

GM 749
SUSAN KUNZ (2023)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Monday, April 22, 2019
1:00 PM
Room 423, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 748 and G.M. 749

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Susan Kunz, for a term to expire 06-30-2019 and for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony in support of Governor's Message 748 and Governor's Message 749, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Susan Kunz, for a term to expire June 30, 2019 and for a term to expire June 30, 2022.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Ms. Kunz to the HPHA Board of Directors. The HPHA Board needs directors with a variety of life experiences and professional expertise in order to effectively fulfill its role as a policy guide for the agency. Ms. Kunz has many years of public and non-profit sector experience in affordable housing in Hawai'i County and she will be a great asset to the HPHA Board of Directors.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding G.M. 748 and G.M. 749. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Ms. Kunz to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

HAWAII ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

100 PAUAAHI STREET, SUITE 204 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

To: Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair Committee on Housing
Sen. Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair Committee on Housing

From: Keith Kato
Executive Director
Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Re: Hearing on GM 748 and GM 749 RELATING TO CONFIRMATION OF
SUSAN KUNZ TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
April 22, 2019 at 1:00p.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

The Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) SUPPORTS the confirmation of Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has developed more than 600 affordable homes on the Big Island over the past several years.

While developing these homes we have had the opportunity to work with Susan Kuna in her roles at the County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development and as the Executive Director of the Big Island Housing Foundation.

We have found Susan to be very knowledgeable in many aspects of the affordable housing situation, understanding what the needs are, the impediments to production, and innovative in seeking out practical solutions

We highly recommend her confirmation to the Board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as she will bring valuable experience and knowledge to the table.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

Hearing: GM 749 in support
Date: April 22, 2019
Location: State Capitol – Rm. 423
To: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai‘i, a nonprofit homelessness service provider, in strong support of Ms. Susan Kunz, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority.

I first met Ms. Kunz nearly 15 years ago as a community partner and colleague from the Hawai‘i County Housing and Community Development Office. She has held the top Housing position for the County of Hawai‘i, and as the previous County Housing Administrator, Susan was responsible for the planning, administration and operations of all County Housing programs including the Section 8 program. Additionally, she has overseen over \$17,000,000 annually in federal grants from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

After working with Hawai‘i County, Ms. Kunz moved on to become the Executive Director of Big Island Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing units throughout Hawai‘i Island. Her track record as a collaborative leader has led to increased affordable housing inventory and improved homeless facilities.

I’ve also witnessed Ms. Kunz in action, as she worked to ensure our community’s safety following the impacts of Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014. Ms Kunz leveraged her network of community partners, bringing people together to work toward collaborative and mutually beneficial solutions to help those most in need.

We would be so lucky to have her as a Board of Director of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to confirm Susan Kunz for the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brandee Menino


Chief Executive Officer
HOPE Services Hawaii, Inc.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.
ADMINISTRATIVE
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357 Waiuanue Avenue
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KIHEI PUA
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VETERAN HOUSING
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FRIENDLY PLACE
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WEST HAWAII EMERGENCY
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Anne Harpham

Interim Vice-President/
Treasurer
Charlene Iboshi

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Rev. Robert Stark, SSS

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Carol R. Ignacio
Gwen DeCoito
Patrick Hurney
Dean Au

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

LATE

GM-749

Submitted on: 4/22/2019 11:22:19 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/22/2019 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick F. Hurney	Testifying for Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Please approve Suzan!

Mahalo

Patrick HUrney

GM-749

Submitted on: 4/16/2019 4:08:40 PM

Testimony for HOU on 4/22/2019 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn Mende	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Susan over the past several years in her capacity as the County of Hawaii's Housing Director and in her current role as the Executive Director for the Big Island Housing Foundation. I believe she would be a great asset to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. I strongly support her nomination.

April 6, 2019

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for Susan Kunz to the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors

Aloha, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer strong support for the nomination of Susan Kunz to serve on the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors. Susan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of housing programs from the private sector and county government.

Susan did a tremendous job as the Administrator of the County of Hawai'i Office of Housing and Community Development where she oversaw the planning, administration and operation of all of the County's housing programs. I had the opportunity and pleasure to work closely with Susan on multiple housing and homeless projects. I was consistently impressed with her integrity, knowledge and hard work.

Please support Susan Kunz's nomination to the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarysse Kami Nunokawa', written in a cursive style.

Clarysse Kami Nunokawa

GM-749

Submitted on: 4/17/2019 7:32:38 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/22/2019 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Iboshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Susan Akiyama Kunz' nomination to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. When I worked at the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney, I had opportunities to observe Susan' working in different capacities for the County of Hawaii. She is competent, dedicated, knowledgeable about housing matters and the challenges government faces with the complex economic, social and behavioral health issues handled by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Susan's past and current work and integrity to do the "right thing" makes Susan an extraordinarily nomination to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Please confirm her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-749

Submitted on: 4/22/2019 11:02:15 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/22/2019 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy G. Self	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Amy G. Self, an attorney licensed in the State of Hawai`i, and I am testifying as an individual in support of GM749 - the nomination of Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Public Housing Authority.

In addition to the testimony I submitted in support of GM748, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Susan Kunz to serve a full term on the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Public Housing Authority to expire 06/30/2023. Based on my past experience of working with Ms. Kunz on a professional level and knowing Ms. Kunz on a personal level, she will prove to be an important asset to the Board of Directors if given the opportunity to serve. During the almost ten years of knowing Ms. Kunz, I have known her to be dedicated to resolving housing needs in our County without regard to politics. She always approaches difficult issues with a positive attitude and patience. She has worked with some very difficult people and has never given up, which I find admirable.

Based on the foregoing and my testimony submitted for GM748, I strongly support the Governor's nomination of Susan Kunz for a full term on the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Housing Authority to expire 06/30/2023 and encourage this Committee to approve her nomination.

Sincerely,

Amy G. Self

(808) 443-1275

1742 Haleloke Street

Hilo, Hawaii 96720