

# **GM29**

# **Testimony**

TESTIMONY OF DOUGLAS R. SCHENK  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Chair Nishihara and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider it an honor to be considered for this service.

I have worked in the agricultural sector in Hawaii for the past 37 years. After graduating from the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in tropical agriculture, my career began in 1976 with Maui Pineapple Company as a management trainee.

I held numerous positions in both the plantation and cannery and had the privilege of serving as President of Maui Pineapple Company for the last 10 years of my tenure. I left the company at the end of 2003 after 27 of the best years of my life.

In 2009, when Maui Land and Pineapple Co. announced they were shuttering the 100-year old pineapple company, a number of then current and former managers were determined to find a way to keep pineapple in operation.

We knew Maui Gold Pineapple was in strong demand in Hawaii. We also considered it a duty to keep the product in the market, maintain as much land as possible in agriculture, and keep as many people employed as we could.

With the help of Pard Erdman, our majority shareholder, we purchased the assets of the company and opened our doors for business on January 2, 2010. We could not have negotiated this purchase without the help of the ILWU, led at the time by Willy Kennison.

I currently serve as Chairman of the Board of Maui Gold Pineapple Co.

Agriculture is a complicated, capital-intensive, and demanding business, fraught with challenges at every turn. Nonetheless, it is essential that Hawaii have a sizable and viable Agricultural sector. We simply need to be producing more food products.

At its height, Maui Pineapple Company was farming on 10,000 acres. Maui Gold Pineapple currently operates at about 10% of that size. My knowledge and experience encompass both large and small scale agricultural operations and water systems. These unique skills will be useful in achieving the goals of the ADC in converting plantation size land and water systems to smaller diversified agriculture enterprises.

I am willing and able to serve to assist in this effort.

Again, thank you for your consideration.

Douglas R. Schenk  
October 26, 2013

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, October 31, 2013  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 225

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 29  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DOUGLAS SCHENK,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2017

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support for the nomination of Douglas Schenk to the ADC board of directors. Douglas has a solid background in agriculture and community relations.

Douglas is a Partner, Director, and Chairman of the Board of Hali'maile Pineapple Company since 2010. Douglas is an agriculture enthusiast and has dedicated his life to pineapple production for Maui Pineapple Company, Incorporated since 1976. Douglas started as a management trainee and worked his way up the ladder to become president from 1993 - 2003.

In addition, Douglas has served as an advisor to the Department of Education – Natural Resources Advisory Board member, Board of Governors, Hawaii Employers Council - member and presently a Board Director of the Maui Federal Credit Union.

Douglas will bring to the ADC board valuable leadership, and business experience. He is an accomplished professional who will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**Date:** Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:30:11 PM

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/27/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Brendan Balthazar	Maui Cattlemens Assn.	Support	No

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/27/2013

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Harry von Holt	Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2013 7:25:11 AM

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/28/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Bob Farias	Farias Cattle Co.	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/28/2013

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Keith	McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
james Kimo Falconer	MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments: Please support Mr Schenk in this nomination. Mahalo James Kimo Falconer President MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/26/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Douglas Schenk is a good advocate for agriculture in Hawaii and has a wealth of knowledge to support it. People who have a long history in the sector are the ones best suited for the positions to make decisions on how the future of ag will grow or be killed in Hawaii. Please support Douglas Schenk as an ADC board member to help guide Hawaii through these tumultuous times in ag.

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/28/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
greg heyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/28/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Kenneth Findeisen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the nomination of Doug Schenk for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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**GM29**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM29**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
George Wood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM29**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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