



GM797

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, LAURA SMITH, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HSH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 15, 2015

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

Subject: **GM 797** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, gubernatorial nominee, LAURA SMITH, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Hearing: 1:15 PM, Thursday, April 16, 2015
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Ms. Laura Smith for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). Laura is a recognized community leader in the social services, disabled, economic development, and non-profit communities.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides empowering programs, services, and benefits to those in our community who are vulnerable with the goals of expanding their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life, and personal dignity. The well-being of our children, families, and *kupuna* is directly connected to the social determinants of health: education, transportation, access to healthcare, safety, job opportunities, environment, and housing. Public housing is an integral part of our mission, and DHS appreciates partnering with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to provide access to homes in our community.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Laura Smith's confirmation for the HPHA Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

**Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / C. Mike Kido**

DATE: April 15, 2015

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Committee on Human Services and Housing
Submitted Via HSHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **GM 797 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura Smith**
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room: 016

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing:

We respectfully submit this testimony in support of the nomination of Laura Smith to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. Laura is extremely qualified for this position. In her many years as the CEO at Goodwill, Laura has built an exceptional organization. But in addition to leading Goodwill, and as a part of her duties at Goodwill, Laura has been involved in examining the issues less affluent people face in our community, and she is focused on helping to develop solutions. She is a great listener but is also a creative leader. She understands the critical role housing plays in helping people to get their lives together but she is also acutely aware of the obstacles that make it difficult to achieve housing solutions. She is a wonderful person as well and makes any organization she is a part of a better one.

We strongly support this terrific nomination. Thank for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito

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