

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
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SHARON HURD
Chairperson
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DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 244 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 729

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVE RUSSO, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 729. This measure seeks to confirm Steve Russo to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity ("Department") strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Russo has previously served on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and has provided significant and thoughtful insight due to his extensive experience with pesticides in both the public and private sector. He has worked as a regulatory agent within the Department, Pesticides Branch, for several years, which gives him an in-depth understanding of government operations and pesticide regulations. His success in the pest control industry includes being the branch manager for Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions and being the regional support manager for Terminix. His leadership and communications skills are phenomenal, and these abilities allow him to successfully collaborate with various stakeholders and clients.

Mr. Russo would be an extremely valuable addition to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, and the Department respectfully requests your vote to confirm his nomination for a second term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.

GM-729

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 3:06:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Lyum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Steve Russo's continuation on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

GM-729

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 2:37:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Steve Russo's confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.