



# GM 525

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN WHALEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

**Report Title:** Hawaii Community Development Authority

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HSH

**Introducer(s):**

Testimony before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
February 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Kaka'ako Resident and  
President, Kaka'ako United

Statement in Strong Support of Governor's Message 525,  
Nominating **John Whalen**  
to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-chair Josh Green, and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, a resident of Kaka'ako and President of Kaka'ako United, an organization of concerned residents and other citizens committed to ensure that Kaka'ako is developed in line with its original vision.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has responsibility for ensuring that the community development districts under its jurisdiction are developed to achieve the vision, goals and plans in state law (chapter 206E, HRS). Needless to say, HCDA is very important to those of us who live in the Kaka'ako Community Development District ("Kaka'ako").

We are very pleased and honored to support John Whalen as the Governor's nominee to the HCDA. He would be a tremendous asset to the HCDA, bringing over four decades of planning experience and expertise. His background includes work in the private sector as President of Plan Pacific and also in the public sector in various positions relevant to HCDA, e.g., director of the Department of Land Utilization and planning chief of the Department of Housing and Community Development with the City & County of Honolulu.

His background has breadth and depth and, of special importance for HCDA, is his extensive professional knowledge and experience in zoning controls, land use permitting, and comprehensive regional planning. And, most relevant to HCDA's community development districts is his past work on revising the Kaka'ako Mauka Area Plan to achieve the desired pattern of urban development (for HCDA); recommending potential land and tax policy changes and street and civic improvement for neighborhoods of Kaka'ako, Ala Moana-Sheridan and McCully- Mō'ili'ili (for the UHM Department of Urban & Regional Planning & the Social Sciences Public Policy Center); revising the Primary Urban Center Development Plan, the Ewa Development Plan and the Kookaupo Development Plan (for the C&C of Honolulu).

Not only is John knowledgeable and experienced, but, as importantly, he is ethical, conscientious, and understands and listens to all sectors –developers, landowners, small business, residents, interested stakeholders— and can bring a collaborative and problem-solving approach to achieve the vision set forth in Chapter 206E. We are fortunate that he is able and willing to serve.

For all these reasons, I urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of John Whalen to the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM525**

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 17, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	CPAC	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT. EXCELLENT CHOICE.



February 16, 2015

Committee on Human Services & Housing  
The Senate  
Attn: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
28<sup>th</sup> Legislature; Regular Session 2015  
State of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support of JOHN WHALEN for confirmation to the Hawaii  
Community Development Authority**

Dear Committee,

My name is Scott Wallace. I provide this testimony in support of JOHN WHALEN for confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. I am providing this testimony today as both President of Wallace Theaters Management Corporation, an operator of movie theaters in Hawaii and throughout the USA and as a private citizen who has known JOHN WHALEN and have worked with him on various planning issues since 1995 – for a period of over 20 years – during which time JOHN WHALEN and his firm has provided planning advice on issues at the City/County, State and Federal levels.

During this 20+ year period of professional advice-giving, there is one central theme that has been consistent in JOHN WHALEN'S approach to my planning issues:

**\*Follow the rules, work within the rules, articulate your position clearly to the various government entities and do your homework on all of the planning issues affecting your project.**

What does mean? Let me give you an example. In undertaking my first zone change, JOHN strongly recommended every impact of the zone change – even though the zone change was in the middle of a business district directly on Kamehameha Highway in the middle of Haleiwa Town – was thoroughly reviewed and evaluated: Traffic, archeological, agricultural, flora & fauna, wetlands (a Federal issue), building, subdivision, title, soil, infrastructure and historic.

JOHN's advice and logical approach has always been fully developed and anticipatory – thinking about the impacts of a project before the impacts ever happen – if at all.

3375  
Koapaka  
Street  
Suite F 238-6

Honolulu  
Hawaii  
96819

808  
838-1202

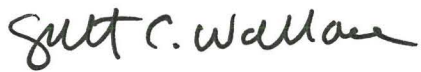
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838-1205

Testimony in Support of JOHN WHALEN  
February 16, 2015  
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As a private citizen, I sometimes thought JOHN WHALEN, although in private practice as a planning consultant, was really a "Benedict Arnold" and worked for the Department of Planning and Permitting. But that ill-conceived opinion was a result of my inexperience of the system and its processes. JOHN WHALEN always thinks about the community first, and the project second. And that thinking has also resulted in the client developing better projects for the entire community.

JOHN's wealth of knowledge, his methodical and analytical perspective and his years of experience in evaluating and problem-solving in a myriad of City, County, State and Federal issues will provide an incredible resource to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. And for that reason I fully support JOHN's nomination to the Hawaii Community Development Authority and that his nomination should be unanimously approved by this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott C. Wallace  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
WALLACE THEATERS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

SW:dl

**GM525**

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 17, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this as testimony in strong support of John Whalen to be a member of the HCDA board. I have known Mr. Whalen since the late 1980s, when he was the City director of the department of land utilization. People respected him, said he was fair, could be trusted, and dreaded the day he would leave his position. He has attended public meetings on Kakaako planning, etc. and would be a great asset to the board. I believe he will make the right decisions to form Kakaako into the community it should be, in the heart of congested Honolulu, with a mix of housing for all, parks--active and passive--for all, businesses for all, a walkable vibrant community. Please vote yes on this appointment. Lynne Matusow 60 N. Beretania, #1804 Honolulu, HI 96817 531-4260

February 16, 2015

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senate District 13  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226  
Via fax: 586-6131

**RE: GM 525**  
**Confirmation of John Whalen to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority**  
**At-Large Member**

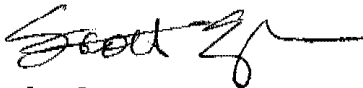
Aloha Senator Chun,

My name is Scott Ezer. I am a Principal in the planning firm of HHF Planners (formerly known as Helber Hastert & Fee Planners, Inc.), although I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not representing the views of the company. I received my Masters degree in Regional and Urban Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and have been a practicing planner in Hawai'i since 1978. I spent 12 years working with the Department of Land Utilization (now the Department of Planning and Permitting) with the City and County of Honolulu, and over 25 years in the private sector, the last 14 years as a Principal.

I have known John Whalen over the course of my entire professional career in Hawai'i, spanning some 37 years. We worked together at the Department of Land Utilization at the staff level, and I later had the privilege to work under John when he was the Director of that Department from 1986 to 1989. I have maintained a personal and professional relationship with John since we left the Department of Land Utilization in 1989.

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of John's nomination to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. During the time I have known John, I have found him to be one of the most principled and knowledgeable planners in the State. He has demonstrated his leadership qualities as the chief administrator of a challenging government agency and the President of a prominent planning firm for over 20 years. He has a uniquely insightful grasp of contemporary planning issues and I am confident he will contribute valuable experience and knowledge to the future discussions of the HCDA, which is empowered to make decisions that will affect the evolution of Honolulu's urban core. I can think of no better individual to serve on the HCDA than John. I hope you recognize the same qualities I have observed consistently for almost four decades and confirm John's nomination. I am unable to attend this confirmation hearing and I am submitting written testimony only.

Respectfully,



Scott Ezer  
2674 Haili Road  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**GM525**

Submitted on: 2/14/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 17, 2015 16:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Cannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: