



GM552

Measure Title:	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BEAU J.K. BASSETT, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.
Report Title:	Hawai'i Community Development Authority
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	
Current Referral:	HSH
Introducer(s):	

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Thursday, April 16, 2015; 1:15 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: GM 552 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BEAU J.K. BASSETT, for a term to expire 6-30-2019 – IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Beau Bassett to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

Beau is an attorney with a strong cultural foundation background. He is committed to ensuring the vitality of the Hawaiian culture. I have known Beau for several years. He has high morals, excellent communication skills and is sensitive to cultural issues because of his upbringing.

I have the highest regard for his abilities and most respectfully urge you to confirm Beau Bassett to the HCDA.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments.

J. Douglas Ing
Managing Partner
Watanabe Ing LLP

O.K. Stender
Real Estate Consultant & Broker

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Oswald K. Stender
President, Awaiaulu Inc.
Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (Retired)

Statement in Strong Support of Governor's Message 552,
Nominating **Beau Jameson Kehaulani Bassett**
to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority

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

I am writing today to strongly support the nomination of Beau Jameson Kehaulani Bassett as Cultural Specialist to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. Beau previously served as an invaluable Hawaiian language staff translator at Awaiaulu, Inc. where its goals are:

- perpetuating and advancing use of the Hawaiian language,
- training Hawaiian language translators and editors,
- generating Hawaiian language books, translations, and other educational material for use in colleges, universities, high schools, research arenas and many sectors of the general public, and
- researching, translating and re-presenting Hawaiian language texts from the past for modern Hawaiian and English-language audiences.

Among other projects, Beau researched and translated to English the as yet unpublished Ka Mo'olelo o Kamehameha from Ka Na'i Aupuni, 1905-1906, Joseph Moku'ōhai Poepoe's richly detailed account of the life of Kamehameha I, comparing many scholars' records and adding Poepoe's own insight and data. Works like these reconnect and bridge knowledge from Hawaiian historical resources to today for all of Hawai'i.

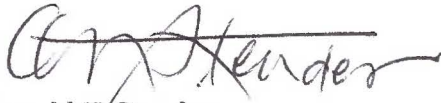
Beau's upbringing in Kahalu'u, O'ahu, in a fisherman family, his studies at Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai'i in Hawaiian Studies, gives him unique cultural perspectives and insights that will allow him to well represent the position of Cultural Specialist on the HCDA board.

Additionally, with a background in law as an attorney, Beau understands his and the Board's fiduciary responsibilities and will serve as a resource for other board members and will be fair and balanced in his dealings with the many stakeholders served by the HCDA.

P.O. Box 3946 Honolulu, HI 96812
Tel: (808)348-4894
Email: okstender@gmail.com

For all these reasons, I urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Beau Jameson Kehaulani Bassett to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Malama pono,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Oswald K. Stender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Oswald K. Stender

I submit this testimonial in my individual capacity, not as a former Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or President of Awaiaulu Inc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: mikulanecj@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM552 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 4:31:25 PM

GM552

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacce Mikulanec	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Aloha Mai Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing,

My name is Jocelyn Leialoha M Doane and I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM552 which would confirm Beau Bassett to the cultural specialist seat of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA). Confirmation of Mr. Bassett would fill an important void on the HCDA, as the cultural specialist seat has been unfilled for nearly two years.

Mr. Bassett's personal and professional experiences would provide unique and important perspective to the HCDA's decision-making. The HCDA was created to facilitate community development in a way that meets community needs and revitalizes the economic and social value of a community, through long-range planning and coordination between private and public entities. At present the HCDA's kuleana is in the Kaka'ako, He'eia, and Kalaeloa community districts. Mr. Bassett currently lives in Kaka'ako and as a result has pursued understanding its rich history, particularly as it relates to the connection between Kaka'ako and Hawai'i's seafaring era. As a resident, he has an interest in ensuring that Kaka'ako is transformed into a vibrant community where Hawai'i's people are welcomed and inspired. Mr. Bassett is familiar with the current state of Kaka'ako, including recent development, creative spaces, and innovative marketplaces. He is also familiar with continuing challenges like the homeless encampments. Mr. Bassett's seven years as a public defender working with Hawai'i's indigent population provides him with an understanding of the socioeconomic dynamics faced by Hawai'i's disadvantaged, and make him sensitive to the existing population in Kaka'ako. Finally, last year he became of counsel for the Pitluck Kido & Aipa firm which has given him important insight into Honolulu's business culture.

Mr. Bassett qualifications to fill the cultural specialist seat are overwhelming. He was raised in a large Hawaiian-Chinese 'ohana. He and his 'ohana are cultural practitioners, and his 'ohana are well known fisherpeople and food preparers. As a result of his upbringing and experiences, he is ardent about preserving Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. In addition to obtaining degrees in Hawaiian Studies, Geography/Hydrology, and Law, he is also passionate about filmmaking as a tool to shape people's perspectives and drive public policy. He has worked on films about Hawaiian music and hula, as well as the power of Hawaiian culture and arts to rehabilitate and reintegrate incarcerated Native Hawaiians. His background in ho'oponopono, talents in Hawaiian art like mele and hula, ability to 'olelo Hawai'i (speak Hawaiian), and past organizing experience with grass roots community groups, further exemplifies his qualifications to serve as the HCDA's cultural specialist.

Moreover, while a large focus of the HCDA has been on Kaka'ako, the HCDA also has kuleana in He'eia and Kalaeloa. Mr. Bassett is originally from Kahalu'u, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, which is adjacent to He'eia. While these two ahupua'a are separate and distinct, in more recent times they have been more intimately connected, as members of both ahupua'a work together to restore the area's coastline, fishpond, lo'i (wet land kalo fields), and sense of community. Thus, Mr. Bassett's ancestral and familial connections in the Ko'olaupoko moku uniquely situate him to provide input and guidance on the development in the He'eia district.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

From: [Ka'iulani Murphy](#)
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM552 Support for Beau Bassett for HCDA
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 12:08:02 PM

Aloha Chairperson Chun Oakland and Committee Members,

I strongly support Beau Bassett for the Cultural Specialist position on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Beau is passionate about hana no'eau (Hawaiian arts) and the inspiration that our 'aina provides to our art. He will help ensure the development of places like Kaka'ako will also be inspired by and preserve the stories of that 'aina. I believe his values and vast experience make him the ideal person to fulfill the position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Beau Bassett.

ke aloha 'aina,

Ka'iulani Murphy
Instructor, Hawaiian Studies
Honolulu Community College

TO: The Honorable Chairperson Chun Oakland and Committee members

FROM: Mari Matsuda, Professor of Law, William S. Richardson School of Law

RE: GM552 Regarding Beau Bassett of HCDA

This testimony supports, with highest enthusiasm, the nomination of Beau Bassett to serve on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority board as a cultural specialist. You will see from his resume that he is an accomplished lawyer, student of Hawaiian culture and language, filmmaker, and public servant. As his professor, I would like to add a few words about the individual behind the resume.

Mr. Bassett was a student in my Constitutional Law class at the University of Hawai'i. He possessed obvious and brilliant intellect in classroom discussions, and I was not surprised at his outstanding performance on the academic side of law school. What really stayed with me, however, was not just his critical thinking skills, but the way in which he carried the spirit of aloha in everything he did – from classroom discussions to public service work. He was the one person whom others universally expressed deep love and respect for. In a word, we all felt his mana.

A spirit of humility, care, empathy, and delight infuses the way Mr. Bassett moves in this world, and it makes others – even those who disagree with him – feel respected and respectful. In the pressure-cooker atmosphere of graduate professional school, he was the one others turned to for resolution of disputes or to solve thorny problems. In law teaching, we see many smart students but fewer who are deeply wise. Mr. Bassett was known to faculty, students, and staff as a person of wisdom. The HCDA confronts many difficult decisions and mediates conflicting interests. The public must have faith that the HCDA acts with integrity, openness, and wise judgment. Beau Bassett not only possesses wise judgment, he projects a character and ability to listen and deliberate that makes others have faith in his judgment.

Mr. Bassett is both an educated cultural practitioner and a cultural practitioner by genealogy. He has mastered Native Hawaiian language, history, culture, and law in academic settings. More importantly he learned from early childhood in the old way, watching, working, joining side by side with elders in lo'i, in fishing boats, in mele, in preparing the imu to feed hundreds as his family regularly does at their place in Kahalu'u. His love of place and his sense of the interconnection of people to place is obvious to anyone who talks with him. Even before I knew him well, I knew he was the boy from Kahalu'u who carried his guitar and his Hawaiian heart with him wherever he went. His aloha aina is real and in his bones. He knows his ancestors are watching. He has never left Hawai'i. He has stayed home to make it a better place.

Beau Bassett left our law school and went on to become a lawyer and artist of many accomplishments. You can search hard, and I doubt you will find anyone in the legal

community who has a bad word to say about him. I wish I could say that about most members of my profession, but the reality is ours is a profession of conflict, and it is difficult to remain in it without garnering critics. Beau Bassett is the exception, one who has managed to represent clients zealously, while remaining true to aloha values. His knowledge of the Hawaiian community is broad, and he is known and respected from prison yards to board rooms. He is someone I would call, and have called, when I need wise counsel. He reminds me of one of the greatest Hawaiian public servants I have ever met, the late Chief Justice William S. Richardson.

His appointment to the HCDA will do much to restore faith in the processes of state government. You will not regret to choice to confirm this candidate, and I am honored to recommend that you do so.

Thank you for consideration of these words. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions I can answer.

From: [Maya Saffery](#)
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM552 Regarding Beau Bassett for HCDA
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 9:08:43 AM

Dear Chairperson Chun Oakland and Committee Members,

I strongly support Beau Bassett for the Cultural Specialist position on the Hawaii Community Development Authority. His wealth of Hawaiian cultural and historical knowledge along with his background in Hawaiian language and Law make him a perfect candidate for this position. His connection and commitment to the Hawaiian community as well as the larger Hawai'i community is also an asset that he brings with him. I support his nomination without hesitation.

Mahalo,

Maya Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery
Kumu Hoomohala Haawina
Curriculum Specialist
Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language
Hawaiinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
University of Hawaii at Manoa

From: [Sean Connelly](#)
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM552 Regarding Beau Bassett for HCDA
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2015 1:02:56 PM

Dear Chairperson Chun Oakland and Committee Members,

I strongly support Beau Bassett for the Cultural Specialist position on the Hawaii Community Development Authority. Beau's creativity, intellect, and intention has continually inspired me in my own work as an artist and architect deeply committed to protecting and perpetuating Hawaii as a place we value and love. Mahalo for choosing Beau Basset.

Sean Connelly
+1(808)255-5453

Testimony of Sean Marrs
Supporting GM 552 Gubernatorial Nominee Beau J.K. Bassett
for Confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Thursday, April 16, 2015, 1:15PM, Room 016

I, Sean Marrs, strongly support the appointment of Beau J.K. Bassett to the board of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

I have known Beau as a friend for 17 years, having first studied with him at the University of Hawai'i Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies. Beau is grounded in his history, culture and language, and is guided by his values, respecting people and place while understanding and placing progress in a historical context. His career and pursuits attest to his character, integrity and his dedication to representing Hawaii's disadvantaged populations. He is a leader, and demonstrated through initiatives like the 'Īlio'ulaokalani Coalition, strives to find ways to bridge his varied knowledge bases in service to the community. Beau is also an artist and visionary and is in the nexus of a growing community of indigenous artists across the nation who are shaping the future of native film and storytelling, inspired by the spirit of cultural innovation. I believe that this combination of culture and values, character, dedication to service, and vision make him uniquely suited for this position.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support for this nomination. I respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of Beau Bassett's appointment to the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Senate Committee on Human Services & Housing
Attn: Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland & Vice-Chair Josh Green
Testimony Re: GM552 Beau J.K. Bassett for Cultural Specialist, HCDA
April 16, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

April 15, 2015

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

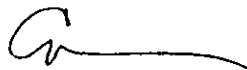
I write in strong support of Beau Bassett for the Cultural Specialist position on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. I have known Mr. Bassett for over ten years, ever since we met while attending the William S. Richardson School of Law. I believe Mr. Bassett is the perfect choice for the Cultural Specialist position because he is a respected leader within the Native Hawaiian community, has knowledge of Hawai'i's native language, cultural traditions, and the mele and stories of its wahi pana, and possesses an innate ability to bring opposing parties together to reach consensus.

While in law school, Mr. Bassett stood out among his peers as someone with integrity and charisma, qualities that quickly led to his election to the position of alaka'i (leader) for the Native Hawaiian law student organization, 'Ahahui o Hawai'i. As alaka'i, Mr. Bassett played an integral role in organizing symposia on hot-topic legal issues facing the Native Hawaiian community (e.g., self-determination), drawing presenters from opposing viewpoints in an effort to educate and spur constructive discussion among the Native Hawaiian community, both young and old.

I also worked alongside Mr. Bassett for several years when we served as deputies public defender for the State. Although the position as trial attorney was a demanding one, especially at the public defender's office, Mr. Bassett made time to continue cultural practices by participating in projects such as the translation of Kamehameha's life story from 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to English for Awaiaulu, Inc. This is just one example of Mr. Bassett's unwavering commitment to maintaining his cultural practices and making them relevant in modern Hawai'i.

Aside from observations of Mr. Bassett in the professional sphere, I know him as a friend. Whether playing music or talking story, Mr. Bassett is that guy at the party that everyone wants to be around. People trust him, people listen to him, and people will take action because of him. I can think of no better candidate for this position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide words of support for this nominee.



Summer Kupau-Odo
skupau@gmail.com

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA, ESQ.
PO Box 61619
Honolulu, HI 96839

April 14, 2015

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Honorable Members, Committee on Human Services and Housing
Re: Hearing: April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.; Rm 016; HSH Committee
GM552: **STRONG SUPPORT** for Beau J.K. Bassett to the HCDA

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Beau J.K. Bassett, whose confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority ("HCDA") you now consider. **I ask that you confirm his nomination to the HCDA.**

I have known Beau Bassett for 10 years, in many variations: law school student; writer, producer, and filmmaker; colleague at the Office of the Public Defender, and friend. What remains consistent through the myriad experiences that make up Beau is his unique perspective and fresh ability to approach complex and challenging situations that result in practical and smart outcomes.

Whether it be for a film project, a policy, or a legal case, Beau will research every issue, think out every angle, and most importantly consider the people involved taking care to reflect on what is at stake and what makes sense. Beau's strongest skill truly is his ability to cut through the noise and identify what is at the core and the most critical. For example, Beau's short film *Tewetewe* beautifully and subtly captures the themes of the hula, sexuality, and humor in ways that mirror the understated or hidden style used in Hawaiian poetry, song, and dance. The film does not employ professors speaking about their interpretation of the song and the kaona of certain words or phrases; rather, Beau's own research of the topic resulted in a clever film that leads to the audience's own (perhaps surprising) understanding the song's meaning.

While Beau was a colleague at the Office of the Public Defender, it was common practice for me to discuss cases with Beau. Beau was the perfect sounding board to work out theories and to simply gauge whether a witness's story made sense. Beau would frequently be able to reflect on my cases and who the parties were that led to me understanding the human elements at play in my cases.

Beau Bassett's skills will be a crucial addition to the HCDA and its work. Beau will provide a much-needed voice and perspective on development in Hawai'i. His experiences in translating Native Hawaiian literature, producing current films often about Native Hawaiian culture and people, and using the law to better Hawai'i will truly enable the HCDA to have a stronger hold on what makes sense for Hawai'i, her people, and what is to come.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comment in strong support of Beau Bassett to the HCDA.