

# GM589

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHIRLEY SWINNEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2014 (term amended to 6-30-2015 by GM604).



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE SHARON E. HAR **G.M. 589, SHIRLEY S. SWINNEY**

Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Community Development Authority

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Thursday, March 8, 2012, 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, Senators Fukunaga, Ryan, Shimabukuro, Tokuda, and Slom:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the nomination of Shirley S. Swinney to serve as a Kalaeloa member and cultural practitioner for the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

As the Hawaii State Representative for the 40<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Kalaeloa, Kapolei, Makakilo and Royal Kunia, I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Swinney over the past six years in her capacity as a community leader in the Malu'ohai Residents Association and as the Founder and President of the Kapolei Community Development Corporation (KCDC). Ms. Swinney is a respected leader in both the Native Hawaiian community and the communities of Kapolei, as she gives willingly and selflessly of her time and talents to so many organizations, and is truly dedicated to the people of West Oahu. In addition to her leadership roles with the Malu'ohai Residents Association and KCDC, Ms. Swinney has also volunteered her time and mana'o to the Malama Learning Center, Special Olympics Hawaii and the UH-West Oahu Ad Hoc Stakeholders Committee.

As an interim member of the HCDA board since August 2011, Ms. Swinney has become well-versed in the issues surrounding HCDA, particularly with respect to Kalaeloa. Ms. Swinney has also dedicated herself to understanding Native Hawaiian culture. In particular, her study of ho'oponopono, or traditional dispute resolution practices, with Aunty Malia Craver, and also her knowledge of local flora and fauna in association with products she has developed for her small business, represent her overall commitment to incorporating traditional Hawaiian practices into her daily life.

Ms. Swinney's knowledge of the West Oahu area and traditional Hawaiian cultural practices make her an ideal candidate for this position. She is truly dedicated to improving our community, and I have no doubt that her passion, integrity and wisdom will be assets to the HCDA board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this letter of support, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon E. Har", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharon E. Har  
State Representative  
40<sup>th</sup> House District  
Kapolei, Makakilo, Royal Kunia, Kalaeloa

Representative Sharon E. Har  
State Capitol, Room 438 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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KALAELOA

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Chairperson

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STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Thursday, March 8, 2012

1:20 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**G. M. 589 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, SHIRLEY SWINNEY, FOR A  
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014 (TERM  
AMENDED TO 06-30-2015 BY G. M. 604).**

Upon her interim nomination on July 1, 2011, Ms. Swinney has effectively served on the Hawaii Community Development Authority's ("HCDA") board as a Kalaeloa member and cultural specialist. Ms. Swinney's background and perspective in homestead and native Hawaiian issues have provided the Authority with valuable perspective during the last 8 months.

With respect to her background, Ms. Swinney has been actively involved in community organizations relating to community development, homestead issues, Hawaiian culture, sustainability, economic development and the Special Olympics. Ms. Swinney is a retired Circuit and District Court Clerk and also worked at First Hawaiian Bank in the 1970s.

Based on her willingness to serve, as well as her professional expertise in community development matters and Hawaiian culture, I believe that Ms. Swinney is well-qualified to serve as a Kalaeloa member of the HCDA board.

I offer my support for her confirmation by the State Senate and urge your favorable consideration for her nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of her nomination.



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII\*  
WEST O'AHU

Office of the Chancellor

March 2, 2012

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Re-appointment of Shirley Swinney to Hawaii Community Development  
Authority (GM #589)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and members of the Committee on  
Water, Land, and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for the re-appointment  
of Shirley Swinney to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).  
During her service as a member of the UH West O'ahu (UHWO) Ad Hoc  
Stakeholders committee over the past several years, I have gotten to know  
Shirley very well. As President of the Kapolei Community Development  
Corporation, Shirley has worked as the community liaison on our ad hoc  
committee and played an integral role in keeping the neighboring homestead  
communities informed regarding UHWO's new campus developments.

She has been at the forefront of efforts to coordinate the public and private  
sectors for the construction of a Heritage Center in Kapolei as well as the  
Center's corresponding programs. Shirley is able to balance the need to  
preserve our natural environment and host culture with the need for re-  
development. I feel that her experience with community based development  
projects and ability to foster partnerships in the public and private sector to move  
projects forward will continue to serve Shirley well at HCDA and I urge you to  
support her re-appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene I. Awakuni".

Gene I. Awakuni  
Chancellor

96-129 Ala 'Ike  
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782  
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March 5, 2012

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

RE: GM589 Testimony

Aloha Senators Dela Cruz and Solomon;

I am honored to give my endorsement for Shirley Swinney to serve on the Hawaii Community Development Authority as Kalaeloa cultural specialist. I first met Shirley when she joined the Special Olympics Hawaii Board of Directors in 2007, representing the native Hawaiian community for our partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Shirley's first role as a board member was to attend our Holiday Classic. Not only did she attend, she volunteered. And Shirley made it a point to talk with everyone involved, making them feel welcomed and important. Shirley Swinney brings a rare and special gift to every meeting of the board. Her warmth and kindness radiate in everything she does. Shirley's strength and proven leadership ability was a key factor in being elected as a Vice Chair of our Board of Directors. Yet even when leading, Shirley has the compassion to understand other points of view, and is always considerate and thoughtful.

I have seen Shirley volunteering at many, many events throughout the community. Shirley leads by example - showing the Hawaiian ohana the importance of acceptance of all people and in volunteerism in their community. Everyone knows her, and everyone lights up when she is in their presence. I know firsthand that it just "feels good" to be around Shirley and her wonderful energy.

Special Olympics has opened up a world where our athletes can achieve goals through sports competition. Our program has built self-esteem, instilled pride and brought joy to our athletes. Many athletes talk about lonely, friendless, hopeless lives before Special Olympics – and how participation in Special Olympics has transformed their entire lifestyle. Special Olympics athletes and their families have overcome discrimination and barriers few of us can understand. Our athletes are bullied in schools, and called names too cruel to repeat. Yet when these athletes receive a medal on the award stand from a Special Olympics board member like Shirley, our athletes grow "larger", they stand up taller, they feel accepted and important. I have watched it happen over and over again.

I am honored to endorse Shirley Swinney to serve on the Hawaii Community Development Authority as Kalaeloa cultural specialist. Please give me a call or email if there is anything further I can provide. On behalf of our athletes, their families and friends, mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Bottelo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being larger and more prominent.

Nancy Bottelo  
President and CEO



GM 589

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT  
CONFIRMATION OF SHIRLEY SWINNEY  
HAWAIIAN EXPERT  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

My name is Doveline Fyfe Kaaloalaikini Notley Steer Borges, Native Hawaiian, born in New York, raised 13 years on the mainland. When my family returned to the islands, I always felt like I was rushing to catch up to learn about my culture. Fast track to the year 2000 when I became a Kapolei Hawaiian Homestead recipient and that was the year I met Shirley Swinney, President of the Maluohai Hawaiian Homestead Association, the first Hawaiian homestead community in Kapolei. I was immediately impressed with her dedication and service to our community. She emerged a leader among us while I was still attempting to acclimate myself to West Oahu, my new neighbors, and new community and find my way to Fort Barrett Road to get myself to and from work on time.

Shirley's knowledge of our culture is extensive and she embraces those of us who are learning. She does this with kindness and patience and an amazing determination to share her mana'o with us. Through her stewardship, I took part in Hawaiian craft classes, an area where using my hands proved awkward in creating Hawaiian wreaths or dry floral arrangements out of plants we grow in our own yards. Shirley taught me how to use dry palm fronds I would have thrown away as focal pieces in floral arrangements. It was scary for me at first and eventually through her guidance my pieces actually started looking more like art than opala. I value these things. I have yet to capture the essence of Hawaiian crafting so I am still a work in progress. Shirley's dedication to sharing her knowledge is golden because she continues to teach me no matter how much I struggle to learn and embrace those things Hawaiian.

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools and former Court Clerk with the Judiciary, Shirley Swinney is a woman of passion and dedication and you would honor us by confirming her nomination as the Hawaiian expert for the Hawaiian Community Development Authority.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my testimony.

Doveline Borges  
91-212 Koanimakani Place  
Kapolei, Hawaii

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Testimony of Homelani Schaedel  
Malu'ohai Residents Association  
91-1016 Koanimakani St.  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
(808) 520-2667

Hearing on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 1:20 p.m., Conference Room 225

Support for **GM 589**, Relating to Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee SHIRLEY SWINNEY.

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Aloha,

Honorable Senator Dela Cruz, Honorable Senator Solomon, and members of this committee.

My name is **Homelani Schaedel**, President of Malu'ohai Residents' Association, the first Hawaiian homestead in Kapolei. I first met Shirley Swinney in 2002 when we began our journey to serve Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries in our community.

In 2008, Kapolei Community Development Corporation (KCDC) was created as a non-profit organization owned and managed by homesteaders in the Kapolei region. As a founder, Shirley promotes KCDC's vision to "Foster family and cultural preservation founded on the tenets of Community, Culture, Education and Partnerships". Through her leadership, KCDC has and continues to traverse many challenges in moving our Heritage Center (Community Center) and Ho'omaka (Commercial) projects forward.

Shirley's commitment to service extends beyond our Hawaiian homestead communities in Kapolei. She current serves on the boards of Mālama Learning Center and Special Olympics Hawaii. Through her profession and volunteerism she has increased her capacity, adding to her already extensive resources of Hawaiian culture and traditions, education, legal, and planning and development.

Through the years I've come to learn and understand how deeply rooted she is in on our Hawaiian values, relying on her na'au (intestines) to guide her thoughts and decisions. Shirley's acceptance of this nomination displays her willingness to support the Kalaeloa Master Plan, and use its' Core Values and Guiding Principles to guide her work toward economic development, using best practices in energy and environmental sustainability while preserving and restoring cultural and natural resources to improve quality of life for all of Hawai'i's people.

I humbly request your consideration and **support to** confirm Shirley Swinney to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to submit my testimony.