

Filipino American Citizens League

P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

In strong support of GM 719
Senate Committee on Agriculture
April 21, 2015, 2:45 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

LATE

To: Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chairperson
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chairperson
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Jake Manegdeg, President and Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President
Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the
Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE
ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

We are Jake Manegdeg, president, and Charlene Cuaresma, vice president, of the Filipino American Citizens League. We are proud to strongly support Gubernatorial Nominee, Denise Albano, to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Ms. Albano brings valuable experience and a reputable track record in collaborative public and private partnerships for community capacity building of workers and low income communities to foster successful economic outcomes. In policymaking, problem solving, and more, Ms. Albano has our trust in her ability to serve the people of Hawaii with integrity, respect, and fairness for the benefit of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our strong support for her nomination. We are deeply grateful that Governor Ige is entrusting someone of Ms. Albano's credentials, caliber, and Filipino heritage in the public stewardship of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg and Charlene Cuaresma
Filipino American Citizens League

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To: Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chairperson
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chairperson
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: Maria Etrata, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE ALBANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

My name is Maria Etrata. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual members. I also served as past president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

UFCH strongly supports Governor David Ige's Gubernatorial Nominee, Denise Albano, to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in the State of Hawai'i. We also comprise a large segment of agricultural workforce entry level jobs, and have been hardest hit decades ago with unemployment due to massive layoffs with the closing and downsizing of the sugar and pineapple industries. Our families are still struggling to recover from the economic loss of a generation of major "rice bowl" earners.

That is why UFCH congratulates Governor Ige for including women leaders like Ms. Albano to lead and guide the Agribusiness Development Corporation. She brings competence and expertise in micro-financing in order to address economic disparities for workers and low income families. Her social justice lens will offer the Corporation robust policy deliberations in order to strike a fair balance between the interests of Hawai'i's agribusiness sectors, the well-being of Hawai'i workers, and our State economy. All of Hawai'i's diverse people will benefit from her contributions.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to offer our testimony in strong support of Ms. Denise Albano.

Sincerely,

Maria Etrata, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii