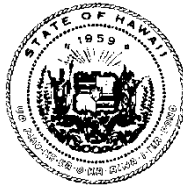


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING**

April 20, 2015 at 1:15 P.M.  
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**G.M. 796**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF**  
**DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL**  
**NOMINEE, JASON ESPERO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2019**

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Governor's Message 796 (G.M. 796), submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Jason Espero, for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Mr. Espero to the HPHA Board of Directors for a second four year term. Over the past four years, Mr. Espero has served as an invaluable member and Vice-Chair to the HPHA Board of Directors, and has consistently advocated on behalf of people with disabilities, homeless individuals and families.

Mr. Espero has devoted his time and energy in serving on various HPHA Board of Directors taskforces that have guided the agency with sound and thoughtful policy decisions over the past four years. As a member of the HPHA Board of Directors Finance, 5-Year and Annual Public Housing Authority Plan Review, and Yearly Audit taskforces, Mr. Espero has played a pivotal role in making sure the HPHA currently has the best financial statements in its history, bringing the agency up from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) "Troubled Performer" level to HUD's "Standard Performer" level, and brought down the agency's single audit findings from double digits to single digits.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing with the agency's position regarding G.M. 796. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Mr. Jason Espero to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

April 20, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: G.M. 796, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON ESPERO, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.**

**HEARING: Monday, April 20, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.**

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

I am Myoung Oh, Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board member, submitting written testimony in **support** of Mr. Jason Espero's nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority.

I have become to understand the complexities of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA), and during my term, I have observed Mr. Espero demonstrate his drive and passion to balance the needs of existing tenants, fair delivery of housing services to new tenants, and the obligations of the State and the HPHA for Hawaii's residents.

His continued service as a Board member of the HPHA coupled with his professional experience will be an asset in exceeding the goals and objectives of HPHA. As a senior Board members currently serving on the Board of Directors, I believe new and current members will only benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Espero's nomination to the HPHA.