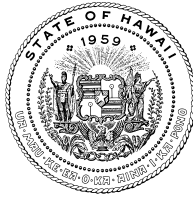


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
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

Statement of

### **DEAN MINAKAMI**

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

April 16, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of

#### **GM764**

### **SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SUSAN KUNZ, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee.

HHFDC **strongly supports** the nomination of Ms. Susan K. Kunz to serve on the HHFDC Board of Directors.

Ms. Kunz brings over 20 years of leadership experience in housing administration, affordable housing development, and homelessness response in Hawaii County, with a long record of strengthening programs that directly serve our residents.

Ms. Kunz most recently served as Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii, where she oversaw major federal and state housing programs, including CDBG, HOME, HTF, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program; and ensured regulatory compliance; and managed multimillion-dollar budgets. She led the implementation of countywide strategic plans to increase affordable housing and coordinated homelessness initiatives with local, state, and federal partners.

Her background also includes serving as Executive Director of the Big Island Housing Foundation, where she guided organizational operations, supervised staff, managed budgets, and worked closely with developers, investors, and community partners to expand affordable housing opportunities on Hawaii Island.

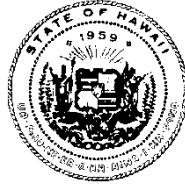
Earlier in her career, Ms. Kunz held several positions within the County's Office of Housing and Community Development, gaining extensive experience in federal grant administration, long-range planning, and community engagement. Her service on multiple statewide boards, including the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and the Statewide Housing Directors Committee, demonstrates her longstanding commitment to collaborative, systemwide housing work.

Additionally, as a Hawaii Island resident, Ms. Kunz offers a critical neighbor island perspective that will help ensure HHFDC's programs, decisions, and development strategies reflect the unique needs and constraints of communities statewide, not only those on Oahu where the agency is based.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the nomination of Ms. Susan K. Kunz to the HHFDC Board of Directors

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Housing**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**  
**1:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**GM 764**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, gubernatorial nominee, Susan Kunz, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

Honorable Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 764, to consider and confirm Ms. Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

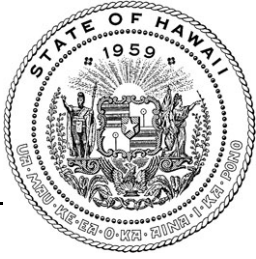
Ms. Kunz previously served with distinction on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Board of Directors for seven years, from 2019 to 2026, during which time we directly witnessed her unwavering commitment to Hawaii's most vulnerable residents. Her dedication to advancing affordable and deeply subsidized housing, paired with her genuine compassion for low-income individuals and families have made meaningful impact at HPHA and the lives of those we serve.

With over 20 years of experience in managing and overseeing housing programs, Ms. Kunz will bring invaluable insight into the challenges of addressing the State's housing needs. Her perspective helps ensure that policy decisions are grounded in law, empathy, equity and real-world experience, and these values are essential to the mission of the HHFDC.

The HHFDC Board depends on Directors with a broad range of life experiences and professional expertise to guide its policies and programs. Ms. Kunz's voice is a vital one, and she will be a tremendous asset to the HHFDC Board of Directors and the agency as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Susan Kunz to the HHFDC Board of Directors.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
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: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

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

Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

April 16, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of

**GM764**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SUSAN KUNZ,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

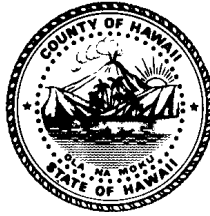
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding GM764, the nomination of Ms. Susan K. Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

I **support** Ms. Kunz's nomination as she brings extensive experience in housing-related work across the state, including leadership roles in program administration, community development, and strategic planning. Her background reflects a long-standing commitment to expanding access to housing and improving the well-being of communities throughout Hawai'i.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Kunz to the HHFDC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
*Mayor*



**William V. Brillhante, Jr.**  
*Managing Director*

**Merrick Nishimoto**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## *County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor*

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 15, 2026

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 226  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: *Testimony in Support of GM 764 Nominating Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.*

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 764, nominating Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Ms. Kunz's extensive experience, including her service as Housing Administrator for the County of Hawai'i makes her an exceptionally well-qualified candidate for this Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

William V. Brillhante, Jr.  
Managing Director

# Big Island Housing Foundation

688 Kinoole Street, Suite 102, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: 808.969.3327

[bihf@bigislandhousing.com](mailto:bihf@bigislandhousing.com)

Fax: 808. 969.7608

TDD: 711



April 13, 2026

Governor Josh Green, M.D.  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

*Big Island Housing Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.*

## **RE: Letter of Support for Susan Kunz – HHFDC Board of Directors Appointment**

Dear Governor Green,

On behalf of Big Island Housing Foundation, I am writing to express my strongest support for the appointment of Susan Kunz to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors.

Susan Kunz's career has followed a unique trajectory that has given her a 360-degree view of Hawaii's affordable housing landscape. She served as our Executive Director at Big Island Housing Foundation from 2017 through 2020, where she was responsible for the direct management of affordable units and the daily needs of low-income tenants. Her success in the non-profit sector led to her being selected by Mayor Mitch Roth to serve as the Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii, Office of Housing and Community Development.

After her distinguished service in county government, she chose to return to our organization as a member of our Board of Directors, where she has served for the last two years. This progression—from non-profit leadership to government administration and back to non-profit governance—makes her the ideal candidate for HHFDC.

The HHFDC board requires individuals who understand how state policy translates into county action and, ultimately, into housing Hawaii's families. Susan Kunz has worked on "both sides" of low-income housing. She knows the technicalities of state and federal financing from her time with the County, but she also understands the operational realities that non-profit providers face on the ground.

She is a proven leader with the experience to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors, ensuring that HHFDC resources are utilized as effectively as possible for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

  
Paul M Gregory  
Executive Director  
Big Island Housing Foundation



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street - Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Phone (808) 935-7178 - Fax (808) 961-4435 - Email [exec@hicc.biz](mailto:exec@hicc.biz) - [www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

## **Executive Officer**

Carla Kuo

**2025-2026**

## **Board of Directors**

### **President**

David Kurohara

### **President-Elect**

Dennis Lin

### **Vice President**

Bonnie Irwin

### **Treasurer**

Joshua Vierra

### **Immediate Past**

#### **President**

Keith Marrack

### **Directors**

Mary Begier

Vanessa Carlson

Rebecca Choi

Jeremy Chong

Chelsey Chow

Mark Chun

Dean Fuke

Larisa Hamamoto

Dayna Kawazoe

Daniel Kea

Randy Kurohara

Geoli Ng

Matthew Pickett

James Staub

Jase Takeya

Nimr Tamimi

Jennifer Tobey

Joni Waltjen

Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

## **Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing**

**Senator Stanley Chang, Chair**

**Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 1:00 PM**

### **RE: GM764 Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation** **Gubernatorial Nominee SUSAN KUNZ**

Aloha e Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to support the confirmation of Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation for a term ending June 30, 2030, as set forth in Measure GM764.

Ms. Kunz brings more than 25 years of experience in public and nonprofit service. She previously served as Executive Director of the Big Island Housing Foundation, overseeing multiple senior and affordable housing properties, and held several key roles with the County of Hawai'i Office of Housing and Community Development. Her background also includes service with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

She is a Certified Occupancy Specialist and Certified Tax Credit Specialist, holds a real estate license, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority as a Hawai'i Island representative.

We respectfully urge the Board to confirm her appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo  
Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

**GM 764**  
**Letter of Support for**  
**SUSAN KUNZ**  
**nomination**

This is a letter of support for the nomination of SUSAN KUNZ for the Governor Message (GM) 764 for the consideration and confirmation of her to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

I am writing to you as the Chairman of the Board of [Hamakua Kohala Health Center \(HKH\)](#) which is a non-profit 501c3 federally qualified health center (FQHC) serving the North communities of the Island of Hawaii. Hamakua-Kohala Health plays a vital role in healthcare on the Big Island since the plantation days, first opening its doors as the Hamakua Sugar Company plantation infirmary in 1966. We serve over 8,000 patients a year but are severely constrained by building and resources so many patients are forced to wait for care. For many patients, often the only affordable primary care option within an hour's drive of their homes

SUSAN KUNZ was elected to the board of directors February 2025 and has served as the Chair of the Real Estate & Construction board committee. In that capacity, Susan leads the committee to improve governance and oversight of facility planning, real estate, and construction. These complex and financially significant issues needed more thorough review than was possible within existing committee and board meetings. This dedicated committee would allow for more thorough evaluation of project plans, costs, risks, and timelines, ensuring that recommendations brought forward to the full Board are well-informed and aligned with the organization's strategic goals and fiduciary responsibilities.

Susan's accomplishments include:

- Authorized HKH leadership to pursue a short-term expansion solution to increase clinical/dental capacity in North Kohala including leasing and renovation of an existing leased facility.
- Approved designation of the Kohala property as the HKH Kohala Campus for the long-term and permanent development of a comprehensive healthcare campus that will house a full range of HKH services.
- Approved the renovation of an owned building to support expanded services and administrative office space with the development of the permanent facility.
- Approved leadership to proceed with detailed planning, cost analysis, and implementation timelines.

Susan has been highly effective and instrumental in her role as Chair of the Real Estate and Construction board committee. She has unique expertise and valuable relationships in commercial real estate matters in the serving region of the Hamakua Kohala Health Center which includes Honokaa, Waimea, Kohala, and Laupahoehoe. Her leadership style is highly collaborative, data driven, and measured. We have often faced strong conflicting viewpoints among board members and Susan brought grace, patience, thoughtful consideration, and an

unshakeable determination to help us come to consensus and make a difference with the community we serve. She also blends pragmatism with an eye to vision and inspiration to lead us to a better outcome than we would have on our own.

In summary, Susan Kunz, has my highest recommendation for the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

April 8, 2026

---

Sridhar Ramanathan  
Chairman of the Board  
Hamakua Kohala Health Center

---

Date

To Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and members of the Senate Committee on Housing;

**Re: GM 764; Governor's nomination of Susan K. Kunz to the Board of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation**

I write today to support the nomination of Susan K. Kunz to the Board of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation.

I have known Susan for more than 20- years. She has a deep background and lots of experience in managing, developing and overseeing housing projects.

As Housing Administrator for the County of Hawaii, Office of Housing and Community Development, she also has many relationships with other county and state agencies, community organizations and others that focus on housing needs. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing housing policies for the County of Hawaii as well as leading the development of strategic plans, goals and objectives. Then managing the directing the implementation of action plans to achieve them.

As Housing Administrator at the County of Hawaii, Office of Housing and Community Development, and as the Executive Director of the Big Island Housing Foundation, she had fiscal responsibilities that included not just the managing of the financial aspects of the respective organizations that she managed, but also project budgets of the various housing projects that each organization developed.

Susan is a very ethical person. Although she was heavily involved with a major corruption scandal involving affordable housing credits, her part involved the cleanup and reform of an affordable housing credit system that she inherited. Many credit her with the subsequent reform of said system.

The Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation will be fortunate to have someone with that depth of knowledge and experience on their board. She has deep knowledge of the realities of Hawaii's housing challenges.

**GM-764**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:17:33 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/16/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donn Mende	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Ms. Susan Kunz for the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development corporation board

Zendo Kern  
Hawai'i Island

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 764 - Letter in Support of Susan Kunz for the Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation Board

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Susan Kunz to the Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation Board (HHFDC).

I have had the privilege of working with Susan over the years in multiple professional capacities, including during my time on the Hawai'i County Council and later under the Roth Administration, where I served as Planning Director and she served as Housing Administrator for the Office of Housing and Community Development. Those experiences gave me a direct view of her professionalism, judgment, and effectiveness in public service.

Susan is knowledgeable, collaborative, and highly effective. She brings deep experience in housing and government, sound judgment, and a strong ability to work through complex issues in a thoughtful and productive way. She would be a valuable addition to the HHFDC Board, and I respectfully offer my strong support for her confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Zendo Kern

**GM-764**

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 12:12:39 PM

Testimony for HOU on 4/16/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Toby Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my **support** for the nomination of Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation.

Susan brings a strong commitment to community, along with valuable experience and perspectives that will contribute meaningfully to HHFDC's mission.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Sincerely,

T. Taniguchi

**GM-764**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 10:08:17 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/16/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary R. Begier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators, I come before you today in strong support of Susan Kunz serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corp. As you can see from Susan Kunz resume she has committed much of her life towards providing affordable housing and housing in general for our communities. Her depth of knowledge will be a true gift to the citizens of Hawai'i in this role.

Additionally I had the personal pleasure to serve on the Big Island Housing Foundations Board of Directors during Susan's tenure as our executive director. This role brought me into regular working contact with Susan. Please note this time frame encompassed the pandemic. A time that tested us all. It was a loss for BIHF when she accepted the Mayors appointment to serve as the leader of the County of Hawaii Housing Dept.

Please approve Governor Green's request in GM764. Thank you for this opportunity to express my pleasure in this appointment.

Mary Begier

LORI TSUHAKO  
P.O. Box 1565  
Wailuku, HI 96793

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair  
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

SUBJECT: GM764 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial nominee, SUSAN KUNZ, for a term to expire 6-30-2030

Hearing Date: April 16, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225

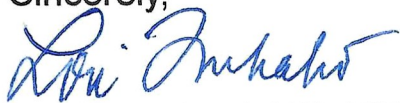
I write in **strong support** of GM764, the Gubernatorial nomination of Susan Kunz, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

As the former Director of Maui County's Department of Housing and Human Concerns, I have had many years of experience working with Ms. Kunz specifically in the areas of housing and homelessness. My direct observations of Ms. Kunz are: she is highly collaborative and actively seeks feedback and consultation from others; she is organized, well-prepared for assignments, and holds herself accountable for her work; she is very experienced with many facets of housing and its development, and has worked at different stages of the development process; she is credible and well-respected in the field.

I believe that Ms. Kunz will be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation's (HHFDC) Board. Her expertise allows her to offer meaningful policy guidance to HHFDC on topics such as tax credits, housing finance functions, the competitive evaluation of various housing projects, and the continuum of housing needs statewide.

I have the utmost confidence that the State will benefit greatly from Ms. Kunz's willingness to serve on the HHFDC Board, and I ask you to give her nomination your highest consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Lori Tsuhako, LSW, ACSW

April 15, 2026

Testimony of Jeffrey W Darrow  
before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, April 16, 2026

1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 764**  
**RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF SUSAN KUNZ**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing.

I am writing to offer my **strong support** for Susan K. Kunz. I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Kunz for over 20 years, and throughout that time I have consistently observed her professionalism, leadership, and deep commitment to public service.

Ms. Kunz brings more than two decades of experience in housing and community development, with a proven record of successfully managing complex public programs and advancing policies that address critical housing needs. She has demonstrated exceptional ability in overseeing federally and locally funded housing initiatives, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and responsibly managing public resources.

In her role as Housing Administrator for the County of Hawai'i, Ms. Kunz has led efforts to expand affordable housing opportunities, address homelessness, and coordinate strategic initiatives in partnership with federal, state, and county stakeholders. Her work reflects a strong understanding of the challenges facing our communities and a practical, results-driven approach to addressing them.

Equally important, Ms. Kunz is widely respected for her integrity, collaborative leadership style, and ability to bring together diverse partners, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private developers, to achieve meaningful outcomes. She has consistently demonstrated sound judgment, accountability, and a commitment to transparency in the administration of public programs.

Based on my long-standing professional relationship with Ms. Kunz working a number of housing projects together, I can state with confidence that she possesses the experience, character, and dedication necessary to serve the people of Hawai'i effectively. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey W. Darrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeffrey W. Darrow