



GM 533

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON T. OKUHAMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawaii Community Development Authority

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HSH

Introducer(s):



February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of
HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(HACBED)

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).

Mr. Okuhama is highly qualified to serve on the HCDA Board based on his extensive banking and commercial real estate and business lending expertise. Mr. Okuhama served on the Aloha Tower Development Corporation Board and his vast knowledge and expertise in business development, financing, and community revitalization efforts will again be helpful to guide HCDA's efforts to redevelop the Kaka'ako area. Mr. Okuhama's work demonstrates history of community involvement and mindful economic development that has aimed to lift the genuine wealth of families across the islands.

I have also had the opportunity to work with Mr. Okuhama over the past three years in his role as HACBED's Board President. As a new Executive Director, Mr. Okuhama was integral in supporting my transition by providing compassionate leadership, an open-minded and collaborative approach, and a willingness to help me effectuate my vision for HACBED. Such mindfulness and commitment to supporting someone with limited professional experience is a testament to Mr. Okuhama's understanding of mindful development and true community involvement.

HACBED is a statewide, intermediary, and federally tax exempt nonprofit organization that was established in 1992 to "*achieve economic, social, and environmental justice in Hawai'i through community-based economic development,*" and Mr. Okuhama acts both professionally and personally to effectuate our

Committee on Human Services and Housing
Recommending Appointment of JASON T. OKUHAMA
February 12, 2015
Page 2 of 2

mission. Over the 20 years of service to HACBED, Mr. Okuhama has been extremely generous volunteering his expertise and experience and experience to assist many community-based organizations and small businesses to establish viable ventures that have generated meaningful economic opportunities for residents in low- and moderate-income communities in Hawai'i.

I believe Mr. Okuhama's extensive experience and knowledge, and more importantly, his ability to lead compassionately in an open-minded and collaborative way that lifts up the values of the community are critical assets for a Board of Director of the HCDA. I thus hope you act affirmatively on Mr. Okuhama's nomination to be considered and confirmed as an HCDA Board Member as he brings capabilities that will support HCDA as it moves forward and carries out economic development that supports families that is grounded and based in the values of this place – Hawai'i.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at (808)550-2661 or bkakesako@hacbed.org.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent N. Kakesako". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director



Marcus & Associates, Inc.

February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Testimony of Dale Nishikawa

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


It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

The importance of Kakaako and its potentially critical contribution to the future of Honolulu and Hawaii cannot be overstated. The members of the Board of HCDA will be critical in ensuring that correct decisions are made and therefore it is imperative that the right people be selected to serve on the Board.

I have known Jason both professionally and personally for well over a decade. His over thirty years of experience in commercial lending gives him the broad real estate and financial experience, and perspective, necessary for the Board. Perhaps more importantly, his integrity and willingness to put the public good over his own interests will be critical in assuring the public that he will do what is right.

Jason T. Okuhama will be a great asset to the Board of the Hawaii Community Development Authority and I urge you to confirm him for the open position. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



Dale Nishikawa
Chief Executive Officer
Marcus & Associates, Inc.

Residential
Commercial
Industrial
Brokerage Services
Property Management
Asset Management
Leasing
Development
Consulting

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Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
February 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Sharon Moriwaki, Kaka'ako Resident & President, Kaka'ako United

Statement in Strong Support of Governor's Message No.533,
Nominating **Jason Okuhama** as Kaka'ako's Community Resident Representative to the
Hawaii Community Development Authority

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Josh Green, and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, a resident of Kaka'ako and President of Kaka'ako United, an organization of concerned residents and other citizens committed to ensure that Kaka'ako is developed in line with its original vision.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has responsibility for ensuring that the Kaka'ako Community Development District ("Kaka'ako") is developed to achieve that vision, goals and plans in state law (chapter 206E,HRS). Needless to say, HCDA is very important to those of us living in Kaka'ako; its members are stewards of our district. The Kaka'ako members -- two representing residents and one representing small business — are the eyes and ears of the district and bring the interests and concerns to HCDA in its deliberations to deliver on the Kaka'ako plans and rules.

We are thus pleased with the Governor's nomination of Jason Okuhama as one of the two Kaka'ako community resident representatives. He will bring to HCDA much more than the community resident perspective.

I have come to know Jason in the past months when he took over the helm as our AOA President at Kaka'ako's One Waterfront Tower condo. I have seen him in action at our board meetings. He listens to various owners and residents with problems, differing perspectives, and issues. He has respectfully listened to them all and calmly, fairly, and carefully addressed them with a "big picture" solution – looking at bylaws and rules, policies, and best approaches, including more and better communication with owners.

I have no doubt he will bring this approach and careful and thoughtful decision-making to HCDA. He will also bring his expertise as a mortgage broker – understanding the needs and interests of developers and landowners; as a community member –not only as a member of the condo association board but also of organizations that serve the community such as the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Development (HACBED) and the Aloha Tower Development Corporation. His knowledge of business and community perspectives, networks and interests will be of great benefit to HCDA and to the sustainable, quality development of Kaka'ako.

For all these reasons, I urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Jason Okuhama as one of the two Kaka'ako community resident members of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of Ann M. Tanouye

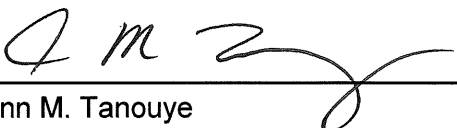
Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann M. Tanouye and I am employed as Vice President of Pacific Rim Bank in the Commercial Lending Area. It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the Confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I have worked with Mr. Okuhama for the past 20 years on various commercial real estate transactions and found him to be of high integrity and a very dedicated individual who always meets his obligations in a timely manner. Mr. Okuhama has a wealth of knowledge and experience in real estate within the State of Hawaii which would add value to the Board in their decision making. In addition, Mr. Okuhama generously gives his time and efforts as President of the Hawai'i Alliance of Community Based Economic Development, a non-profit dedicated to helping the economic development in rural based areas.

I believe Mr. Okuhama is a qualified individual for the position and urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of him to the Board of Director for the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Respectfully,


Ann M. Tanouye

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Susan Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Conference Room Rm 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **GM 533 – Jason T. Okuhama, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority, for a term to expire June 30, 2017**
Hearing on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 4:00pm

Dear Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of the appointment and confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA Board").

I have known Mr. Okuhama for many years professionally and personally, and as a colleague and a friend. As a highly experienced commercial financing professional and entrepreneur, Mr. Okuhama is in tune with the pulse of business and the economy of Hawaii. Mr. Okuhama has a wide range of experience analyzing and working with all forms of businesses in Hawaii from small businesses to large businesses; from commercial real estate financing to aircraft financing; from financing innovative startup ventures to financing established expanding businesses. Mr. Okuhama brings extensive finance, real estate and business experience to the HCDA Board.

I personally know that Mr. Okuhama is very diligent, conscientious, energetic, hardworking and of high integrity.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge this Committee to confirm Mr. Okuhama's appointment to the HCDA Board.

Very truly yours,



Carlito P. Caliboso
for
YAMAMOTO CALIBOSO
A Limited Liability Law Company

February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I strongly support confirmation of Jason T. Okahama as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority ("Board").

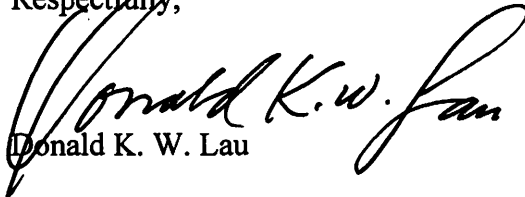
I have known Jason Okuhama for over 20 years through our jobs at different financial institutions. We both now have our own mortgage brokerage companies. He is an excellent colleague and friend and has a lot to commercial financing experience with commercial businesses and real estate.

Jason Okahama is honest, dependable, creative and capable. He also has integrity and is a hard worker and uses a lot of initiative in performing his daily duties. Jason Okuhama would be an excellent contributing Board member.

I strongly urge your favorable vote on his confirmation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter,

Respectfully,



Donald K. W. Lau

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
February 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Galen Fox, Kaka'ako Resident
Statement in Support of Governor's Message No.533
Nominating Jason Okuhama to the Hawaii Community Development Authority

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Josh Green, and Members:

I'm Galen Fox and I'm an eight-year Kaka'ako resident. I support the nomination of Jason Okuhama to the board of HCDA, which has jurisdiction over our community. Jason is a Kaka'ako resident with nearly four years of AOA leadership experience, and is currently President of the One Waterfront Tower's AOA.

Jason tells us that a good community representative should stay balanced, fair and objective. Believing it is important to have a range of related job experiences and volunteer work, he points to his background as a business loan officer in the private sector including Bank of America, and to his work with the government supporting small business and agriculture. His volunteer experience includes involvement with community-based economic development organizations, with the Young Buddhist Association, Sierra Club, Special Olympics, and the American Cancer Society. Of special relevance to HCDA, he was on the Board of the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Development and was Vice Chair of the Aloha Tower Development Corporation.

We are thankful that the Governor has seen fit to nominate Jason, an active member of the Kaka'ako community, to serve on the HCDA board. In the absence of elected representatives of the people on HCDA, the Legislature can help insure that the HCDA board includes members who understand the community over which they hold jurisdiction. Jason Okuhama is qualified to represent our community. Mahalo.

February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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Testimony of Joseph Almeida

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

Mr. Okuhama is highly qualified to serve on the HCDA Board of Directors because of his extensive expertise in commercial and real estate financing, banking experience and business development. I have known Mr. Okuhama since February of 2007. I have worked with Mr. Okuhama in conjunction with the Board of Directors of AOA Century Square for four years, of which Mr. Okuhama is presently the Treasurer.

Mr. Okuhama maintains the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and professionalism. He is extremely knowledgeable and always stays well informed on issues. He conducts the business of association Treasurer with great responsibility. The qualities and integrity possessed by Mr. Okuhama make him an excellent choice as member of the HCDA Board.

The HCDA Board will be well served by Mr. Okuhama as a member. My hope is that Mr. Okuhama will have the opportunity to contribute to the vision of a revitalized Kaka'ako and Honolulu, and that his nomination will be favorably considered by this Committee on Human Services and Housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



Joseph Almeida
General Manager
AOAO Century Square

February 12, 2015

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Testimony of Joseph Burns

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

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I have worked directly with Mr. Okuhama over the last four years in my capacity as the Director of the Hawaii Small Business Development Center, Oahu Office. Many of the projects undertaken have led to significant economic and social impact, thus in my view Mr. Okuhama has demonstrated that he is well qualified for this position.

On a personal level, I have found that Mr. Okuhama has the ability to offer creative and effective solutions to challenging situations. Some words to describe him are: collaborative, honorable, reliable and not without an appropriate sense of humor. Based on his excellent qualifications and personal characteristics, I hope you will vote favorably for his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Burns", is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Burns

February 12, 2015

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Testimony of KAPONO B. BEAMER

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

I am providing testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I have known Jason Okuhama since he purchased his unit at 415 South Street in March of 2013.

I have also had the honor of working with Jason on the Board of Directors, here at our Association of Apartment Owners, One Waterfront Towers.

In my judgment, Jason is honest, honorable, ethical, intelligent, informed, and highly capable. He has many qualities that would make him an ideal board member for the HCDA. He also has a lot of experience in the fields of real estate and finance.

Jason cares about others, and always tries to do the right thing for the majority of the people. He puts personal agenda aside. He thinks of the greater good for the community.

In my estimation, Jason would make an excellent Board member of the HCDA. I think many residents of Kakaako would finally feel they have a voice!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely and with Aloha,

Kapono B. Beamer

Realtor Associate; Locations LLC
614 Kapahulu Avenue, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

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email: kapono.beamer@pruhawaii.com

February 12, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR

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Testimony of Michael Loke

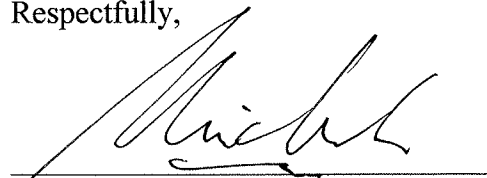
Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, in support of GM 533, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I am the President of the Board of Directors at Century Square Condominium at Bishop Street. Jason Okuhama is the Treasurer. Jason is a valued member of the Board and his knowledge in finances and his responsiveness is deeply appreciated by all board members and owners. He will no doubt make a great Board Member for the HCDA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael", written over a horizontal line.

Name : Michael Loke
AOAO President / Century Square