



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKAKO
KALAELOA

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STATEMENT OF
GARETT KAMEMOTO, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, April 12, 2018
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

GM 724
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WEI FANG, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE
06-30-2022.

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee.

Ms. Wei Fang has served as an At-Large member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority since February 2016. Ms. Fang has consistently made herself available at meetings discussing matters that pertain to HCDA's three districts (Heeia, Kakaako and Kalaeloa) and is familiar with and understands the challenges facing HCDA.

Ms. Fang's commitment to attend and actively participate in the deliberations of the Authority is an example of one who is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing HCDA's Kakaako, Heeia and Kalaeloa development districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Ms. Fang's nomination.

GM-724

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 5:33:14 PM

Testimony for HOU on 4/12/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a person who serves on the HCDA with Wei Fang, I can say she is an excellent board member who looks out for the interest of both the State and the citizens. I highly recommend that she be confirmed,

Mike Golojuch

April 11, 2018

Sen. Will Espero
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing

RE: Nomination to the Hawaii Community Development Authority GM724

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding my recent nomination by the Governor to serve a term on the Board of the Hawaii Community Development Authority. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, please find the information requested below.

I thank you for this opportunity and am available if you need any further information from me.

Mahalo,



Wei Fang

808-537-6366

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority?

I joined the HCDA Board mid-way through my predecessor's term during a period of transition for the Authority— during 2015/16 when the Authority had an interim executive director. The board worked as a team to bring on a new executive director, Jesse Souki, in 2016/2017, working with him to tighten up several facets of the Authority's staff operations while also pushing forward to updated policies and district development goals. With Mr. Souki's unexpected departure, the Authority again has an interim director appointed from within the staff and is nearing the end of a search for a new executive director, who will no doubt need a hard-working and supportive board as they take on leadership of the Authority.

I wish to continue to serve as a member of HCDA's board both to assist the staff and board through this current transition to a new Executive Director, and to continue to serve the people of this state by working hard to ensure that development opportunities for each of the Authority's three districts are considered in a balanced manner.

While serving on HCDA's board has been a lot more time and work than I expected, with issues we are deliberating on that often "keep me up at night," my colleagues on the board are hard-working and solutions-oriented. We work well together as a team and I'd like the opportunity to complete some of the initiatives that we've started; these include updated Kaka'ako Affordable Housing Rules, creating policies for great fiscal accountability, and beginning the community process of updating He'eia's master plan.

2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority?

Despite the vast array of issues and opportunities that come before the HCDA, the role and responsibilities of the Authority's members should be fairly straight forward. 1) Take time to engage with the material, evidence and community members related to each of the issues that come before the board. This means listening and asking questions, even if it takes more time. 2) Work with and support the Authority's staff and leadership in their efforts to efficiently implement the goals of the Authority. 3) Work with other board members to establish clear directives and deliverables that staff or the public can easily understand to be part of the larger development goals of each district.

3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority, 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 Hawaii Community Development Authority.

The large majority of my career has been in the non-profit, community sector – first as an educator, later on working with the Waianae Community Redevelopment Corporation on expanding the footprint and youth pipeline for MA'O Organic Farms, and most recently as a developer of small urban infill housing. I have just completed construction on a 9-unit condo building in the McCully neighborhood. A few years ago, in 2013, I also came before the HCDA board for a development permit to do build in indoor community event space at 441 Cooke Street. That project required two public hearings before the HCDA Board. I can honestly say that I have been on "both sides of the table," which gives me a unique perspective on the challenges faced by both the informal community action groups and the large corporate developers.

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

The top priorities I want to accomplish during my term of Service are: 1) work with my fellow board members to ensure a smooth transition for the new Executive Director, so that they can establish a clear and actionable set of goals that will guide the Authority for the next 5-10 years. 2) Assist the staff and HCDA leadership in strengthening the ability of the Authority to be more financial self-sustaining, 3) collaborate with and engage a broad cross-section of the He'eia community as the update to the He'eia master plan gets underway, 4) Complete the transition of Kaka'ako Makai park lands to the City in such a way as to ensure that the key features of the Master Plan for the Kaka'ako Waterfront Parks, which were arrived at through a community process, are upheld under the City's stewardship agreement.

5) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawaii Community Development Authority? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

The main possible conflict of interest that could arise during my term of service is that my husband is currently an employee of Kako'o 'Oiwai, the non-profit organization that leases the He'eia lands from the HCDA. However this is an issue that I've already

brought up with the Authority's Deputy AG, and Board Chair. It has been advised that I may be involved in He'eia discussions or matters that concern the overall district, and I'm aware to check in with the Deputy AG, Board Chair and/or Executive Director on whether or not I should recuse myself when He'eia-related topics come up for decision-making.