



GM724

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDWIN S. TAIRA, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

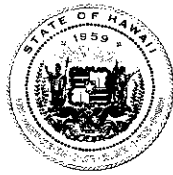
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HSH

Introducer(s):



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Clift Tsuji
House District 2

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services & Housing

April 16, 2015

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

RE: GM 724

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept my statement in strong support of Mr. Edwin S. Taira, a nominee to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

I have known Mr. Taira for approximately 40 years. He is a well-respected member of the Hilo community, with over three decades of experience in housing management and development. His comprehensive service includes County, State and Federal level work, and affordable rental and sale projects. Currently there are ambitious plans for affordable housing in State House District 2, and Mr. Taira's professional history will help bring those to fruition. I am confident that as a member of the HHFDC Board, Mr. Taira will bring positive impact and meaningful contributions to both the organization and the population it serves.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my strong support for his nomination.

Sincerely,



CLIFT TSUJI

Aaron S. Y. Chung
Council Member
District 2 South Hilo



Phone No.: (808) 961-8272
Fax No.: (808) 961-8912
aaron.chung@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 14, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Human Services and Housing Committee

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Committee Members:


Subject: Gov. Msg. No. 724 – Nomination of Edwin Taira to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this letter in support of Edwin Taira, Governor Ige's Public Member (Hawai'i County) nominee to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation ("HHFDC"). If confirmed, Mr. Taira would fill a term which expires on June 30, 2017.

The HHFDC is tasked with developing and financing low- and moderate-income housing projects and administering home-ownership programs. As you can probably tell from his resume, (attached to the Governor's Message), Mr. Taira has an impressive background in housing administration and development and is uniquely qualified to serve on this Board. He worked at the Hawai'i County Office of Housing and Community Development for 33 years, the last eight of which were as Administrator under Mayors Yamashiro and Kim. His no-nonsense, hard-working approach has gained him respect from a wide range of individuals in our community. However, what truly impresses me about Mr. Taira is his character. He is a humble and fair individual, who will be able to make decisions based upon the best objective data available to him.

I humbly ask that you vote to confirm Ed Taira's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Sincerely,


AARON S. Y. CHUNG
Councilmember

cc: E. Taira



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

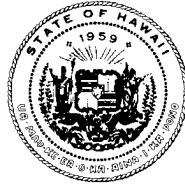
In consideration of
G.M. 724
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EDWIN S. TAIRA, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2017.**

Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human
Services and Housing.

DBEDT **supports** the nomination of Edwin S. Taira to serve as the County of
Hawaii representative on the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Board of Directors. As former director of the County's Office of Housing and
Community Development, Mr. Taira brings years of experience to the Board, and is
well-informed about the need for affordable housing in the County of Hawaii, and
statewide.

DBEDT respectfully asks for the Committee's support of this nomination. Thank
you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
LEILANI PULMANO
Chair, Board of Directors of the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of
G.M. 724

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EDWIN S. TAIRA, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2017.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors **strongly supports** the nomination of Edwin S. Taira as the Board's Hawaii County representative.

Edwin Taira is very well-qualified to serve on the HHFDC Board due to his experience with Federal, State and County affordable housing financing and development programs. From 1992 to 2008, he headed the County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Taira also served two terms as a member of the former Rental Housing Trust Fund Commission, as well as on the Board of the Hawaii Community Reinvestment Corporation.

The HHFDC respectfully requests that the Committee support Mr. Taira's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

100 PAUHI STREET, SUITE 204 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Hearing Thursday April 16, 2015

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 106

State Capitol

Subject: **GM724**
Appointment of Edwin Taira to the Board of Directors of the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC)

Senators:

The Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation is pleased to support the appointment of Edwin Taira to the Board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

Mr. Taira retired after decades of public service that culminated with his being named Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD). In his capacity there Mr. Taira facilitated the development of thousands of homes for low income residents of the island of Hawaii and implemented the USDOL Workforce Investment Act for the County of Hawaii.

His housing background makes him well qualified to help HHFDC fulfill its mission of providing affordable housing for the people of Hawaii.

Through Mr. Taira's support and encouragement our non-profit organization has been able to complete more than 550 self help homes and senior rental units on the Big Island. His support also helped set the stage for the proposed new Hilo Adult Day Center facility here in Hilo.

We urge you to appoint Mr. Taira to the HHFDC Board of Directors, we know that he will make a positive contribution to their efforts.

Sincerely,



Keith H. Kato
Executive Director

Harry Kim
471 Ho'okipa Place
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

April 13, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM724 – In Support of the Confirmation of Edwin S. Taira to the Board
of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

I am very happy to write in support of the confirmation of Edwin S. Taira to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

I was privileged to have Edwin serve as the Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii during my eight years as Mayor. His knowledge of housing issues, policies and laws is second to none, and will make him a very valuable member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. I am proud to endorse him.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for reading this.

Aloha,

Harry Kim
(808) 933-9208

Conrad Hokama
1992 Waianuenue Ave.
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 15, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto
Senator Gil Riviere
Senator Sam Slom

Senate committee on Human Services and Housing

RE: GM 724

I am writing in support of Edwin Taira's nomination to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Affordable housing has always been a challenge within our communities around the state and the issue is just as pertinent here on the Big Island. Mr. Taira's many years of service in the public housing arena has allowed him to accumulate a wealth of knowledge to assist in providing guidance and direction in serving the future affordable housing needs of our communities.

May I state that as a life long resident of the Piiponua area in Hilo, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Taira in the past and he used his historical knowledge and experience to put things into perspective and guided us as we worked on projects that impacted our neighborhood community association.

I humbly request that you affirm the nomination of Mr. Edwin Taira to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Thank you for your consideration.



Conrad Hokama

Dixie Kaetsu
P.O. Box 1614
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

April 13, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM724 – In **SUPPORT** of the Confirmation of Edwin S. Taira to the
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
Corporation

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Edwin S. Taira to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Edwin when he was the Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii and I was the County's Controller and then Managing Director. He is intelligent and has a tremendous knowledge of housing policies, laws, and issues. His many years with the County of Hawaii Office of Housing provide him with a background on the issues related to housing policy in Hawaii that would make him a valuable member of the Board of Directors of the HHFDC.

Thank you for taking the time to read this as you consider the confirmation of Edwin S. Taira to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. I doubt you can find anyone else as knowledgeable, qualified and dedicated as Edwin.

Aloha,

Dixie Kaetsu
(808) 345-5586

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Confirmation Hearing on GM 724
Mr. Edwin S. Taira
Public Member (Hawaii County)
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jack K. Fujii, Emeritus Dean, College of Agriculture Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, and 2nd Vice President of the Piihonua Community Association, Hilo, Hawaii. I am writing this letter to provide testimony in support of Mr. Edwin S. Taira's Confirmation Hearing on GM 724. I have known Mr. Taira for many years as a member of the Piihonua Community Association.

Mr. Taira has many years of experience working for the Hawaii County affordable housing program, the Section 8 Existing Housing Rental Assistance Program, and the Section 8 New Construction Rental Assistance Program. He also has ten years of experience working for the USDOL Workforce Investment Act and working for the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program. In view of the above, Mr. Taira has more than adequate experience in the area of housing programs.

Moreover, Mr. Taira has a tremendous background in the area of housing development. He was in charge of the Kamakoa at Waikoloa Workforce Housing Project consisting of 1.2K residential units, 600 multifamily and single family units for sale and 600 rentals at a cost of \$400 million. Additionally, Mr. Taira has supervised the development of affordable single family housing units, multifamily rental projects, elderly rental projects and homeless shelters.

Finally, in the area of management experience, Mr. Taira Administered the County of Hawaii--Office of Housing and Community Development for 16 years overseeing 50 employees with an annual operating budget of \$4.1 million. Based on Mr. Taira's years of experience in the areas of housing development and management, I highly recommend him as an excellent, well qualified candidate

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The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

for the position as Public Member (Hawaii County) Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Mr. Edwin S. Taira's Confirmation Hearing on GM 724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack K. Fujii", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack K. Fujii
2332F Piihonua Road
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Hm. Ph. 935-4119