



GM798

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA A. DARCY, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

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 798** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, gubernatorial nominee, LISA A. DARCY, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

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

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Ms. Lisa Darcy for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). Lisa is a recognized community leader on Maui in the social services, housing, and homelessness 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 Lisa Darcy's confirmation for the HPHA Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.



April 14, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Dear Senator Chun Oakland:

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony on behalf of Lisa Darcy's nomination to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. While I have only known Lisa for the past nine months, I've found her to be one of the most dedicated, professional and knowledgeable individuals working in Maui's nonprofit community.

As Chief Executive Officer of Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, Lisa and I have worked closely together on many projects to strengthen our community and its response to homelessness. We partnered together to host a community forum focused on understanding and improving the services needed for the houseless in Maui County and we are currently collaborating on developing a homeless action team in coordination with Mayor Alan Arakawa and the Maui County Council. These two projects are indicative of Lisa's resolve and commitment to serving her community.

Additionally, Lisa works closely with many Ka Hale A Ke Ola clients as the Executive Director of Ho'omoana Foundation. The hands-on, personalized support she provides to individuals experiencing hardship creates a happier, healthier and more productive community.

I have absolute confidence Lisa will be an asset to the Board and I wholeheartedly support her confirmation. Should you have any questions or if I can be of further support, please feel free to contact me at 808-446-8133.

Optimistically,

Erin L. Lowenthal
Chief Executive Officer

PAUL R. MANCINI*
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JAMES W. GEIGER

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April 14, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Dear Senator Chun Oakland:

The purpose of this letter is to support the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

I have known and worked with Lisa for many years in her efforts to improve housing opportunities in Maui and address the problem of homelessness. She is the Executive Director of Ho'omoana Foundation (on which I serve as Board member) and has done a superlative job.

Lisa would be a first-rate addition to HPHA. She is smart, professional, creative, and has an exceptional ability to work with people with divergent viewpoints, bring the best out of people and achieving consensus.

I believe Lisa would be a great addition to the Board.

If you have any questions or need anything further, please let me know.

Very truly yours,



THOMAS D. WELCH, JR.

TDW:jt

A.P. • R.L.S • W.P. • J.S.

Letter of Reference for Ms. Lisa Darcy
14 April 2015

To whom it may concern,

First I must applaud your committee for choosing Lisa Darcy as a candidate for your Board. To recognize Lisa's considerable gifts in this way is long-sighted and strategic in a myriad of ways. Huzzah!

You must only briefly review Lisa's career to immediately recognize her passionate and tenacious pursuit of bringing balance and justice to an often unjust world. Her qualifications for your Board appointment are obvious. What you may not see as a Board is her person beyond her many delineated credentials.

Lisa is intellectual. Intellectual in the sense that there is considerable thought behind her words and her actions, in finding the right balance to communicate clearly and with precision. This applies to even the most manini -- discerning the mix of flavors on one's palate, dancing carefree and without self-consciousness, finding joy in the growth of a seedling. And then we have her higher realm -- spending countless volunteer hours organizing events without requiring recognition, seeking out a specific individual to give care and concern when most others would have not given it a thought, rising to speak for those that can not speak for themselves -- I could go on and on. You surely get the picture.

Lisa is simply one of my favorite people on this planet. She will be a significant asset to your Board, as she is to our Community, and to our World.

With much respect and admiration for your Organization,

Agna Pang

Agna Pang • Richard Spork • William Pang • Julia Spork
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Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

I have known Lisa Darcy for 4 years. During this time I have known her to be very devoted to improving the lives of the people of Maui. She is a leader of great capacity who is determined to fulfill her role as a public servant to the people of Hawaii. Lisa is enthusiastic about finding solutions to the very difficult and unique challenges we face here in Hawaii.

She is always prepared to roll up her sleeves and get the work that needs to be done finished. As I have observed her many times leading public forums, I am always amazed at her ability to bring people together in a positive "we can do it if we work together" attitude. Lisa is excellent at creating a professional network with a warm feeling of aloha.

She has especially impressed me with her great kindness, compassion, and tireless advocacy for the poor and disadvantaged population of Maui County. Lisa is a gift to the people of Hawaii. As a resident of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii. I feel she would be a strong, trustworthy and valuable member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I support Lisa Darcy's confirmation.

Sincerely,
D. L. Plockelman
Community member advocate.

Francene T. Walker, CFRE
1048 West Side Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

April 13, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony on behalf of the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. I have known Ms. Darcy for almost 25 years, when we met working at Green Door -- the second largest community program (for people with severe and persisting mental illness) in the country, located in Washington, DC.

Lisa's passion is the hallmark of her ability to advocate, develop strategies and execute successful solutions to support people who may be homeless, dealing with a mental illness and/or substance abuse. In short, Lisa's heart is for people in our society whom others have forgotten or ignored.

She is dependable, insightful, organized, professional and determined. Although we are now miles apart, I've followed Lisa's career since she moved to Hawaii. I've marveled at her tenacity in working within the system to provide needed services for less fortunate community members. I've seen that she not only gives of her time as a professional, but she sacrifices her personal resources as well -- especially if it means someone will be supported to get on his or her feet.

I whole heartedly recommend Lisa Darcy for a position on the Board and I support her confirmation.

Sincerely,



Francene T. Walker, CFRE
Major and Planned Gifts Director
Montgomery College (Montgomery County, Maryland)

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. I have known her for nine years and found her to be a very dedicated community leader who is sincere and committed to serving the needs of our community.

My first encounter with Lisa was when recruiting players for an entry-level tennis league team. That was nine years ago, and today her energy and bubbly personality has made her a much sought after player on higher level teams. Since becoming involved with this "sport of a lifetime", she has been successful in securing multiple donations of used racquets, tennis balls, and even gently used shoes for the disadvantaged. I saw her at the tennis courts with adults, running and hitting balls to each other across the net, and laughing and having a great time like children at their favorite playground! She has a smooth and persuasive way of keeping everyone involved.

Dependable, insightful, organized, professional, and especially determined, Lisa has been a tireless advocate for many in our community.

Favorable consideration of Lisa for appointment to your Board is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



Jane H. Sakakihara

District Tennis League Coordinator
Retired High School Math teacher
535 Hina Ave, Kahului, HI 96732

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

It is my confident and informed view that the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawai`i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors will bring much positive support and progress to the Board.

I first worked with Lisa in 1992 at the Green Door, a Mental Health program in Washington DC. Working side by side with Lisa for several years, I came to know her as a hard worker and creative thinker that is dependable, professional, informed as well as compassionate in her work. The Clubhouse Model day program we worked in benefited greatly from Lisa's work.

Lisa has the unique ability to analyze projects into tangible organizable components. She forms realistic goals that are attainable. Her enthusiasm for the work and her caring of the people she serves is evident daily. She would be a great asset to your Board.

I believe she will strengthen the Board and I strongly support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Jodey Dance
Event Planner/Facilitator
Big Timber, Montana

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for Lisa A. Darcy for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a recommendation on behalf of the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. I have known her for almost 25 years and found her work to be of very high quality. She is a deeply caring person about the clients. She is a great writer. She follows through on things. She is creative. She would work well with others on the Board.

I was the CEO at Green Door when Lisa was a staff person there. I have watched her grow since then too. She is a great advocate.

I believe she will strengthen the Board and I support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Judith Johnson
Former CEO Green Door
915 Heron Dr
Silver Spring, MD 20901
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301-431-0862

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April 15, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Senate, State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 226
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM 798, Nomination of Lisa A. Darcy to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i
Public Housing Authority

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Governor Ige's
nomination of Lisa A. Darcy to the Board of Directors of the Public Housing Authority.
Please accept my apology if this letter is brief, as I only just received notice of the nomination
and the deadline for testimony is near. If there is any additional information you might wish,
please just let me know.

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Darcy. I believe that she would be an exceptional
member of the Board of the PHA.

Ms. Darcy is extraordinarily intelligent, compassionate, thoughtful, and competent. She is
deeply committed to the helping the homeless, the poor, and the disenfranchised. She has
spent much of her life dedicated to public service. For the past few years, she has worked
every day to directly bring services to individuals who are homeless or physically or mentally
challenged, through her work at the Ho'omoana Foundation. She tirelessly helps to link
individuals with support services, helps them to find housing, and helps them to find work.
None of these tasks are easy, and none are guaranteed success. Yet she perseveres. If one
solution is not available, she will find another. She is dedicated, creative, and thorough. When
she can find a job for an individual, she will personally drive him or her to the first days on
the new job, to help make sure that all goes well. Dedicated, indeed.

At the same time that she works to fix the world, so to speak, one person at a time, she also
makes the time to be an advocate in public forums for those whose voices likely would not
otherwise be heard. That advocacy might be in the form of her heading up the Maui Homeless
Alliance, or in the form of writing an op-ed, or in the form to doggedly working for years to

get the Maui Council to allow handicapped people to ride buses at a reduced fare, or, indeed, in any of another dozen forms, all on behalf of those who need help and cannot advocate for themselves.

I started my career as a lawyer over 40 years ago representing the poor and mentally challenged. Perhaps the greatest recommendation I can make for Ms. Darcy would be to say I am in awe of her unflagging commitment to see that the legally and morally right result happens for those of us who do not have a place at the table. And, in the midst of all this, she is unflaggingly civil and respectful with those who might not agree. She is a firm believer in the value of dialogue. I believe she would be a great member of the Board.

Thank you again for this opportunity to support Ms. Darcy's nomination to the Board of the PHA. If there is any other information that I might be able to give you, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "mdkriegel". The letters are lowercase and written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Martin Kriegel

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony on behalf of the nomination of Lisa Darcy to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. I have known her for 10 years and she is extremely intelligent, honest and reliable. A person of integrity and devoted to her work and cause.

Lisa has been a tireless advocate for many in our community.

I strongly support her confirmation to the Board. I know she will strengthen and add value to the Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Liu
Retired
196 Kulalani Drive
Kula, HI 96790
808-298-3446
tomliu@hawaii.rr.com

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 14, 2015

RE: Nomination for Lisa Darcy to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland,

It is with a deep breath that I accept the opportunity to serve as a Board member on the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. Having come to Hawai'i over 12 years ago to serve those with persistent mental health challenges, my career has unfolded to address the central need each of us has next to food; safe housing. At every turn, my path leads back to this need. My last decade of community service in Maui County has afforded me every level of leadership and observation on the needs of this community. It is quite an honor and extraordinary opportunity to sit at the table with other dedicated leaders in our community and facilitate change.

As a new member of the Board, I expect that I shall receive valuable mentorship and guidance. I will ask questions which promote partnerships, listen to the wisdom of those who have come before me, and conduct myself with the dignity and compassion I show each individual who walks through my door every day in search of a better quality of life. I will engage in the dialog which requires fortitude, always keeping the vision of the mission close at hand.

The past twelve years of my work experience has been filled with diversity. Over the past four years, I have provided strong, bold leadership within the Maui Homeless Alliance. I constantly research how other communities are managing their increasing needs. My professional relationships to all the major agencies have cut the path for Maui to integrate creative solutions and new ideas. Previous employment and continued strong connections with Mental Health Kokua (as PSR Coordinator) and also with Aloha House (with the Crisis Mobile Outreach team) have created a sturdy foundation for challenging and candid dialog. After a less than supportive experience with the State Department of Health, I dedicated my professional vision towards diverse community solutions. It is this steadfastness that has earned the respect of many leaders whom have stayed in this field to make a difference.

My voice is one of observation and research. I believe silence is a statement, and that everyone at the table (and outside) is valuable. I hope that my participation motivates others from Maui to participate and affect change.

Three qualities that best describe me are: conscientious, objective, and determined. In addition, over the years, I have committed myself to never leave a conversation without representing a thought that could be useful, no matter how unpopular. These are valuable to any group dedicated to reviewing

the bigger picture and conducting an examination of any issue. It will be up to the collective Board to decide if these are beneficial.

About 10 Years ago, Maui County started its bus system. At the time, I went to almost every community meeting in support of those with disabilities to be included in the design of the system. Upon the culmination of the last meeting where the consultants were auditing the meetings, I arrived to be greeted with, “oh, it’s you again” set in a tone of annoyance. I did not let this deter me and years later, even when the County declined to grant reduced fare passes for those with disabilities, I encouraged a group of individuals to provide oral testimony acknowledging their financial challenges. It was then that our Council allowed a small budget line for partial reduced fare bus passes. It took almost ten years, but we made progress!

At this time, I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. I shall seek guidance from the Chair if any such matters arise.

Most sincerely,

Lisa A. Darcy
1334 W. Kuiaha Road
Haiku, HI 96708