

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM

March 3, 2026  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**GM 682 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of  
Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JOSHUA UYEHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for GM682, appointing Joshua Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. Uyehara brings experience in navigating complex policy issues, as well as deep knowledge of land and water management challenges, particularly on Kaua'i. His background demonstrates a clear ability to work collaboratively with government agencies, community stakeholders, and private partners to develop solutions that balance agricultural development with environmental stewardship and community priorities.

Throughout his career, he has engaged in projects involving land use planning, water rights, and resource management, where he consistently demonstrated thoughtful leadership, strategic thinking, and an understanding of local community needs. This expertise is particularly relevant to the ADC's mission, as the agency works to ensure the sustainable use of agricultural lands and water resources across Hawai'i.

Mr. Uyehara's ability to bridge policy, community, and agricultural perspectives will help the Board make informed decisions that benefit farmers, local communities, and the State as a whole. His collaborative approach and on-the-ground experience make him exceptionally well-suited to contribute to ADC's governance and strategic objectives.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of GM682 and the appointment of Joshua Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors. His insight into land, water, and community issues will be a significant asset to the Board and to the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**GM 682**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the**  
**Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**JOSHUA UYEHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to support GM682, appointing Joshua Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). Mr. Uyehara is a respected 4th-generation farmer with deep roots in the Kaua'i community. His decades of experience in agriculture are complemented by a demonstrated ability to build strategic community partnerships that advance sustainable land use, water management, and agricultural development. He is widely recognized for his leadership, integrity, and collaborative approach, earning the trust of both local stakeholders and government partners alike.

Through his work, Mr. Uyehara has successfully navigated complex policy and resource management issues while ensuring that community voices are heard and incorporated into decision-making. His knowledge of local agricultural practices, combined with his commitment to community-driven solutions, makes him exceptionally well-suited to support ADC's mission of enhancing agricultural productivity, water stewardship, and land management across the State.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of GM682 and the appointment of Joshua Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors. His experience, community engagement, and respected voice as a Kaua'i farmer will be invaluable assets to the Board and to the people of Hawai'i.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
CURT T. OTAGURO  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

**LATE**

March 3, 2026  
1:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**G.M. 682**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSHUA UYHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the appointment and confirmation of Joshua Uyehara to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Uyehara is an experienced agricultural executive with deep roots in Hawai'i's farming community. A fourth-generation West Kaua'i native, he brings firsthand knowledge of agriculture, land stewardship, and rural community life.

Professionally, he currently serves as Principal of UI Hawaii Consulting LLC, advising clients on policy, land, water, and community matters throughout the state. He also serves as President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, where he leads organizational strategy and stakeholder engagement efforts.

Previously, as Vice President and General Manager of Hartung Brothers' Hawai'i operations, he oversaw statewide agricultural operations with full responsibility for business performance and sustainability. His leadership experience also includes executive and strategic planning roles with Syngenta, both in Hawai'i and on the mainland, where he managed research operations and contributed to global planning initiatives.

In addition, his service with the Kunia Water Association and Hawaii Crop Improvement Association demonstrates a strong commitment to advancing water management and agricultural innovation in Hawai'i.

Mr. Uyehara's combination of operational expertise, strategic leadership, policy experience, and community engagement makes him exceptionally well-qualified to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

# MAYOR DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI

COUNTY OF KAUA'I



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

Before the  
**Committee on Economic Development**  
March 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**LATE**

In consideration of  
**GM 682 Joshua Uyehara**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee for the Agribusiness Development Corporation**

Honorable Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of for the appointment of Joshua Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). Josh is an exceptionally well-qualified candidate whose background, character, and commitment to Hawai'i's agricultural future make him ideally suited for this role.

Josh brings a lifetime of experience in Hawai'i's land and agricultural systems. He grew up farming kalo, hunting on horseback, and spearfishing which provides him an authentic and deeply rooted understanding of why Hawai'i's agricultural sustainability matters. That perspective, combined with an impressive professional career spanning global corporations and local community organizations, makes him a rare and valuable leader.

Over the course of his career, Josh has demonstrated exceptional executive capability and operations leadership at Hartung Brothers Inc., and Syngenta. He has consistently operated at the intersection of strategy, operations, and policy, which is precisely the skill set the ADC needs on its board. Josh's community leadership is equally impressive having served on the Kekaha Agriculture Association, the Hawai'i Crop Improvement Association, the Kunia Water Association, and the Kaua'i County Salary Commission. Each of these roles reflects his ability to navigate complex stakeholder environments, advocate effectively, and build consensus across diverse interests.

Hawai'i's agricultural sector faces serious challenges around land access, water rights, and the transition away from plantation-era infrastructure. Josh has spent his career directly engaged in all these issues. He understands the policy landscape, knows the stakeholders, and has the credibility to bring people together around shared solutions.

I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to Josh Uyehara's nomination and forward to the full Senate for their 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 3, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON GM 682**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSHUA UYEHARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 Hawai'i'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 Josh Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.**

Mr. Uyehara is a fourth-generation Kaua'i resident with deep agricultural roots and a lifelong connection to Hawai'i's farming community. He brings extensive leadership experience in agricultural operations, land management, and community engagement, along with a strong understanding of Hawai'i's complex land and water landscape.

As President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, Mr. Uyehara has worked closely with agricultural stakeholders, policymakers, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation itself. Through this work, he has gained a practical understanding of ADC's operations, responsibilities, and the challenges facing state-managed agricultural lands. That experience will allow him to contribute meaningfully from day one.

Mr. Uyehara has also led agricultural operations in Hawai'i, overseeing strategy, business development, and sustainability efforts. His experience navigating land-use issues, infrastructure needs, and community partnerships reflects the balanced leadership necessary to support ADC's mission.

Beyond his professional experience, Mr. Uyehara comes from a small family farm and has long been engaged in Hawai'i's agricultural community. He understands firsthand the importance of maintaining viable agricultural lands, supporting farmers and ranchers, and strengthening local food production.

Hawai'i's agricultural future depends on leaders who understand both the operational realities of farming and the policy environment that shapes it. Mr. Uyehara brings both perspectives and a deep commitment to Kaua'i and the broader agricultural community.

Please accept our strong support for the confirmation of Joshua Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:33:50 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Blazak	Testifying for Hilo County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee,

Hilo County Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of Josh Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. Uyehara is a fourth-generation Kaua‘i resident with deep agricultural roots and a lifelong connection to Hawai‘i’s farming community. As President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, Mr. Uyehara has practical experience working with agricultural stakeholders, policymakers, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation itself.

Hawai‘i’s agricultural future depends on leaders who understand both the operational realities of farming and the policy environment that shapes it. Mr. Uyehara brings both perspectives and a deep commitment to Kaua‘i and the broader agricultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Megan Blazak  
Chapter President  
Hilo County Farm Bureau



94-488 Kunia Road, Waipahu, HI 96797

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

February 28, 2026

**GM682 – Joshua Uyehara  
Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) – Member at Large**

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alec Sou, President of Aloun Farm, Inc., and a long-standing agricultural producer in the State of Hawai‘i. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Joshua Uyehara’s appointment to serve as a Member at Large on the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors.

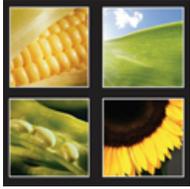
The role of Board of Director of ADC has never been more critical. As Hawai‘i continues its efforts to strengthen food security, expand local production, and modernize agricultural infrastructure, ADC serves as a central steward of state agricultural lands and development initiatives. The Board’s decisions directly influence access to farmland, irrigation systems, farm infrastructure, and the long-term viability of agricultural enterprises statewide.

Hawai‘i’s agricultural future depends on leadership that understands both the operational realities of farming and the financial structure necessary to support sustainable growth. Permanent crop development, diversified production, and strategic infrastructure investments require thoughtful oversight and long-range planning.

Having served for a decade as Director and President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, while serving as General Manager of a large multi-national private corn research entity, Joshua Uyehara brings experience, sound judgment, and a visionary perspective that will contribute positively to the stability and effectiveness of ADC. His appointment will help ensure that state agricultural lands are managed responsibly while advancing economic opportunity, food resilience, and investment confidence within the agricultural sector.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm this appointment.

Alec Sou  
President, Aloun Farm, Inc.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

GM 682 – In Support  
Confirming Joshua Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
Time: 1:00 PM  
Place: Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of GM 682**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), Gubernatorial Nominee, Joshua Uyehara, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Mr. Uyehara is an accomplished agricultural executive with deep multigenerational roots on Kauai and extensive experience in agricultural operations, land and water management, strategic planning, and community leadership. His background and expertise would make him an asset on the ADC Board and we urge the committee to support his nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892

GM682, Joshua Uyehara  
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Senate EDT Hearing – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate EDT Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 40 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director and chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

ADC's purpose, established by HRS163-D, is to provide leadership for developing, financing, improving, or enhancing agribusiness enterprises to increase local production for local consumption while continuing to develop commercial exports of locally produced agricultural products. It facilitates the transition of plantation infrastructure and farmland to other agriculture-related enterprises.

As a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of West Kauai, Joshua Uyehara grew up farming kalo, hunting on horseback, spear fishing and helping paniolos during the summer. Since 2016, he has been President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, a farmers' cooperative of ADC land tenants, that maintains and manages the common areas and infrastructure of the Kekaha Agricultural Lands. From 2012 through 2017, he held positions with Syngenta and was involved with infrastructure projects, and led Hawaii research and development through major corporate restructuring. As Vice President General Manager of Hartung Brothers, 2017-2025, he managed all Hawaii operations and was accountable for the P&L, business development and business sustainability. His company, UI Hawaii Consulting LLC, provides project management and subject matter expertise in land and water issues.

These personal and professional experiences reflect Mr. Uyehara's commitment to enhancing Hawaii's agricultural sustainability and food security through innovative practices and community engagement.

He brings land and infrastructure management expertise to ADC during a time of acquiring and managing investments in water systems, land acquisition and access, and local food production.

Your favorable consideration of Mr. Uyehara's nomination to the ADC Board of Directors is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:08:07 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Respectfully asking the Committee to confirm Joshua Uyehara to the ADC Board for the At Large seat.

Joshua will bring valuable leadership not only with his extensive background in leadership roles in Agriculture, but more importantly, his "well balanced" skills in resolving a sensible path to success for the ADC operations statewide.

Thank you for your kind consideration of his appointment!

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:09:10 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the advise and consnet of Joshua Uyehara to the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:57:41 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair DeCoite and committee members,

I am in strong support of GM 682 - Joshua Uyehara to the Agribusiness Development Corporation's (ADC) Board of Directors.

Mr. Uyehara's experience and leadership roles in the agricultural industry will provide a great addition to the ADC board of directors. His calm and collaborative approach to complex issues will help ADC move the ag industry forward.

I respectfully urge your support and approval of GM 682 - Joshua Uyehara to the ADC board of directors.

Mahalo,

Alan Takemoto

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:39:00 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Josh Uyehara will be an asset to the board.

Johnny Gordines

**GM-682**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:13:42 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jerry Ornellas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

TESTIMONY on GM682

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chairperson  
Vice Chair Senator Wakai, and Members  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

From: Michael Faye, Manager  
Kekaha Agriculture Association

RE: Testimony in Support of GM682,  
Nomination of Joshua Uyehara to the Board of Directors of the  
Agribusiness Development Corporation

Date: March 2, 202

I hope you all agree that Joshua Uyehara is an excellent candidate for the position of Director at Large for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

For the last 10 years, Josh has served as President of the Kekaha Agriculture Association which manages Agribusiness Development Corporation's lands in Kekaha, Kauai. Josh fully understands the role and intricacies of the ADC, and I believe his knowledge of global and local agriculture will benefit ADC and agriculture in Hawaii. Josh grew up growing his own *lo'i kalo* and working Makaweli Ranch cattle with his *paniolo* father. At Waimea High School, he was awarded a full ride scholarship to Harvard, which after a year he relinquished to return home to care for his ailing mother. Taking an entry level job in the corn industry, he quickly rose thru the ranks to become Vice President and Manager of Hartung Brothers Hawaii. Quite an achievement that demonstrates his vast abilities.

To be transparent, since 2018 I have worked under Josh's leadership at Kekaha Ag. I have been impressed, and have seen others impressed, by Josh's knowledge not only of agriculture, but of how to make things happen in the right way. He is focused, fair, and dedicated (and energized) to be a great addition to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to approve and confirm this appointment.

Sincerely,



Michael A Faye, Manager  
Kekaha Agriculture Association