

GM53

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority Heeia District, Gubernatorial Nominee, JO-ANN LEONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Hawai'i Community Development Authority Heeia District

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HOU

Introducer(s):

Jesse K. Souki
Honolulu, Hawaii

August 29, 2017, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

Senate Committee on Housing
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Interim of 2017

**RE: Testimony on Gov. Msg. No. 53 Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Jo-Ann
Leong for Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) He'eia District**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

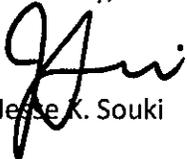
I **strongly support** the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Jo-Ann Leong, Ph.D. for HCDA He'eia District.

Dr. Leong recently retired from the position of director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii, where she served since 2001. I first met and worked with Dr. Leong in 2011, when I was the director of the State Office of Planning. Dr. Leong was the academic lead on the creation of the 29th NERR in the national system and first new reserve in more than six years. It includes unique and diverse upland, estuarine, and marine habitats within the He'eia estuary and a portion of Kaneohe Bay, protecting a stream, coral reefs, sand flats, and important cultural components. The cultural sites include traditional agricultural and heritage lands. Most all the land based portion of the NERR is leased by HCDA to Kako'o Oiwi.

Many partners made the NERR possible, but Dr. Leong's involvement helped bridge culture, community, environment, and science to bring more resources to this community. This is the kind of creative thinking and community building skills we need on the Board, to ensure the He'eia Community Development District's plan achieves the vision of its community partners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jesse K. Souki



August 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 53 (GM 53)

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **JO-ANN LEONG**
HAWAI'I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Jo-Ann Leong to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) to represent the He'eia District.

Over the last several years I have worked with Ms. Leong on the establishment of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Ms. Leong's initial participation was as the Director for the University of Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), located on Moku o Lo'e or Coconut Island. After retirement from HIMB she continued to participate in the designation process as both a member of the community and as a Board of Director for Kāko'o 'Ōiwi and Paepae O He'eia.

Ms. Leong's participation in the designation of the He'eia NERR as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was instrumental. She provided the academic scientific expertise and knowledge as well as the appreciation and sensitivity of native Hawaiian cultural knowledge and practices in the marine resources of Kāne'ohē Bay. She understands that cultural practitioners, like Uncle Jerry Kaluhiwa who recently passed away, bring a critical perspective to preserving and sustaining a healthy marine resource for future generations.

What has made Jo-Ann so outstanding is her personal and professional commitment to engage the community on issues and concerns that have broad implications to the community. She is a long-time resident of Kāne'ohē who has been involved with the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, restoration of the He'eia fishpond and the lo'i kalo on the HCDA lands that are currently managed by Kāko'o 'Ōiwi.

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Her personal and professional experience working with the He'eia community uniquely qualifies her to sit on the HCDA Board to represent the district. She brings the necessary skills and perspective to the HCDA Board as they consider matters under their jurisdiction, in particular, those related to the lands in He'eia. Jo-Ann is a person of great integrity and professionalism who is well respected in He'eia and the larger community.

I respectfully ask that Ms. Leong's nomination receive the consent of your committee, and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn N.S. Chang". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dawn N.S. Chang
Principal