

TESTIMONY
GM 354



March 15, 2010

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
23rd Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Senator Hee:

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide additional information regarding my interest in serving on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). With regard to the seven questions that were given to me, I have answered them below:

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the ADC?

I wish to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation's Board because I feel that I will bring a new perspective to the existing council. While I certainly appreciate the views of others, I feel that my knowledge of current best practices in promotion, marketing, ag project coordination, and other related fields will allow me to share such information in the best interest of the subject at hand. I am aware that ADC manages thousands of acres of state-owned ag land and water systems on Kauai. The success of ADC and various private landowners' projects will help to shape agriculture on Kauai and set models for other projects around the state. I feel that it is important to hear all sides of the issue in a respectful manner and I feel that I can help contribute to furthering this goal.

2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the ADC?

I support ADC's role in protecting the future of agriculture and I understand the need to transition former plantation lands and water systems to diversified long-term agricultural use. I believe that a very important duty of being an ADC Director is trying to find innovative solutions for some of the challenges facing local agriculture. I also believe that fostering the growth of agricultural enterprises across the state is of utmost importance.

3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the ADC, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Board of Directors of the ADC.

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www.grovefarm.com

I received my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration – International Business from Hawaii Pacific University of Hawaii. I also graduated in the inaugural class of Leadership Kauai in 2005.

I have nine years of experience from my time spent accumulating knowledge within the banking industry and non-profit sector and I have spent the last five years utilizing my promotion, marketing and management skills while at Grove Farm Company, Inc.

Grove Farm has undertaken a number of agricultural projects, ranging from our Ecological Restoration Project at Iliahi to our Nene Habitat and I have coordinated and managed both projects for the Company. We are in the midst of embarking on a Maile Restoration initiative as well. Grove Farm understands the important of active agriculture and is also working on a plan for an Agricultural Park in Mahaulepu Valley in an effort to reduce reliance on imported foods and to grow what Kauai eats. I feel that my skill and expertise make me a qualified candidate for the ADC Board.

4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

As Grove Farm's Vice President, I am responsible for the Company's philanthropy and charitable giving as well as for overseeing community outreach initiatives. As Grove Farm's liaison between community organizations and other businesses, I have been able to expand and maximize positive exposure for Grove Farm and our partner organizations within the non-profit sector and throughout the general community. I would hope to be able to accomplish similar results for the agricultural sector during my term of service.

If selected to serve, I will do my best to fulfill my responsibilities as an ADC Director and I will welcome the opportunity to better serve Hawaii's agricultural community.

5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Directors of the ADC?

I believe that three qualities that best describe me are: 1) diplomatic, 2) fair, and 3) works well with others. I pride myself on my ability to view both sides of an issue and believe that this will benefit the ADC Board.

6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Directors of the ADC?

I firmly believe in the strength of community service and I feel strongly that my experience will benefit and strengthen the Board of Directors of the ADC. During my years of service on a number of non-profit boards, I have learned the importance of fostering and strengthening partnerships across business and industry sectors.

I am an active member of many non-profit boards (Kauai Economic Development Board, Kauai Visitors Bureau, Kauai Planning & Action Alliance, PBS-Hawaii), all with very diverse missions and vibrant histories. Each organization has achieved positive results with the many projects that have been carried out and I am proud that

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my involvement helped to make things happen. I would like to think that my assistance has helped to enhance Kauai in some measure. I understand the importance of partnerships and I strongly believe that community service and volunteerism strengthens the bond between businesses and community organizations. I believe that by serving the community in different capacities, I am able to share my expertise and knowledge of certain issues, while earning the respect of community members.

- 7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Directors of the ADC? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

With approximately 40,000 acres of land, Grove Farm is one of Kauai's largest, private landowners. In its transition from a sugar plantation to an economic development firm and community developer, Grove Farm has remained committed to preserving and enhancing the unique qualities that make Kaua'i our beloved island home. Grove Farm is interested in finding viable ways to promote local agriculture and to make agricultural operations successful. While I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest as Grove Farm's management team's view of agriculture is similar to those of the ADC, if any instance of a possible conflict of interest should arise, I would recuse myself from the issue.

While I have not had the pleasure of working on a similar focused commission in the past, I am confident that my experience towards learning new skills and my ability to keep things in perspective will allow me to quickly engross myself with the commission's current challenges.

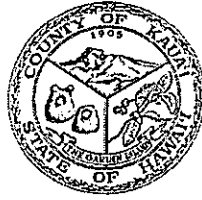
I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications with you and should you require additional information, I can be reached at (808) 245-3678. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Marissa Sandblom
Vice President

Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.
Mayor



Gary K. Heu
Administrative Assistant

John Isobe
Executive Assistant

COUNTY OF KAUA'I

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUA'I
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

**March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON GM 354, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MARISSA
SANDBLOM FOR THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Marissa Sandblom to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Ms. Sandblom is being nominated to serve for the term ending on June 30, 2013. She is well respected on Kaua'i for her involvement with numerous projects relating to the agribusiness sector of the community.

Ms. Sandblom will be a positive asset to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, established in 1994 by Act 264, as Chapter 163D of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. She is also knowledgeable in various aspects of agribusiness opportunities as she currently is employed by a former plantation land company that has been involved with issues facing the agriculture industry.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony on Ms. Sandblom's confirmation.

REP. EZRA R. KANOHO (Ret)

2755 Kapa St., Lihue, Hi. 96766 Tel. (808) 245-2236 E-mail ezkanoho@gmail.com

March 19, 2010

**TO: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
The Honorable Committee Members

RE: Supporting Testimony:

GM No. 354 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee Marissa Sandblom, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

(Hearing scheduled for March 24, 2010, 2:45pm)

Aloha!

I am most pleased to provide supporting testimony towards the confirmation of Ms. Marissa Sandblom, based on personal observations and the opportunity of working directly with her.

Ms Sandblom will most definitely fulfill all of the duties and responsibilities as a member of the ADC Board because she possesses ingrained characteristics to diligently apply her skills and talents along with maximum effort so as to excel in everything that she does. This has been very clearly demonstrated by her outstanding achievements in high school and at Hawaii Pacific University (both scholastically and athletically); at Alexander & Baldwin (while attending HPU); Kauai Economic Development Board; and currently as Grove Company Vice President, a position to which she was appointed because of her "smarts", accomplishments and ability to work well, with and through others.

The above can be attributed to deep-rooted values in her caring upbringing in which she learned from parents' caring words and actions the traits of meaningful service and respect for self and others.

Ms. Marissa Sandblom will perform exceedingly well as a Member of the ADC Board and is most deserving of your favorable consideration and confirmation

Respectfully,

Ezra R. Kanoho

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.
Room 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 354
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MARISSA SANDBLOM, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2013**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is in strong support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) board of directors. Ms. Sandblom currently serves as a Vice President of Grove Farm where she is responsible for the community outreach program, strategic communication initiatives, environmental education programs, and liaison with community, media, and government officials. She also manages the Grove Farm Foundation and oversees Grove Farm's philanthropic efforts.

Prior to joining Grove Farm in 2005, Ms. Sandblom was the Finance and Business Development Officer at the Kauai Economic Development Board and was a Corporate Communications Officer for City Bank.

Ms. Sandblom obtained a B.S. in Business Administration and an MBA from Hawaii Pacific University. She is currently a director of the Kauai Visitors Bureau, Director and Secretary of the Kauai Economic Development Board, Director and Secretary of the Kauai Planning and Action Alliance, and member of Leadership Kauai.

We believe that Ms. Sandblom has the requisite experience, education, and commitment to make an excellent board member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on her behalf.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



ALFREDO A. LEE
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 ALFREDO LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.
Room 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 354
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARISSA SANDBLOM,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2013

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to the ADC board of directors. Marissa has a solid background in business management and community relations. She received her professional education at Hawaii Pacific University, graduating at the top of her class while attaining her bachelor's degree in Corporate Communications and Marketing, and graduating with distinction while attaining her MBA focusing on International Business.

Her professional career began as a Corporate Communications Officer at City Bank, where she was very successful spearheading projects for event planning,

public relations, and marketing. After joining the Kaua'i Economic Development Board as the Finance & Business Development Officer, she expanded her experience and achievements to include real estate management, government relations, and grant proposal coordination for projects targeted at diversifying Kauai's economy. She is currently the Vice President of Grove Farm, one of Kauai's largest diversified landholders, heading their community outreach, agricultural and environmental initiatives.

Ms. Sandblom brings to the ADC board valuable leadership and business experience. She is an accomplished professional who will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF
Joel K. Matsunaga
Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President
Hawaii BioEnergy, LLC
737 Bishop Street, Suite 1860, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 354 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Marissa Sandblom, for a term to expire 6/30/2013

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Sandblom for a number of years. Initially, it was while she was working at the Kauai Economic Development Board and since then at her current employer, Grove Farm Company. Over the years, I have worked closely with Ms. Sandblom on various projects ranging from community events to renewable energy developments on Kauai and throughout the State of Hawaii. During that period of time, I have been able to observe first hand her deep commitment to the State and her willingness to involve herself in public service. She has demonstrated strong intellect, leadership and analytical abilities; as well as the willingness to listen, be open-minded and work well with others.

Having served myself on government boards, I am confident that Ms. Sandblom will be an involved and strong contributor to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. She will bring her approach of reaching out to the community, engaging in open discussion and looking out for the interests of Hawaii's residents in fulfilling her role on the Board. Her strong educational background and work experience are augmented by years of working with the community and will serve her well in her position on the Board.

I respectfully request that you confirm Ms. Sandblom for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



KAUAI

*Chamber
of
Commerce*

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office---FAX: 1-800-586-6659
Hawaii State Senate

Committee Hearing on March 24, 2010 - 2:45 p.m., Conf. Room 229

March 19, 2010

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee, Chair, Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair and Members -
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

On behalf of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce 410 members, 600+ representatives and 6,000+ employees and of which our organization comprises of 87% small businesses, I am writing to express the **Chamber's unequivocal support of Ms. Marissa Sandbloom** for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have known Marissa for 4 years since my return to the Island of Kauai and I have had the opportunity to work closely with her in various capacities. She has demonstrated a high degree of excellence and commitment throughout her career on Kauai in the brief time I have known her. This was especially evident as shortly after I returned to Kauai to assume this leadership post in 2006; the island was struck with the devastating effects of the 40 days of rain during March and April. Marissa's daily reports heard on the radio provided the necessary factual information, sensitivity and common sense approach in communicating information to the island which provided residents and visitors alike the necessary information to make sound decisions during this unusual period of constant rain.

Marissa is also known for her high degree of integrity and commitment in being involved in the community. During the past few years, I have worked with her on two boards including the Leadership Kauai and Kauai Visitors Bureau. As a member of the Grove Farm Company executive team, she will also bring an important perspective in the form of her knowledge and experiences working as a member of this *kamaaina* company, and as someone who was born, raised, educated, and who decided to return to Kauai to have a career and contribute to the people of Kauai, and our state of Hawaii. Should you need any further assistance; please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at 245-7363.

Aloha.

Randall Francisco
President/CEO
Kauai Chamber of Commerce

TESTIMONY OF

Diane Zachary
President & CEO
Kauai Planning & Action Alliance, Inc.
2959 Umi Street, Suite 201, Lihue, HI 96766

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 354 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Marissa Sandblom, for a term to expire 6/30/2013.

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Sandblom over the past several years on various projects relating to economic diversification and sustainability on Kauai. For the past four years, her service on the Board of Directors of the Kauai Planning & Action Alliance has been a valued asset for our organization. I have been able to observe first hand her deep commitment to Kauai and the State and her willingness to involve herself in public service. She has demonstrated strong intellect, leadership and analytical abilities, as well as the ability to listen, be open-minded and work well with others.

I am confident that Ms. Sandblom will be an involved and strong contributor to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. In fulfilling her role on the Commission, she will bring her awareness of the need for agricultural diversification as well as her approach of reaching out to the community, engaging in open discussion and looking out for the interests of Hawaii's residents.

I respectfully request that you confirm Ms. Sandblom as a Director on the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

TESTIMONY OF
Wayne Katayama
1190 Crossley Road, Kapa`a HI 96746

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 354 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Marissa Sandblom, for a term to expire 6/30/2013.

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Sandblom over the past several years on various projects relating to agriculture on Kaua`i and throughout the State of Hawaii. During that period of time, I have been able to observe first hand her deep commitment to the State and her willingness to involve herself in public service. She has demonstrated strong intellect, leadership and analytical abilities; as well as the ability to listen, be open-minded and work well with others.

Having served myself on government boards, I am confident that Ms. Sandblom will be an involved and strong contributor to the ADC. She will bring her approach of reaching out to the community, engaging in open discussion and looking out for the interests of Hawaii's residents.

I respectfully request that you confirm Ms. Sandblom as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Yours truly,



Wayne Katayama



TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR,
JILL N. TOKUDA, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 354 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Marissa Sandblom, for a term to expire 6/30/2013.

On behalf of the Kauai Economic Development Board, Inc. (KEDB), I am pleased to offer testimony in strong support of the nomination of Marissa Sandblom to serve on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I have the privilege and pleasure of working closely with Ms. Sandblom, formerly as the Finance and Business Development Officer of KEDB and presently as the Secretary of its Board of Directors. As the Vice President of Grove Farm, she is also very active in the greater community's effort in promoting agriculture as an economic viable industry here on Kauai and in the State. She is a proven leader and skilled in consensus building. I am very confident that she will be strong contributor as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Mattie Yoshioka
President & CEO

TESTIMONY
GM 354
(END)