Mike’s depth of knowledge regarding west Kaua‘i’s agricultural systems, irrigation infrastructure, drainage networks, and land ownership patterns. He understands not only how the land is used today, but how historic plantation-era decisions continue to shape present-day opportunities and constraints. That institutional knowledge is invaluable for a Board charged with protecting and advancing Hawai‘i’s agricultural future.

Equally important, Mike understands the environmental context. West Kaua‘i includes sensitive coastal ecosystems, critical habitats, and watershed areas that demand thoughtful stewardship. As someone who regularly navigates federal and state environmental regulations, I have seen how

essential it is to have leaders who appreciate both compliance requirements and practical implementation. Mike consistently demonstrates the ability to balance environmental protection with operational realities—an essential skill for the BAB.

Biosecurity in particular requires decisive, informed leadership. Kaua‘i faces ongoing challenges related to invasive species, plant pests, and agricultural resilience. Effective policy must be grounded in real-world agricultural operations, not abstract theory. Mike’s hands-on understanding of how agricultural lands function—combined with his grasp of local politics and community dynamics—positions him to be an effective and pragmatic leader at the Board level.

He is also someone who listens. In west Kaua‘i, successful projects depend on collaboration among landowners, agencies, community members, and regulators. Mike has consistently demonstrated the ability to bring stakeholders together and move discussions toward productive outcomes. That temperament—firm, informed, and respectful—is exactly what the Board needs.

Kaua‘i deserves representation on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity that reflects the island’s operational realities and long-term vision. Mike Faye brings unmatched knowledge of west Kaua‘i’s environment, agricultural systems, history, and governance. He understands where we have been, where we are, and what is required to move forward responsibly.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Mike Faye to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. His leadership will strengthen not only Kaua‘i’s agricultural community, but Hawai‘i’s broader efforts to enhance food security, protect natural resources, and safeguard our islands from biosecurity threats.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration.

Ben

**Benjamin Berridge, PMP, AICP**

Pacific Branch Manager/Senior Project Manager

Principal - Water Resources Management

[benjamin.berridge@stantecgs.com](mailto:benjamin.berridge@stantecgs.com)

737 Bishop Street, Suite 3050

Honolulu HI 96813

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Michael A. Faye's nomination to serve on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Mr. Faye has been a part of Kauai agriculture for a long time and has the experience to be an excellent contributor to the Board. He brings thoughtful leadership, is practical, and has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our farming community. He knows that agriculture in Hawaii requires balancing productivity, environmental stewardship, biosecurity protections, and market access. His position as a community leader and as manager of the Kekaha Agriculture Association gives him a diverse and thorough perspective on this subject.

Mr. Faye has consistently demonstrated integrity, fairness, and a willingness to work collaboratively across sectors. He listens carefully, considers diverse perspectives, and focuses on practical outcomes that strengthen both producers and the broader community. Kauai, and the state as a whole, would benefit from his voice and experience.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Umi Martin  
Umi's Farm  
Kekaha, Kauai

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:35:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Hesapene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I am writing in strong support of Michael A. Faye’s confirmation to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. As Manager of Kekaha Agriculture Association, Mike has been an exemplary leader in Kaua’i agriculture.

Under his stewardship, we have a unique chance to address Kaua’i’s green waste problem by scaling compost and biochar systems. These solutions will not only reduce waste, but also build soil health, support long-term farm resilience, and help prevent the spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Mike’s practical experience and commitment to sustainability will be invaluable as we address biosecurity challenges statewide.

I respectfully urge your support for Mike’s confirmation.

Mahalo,

Kelsey Hesapene

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:12:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Stoutemyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**GM680 – Michael Faye  
Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) – Kaua‘i Member**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Mark Stoutemyer**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **Michael Faye’s appointment** as the Kaua‘i Member on the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Hawai‘i’s agricultural industry continues to face growing challenges from invasive species, plant and animal diseases, global supply chain vulnerabilities, and rising production costs. Biosecurity is not merely a regulatory responsibility—it is a cornerstone of our state’s food security, agricultural sustainability, and long-term economic resilience.

The Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity plays a critical role in protecting Hawai‘i’s farms, ranches, and food systems, while balancing necessary regulatory oversight with the practical realities faced by agricultural producers. As the state works to increase local food production and safeguard agricultural investments, strong, consistent, and informed leadership on the Board is essential.

Michael Faye brings a deep, lived understanding of neighbor-island agriculture. Having grown up in a family with more than eight decades and two generations of involvement rooted in Hawai‘i’s sugar plantation legacy, he offers valuable insight into the historical and present-day challenges facing Kaua‘i’s agricultural community. His perspective will strengthen statewide decision-making and ensure that Kaua‘i’s voice is meaningfully represented on the Board—an important factor in maintaining balanced and equitable agricultural policy across the islands.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Michael Faye’s appointment to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stoutemyer

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:08:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary G. Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I stand in strong support for **Mr. Michael A. Faye** a candidate to fill a vacancy on the State of Hawaii, Dept of Agriculture Board.

Mahalo, Gary D. Moniz

*(retired)* State of Hawaii, DLNR, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Enforcement Chief, Administrator, Conservation and Resources Enforcement and Hawaii Hunter Education. *(former)* State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry, Animal Quarantine and Inspection Branch Chief, Halawa Animal Quarantine Station, Honolulu International Airport, Animal Quarantine and Inspection Facility, Manager.

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:49:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hauolihiwahiwa Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Michael A. Faye for the Board of Agriculture due to his proven and unwavering commitment to local agriculture, Hawai'i, and it's people.

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:02:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support Michael A Faye for Board of Agriculture. I am a Pediatrician and have know Michael for many years.

Respectfully

Kathleen Luana Durante Moniz

**GM-680**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:45:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/4/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Michael Faye is an experienced and knowledgeable agricultural advocate.

I strongly support his confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity.