



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO**  
**Executive Director**  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
1:01 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB 2918**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

Chairperson Lee, Vice Chairperson Inouye, and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) provides **comments** on SB 2918, which requires HCDA to, among other things, establish a community action center in or near the Chinatown area of Honolulu. If a community action center is desired by the Chinatown community, above all other priorities for Chinatown, the City and County of Honolulu should be the government entity to carry that out.

The city and county of Honolulu is deeply invested in revitalizing this area and appears to have a plan to carry out the revitalization. That plan includes housing development, transit-oriented development around several Skyline stations, business improvement district creation, and private public partnerships establishment. All of those efforts, we believe, are based on community needs.

The priority for a community action center should be determined by the city and county of Honolulu as a part of its ongoing broader Chinatown revitalization efforts.

Finally, in light of the above comments, the HCDA's limited capacity should be focused, instead, on infrastructure development that support housing and other value-added work that is not being done by other state or county agencies. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 6:05:17 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Neil Abercrombie	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, Gov. Abercrombie wishes to testify in person.

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:51:29 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Don Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing support of SB 2819. I believe that The HCDA should assist The redevelopment and preservation of Chinatown and adjacent area by establishing a Community Action Center.

**LATE**

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:43:56 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melanie Ide	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2918.

The revitalization of Honolulu's historic Chinatown district has been a unicorn for many years, if not for a couple of generations.

In this new lunar year of the Fire Horse, which brings forth intense energy, creativity, and a strong drive for progress, I hope that decisive action is taken by passing this bill, which can lead to real, positive change for our community.

The proposal to create a Community Action Center charged with organizing community, researching conditions, and developing a strategic implementation plan, can once and for all give Chinatown a chance to align its interests, articulate a tangible vision, and marshal support for coordinated action.

Chinatown is one of the very few places where Hawaii's historic urban fabric still exists. A Community Action Center missioned to serve Chinatown can restore a vital node of historic culture, commerce, and creativity. Doing so will boost the economic impact of its markets, galleries, bookstores, boutiques, cafes, restaurants, and small businesses; improve public safety; preserve our cultural heritage; and create new social, cultural, and economic opportunities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2918.

Mahalo nui,

Melanie Ide

Architect, Planner, and Community Member

DANIEL DINELL

**LATE**

dinellconsultingllc@gmail.com

Written Testimony before the  
HAWAII STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (1:01 pm), Room 224, State Capitol  
**RE: SB2918 RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I served as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) from 2004 to 2007. During that time, we approved approximately \$1 billion in private development and invested millions in infrastructure to advance the vision of Kaka'ako as a "live, work, play" community. I also support expanding that vision to include "visit" and "learn," as by doing so it aligns even more fully with the Legislature's intent for HCDA's mission.

SB 2918 would require HCDA to establish a Community Action Center in Chinatown, with funding contingent on matching support from the City and County of Honolulu. This represents an intriguing alternative to creating a new community development district. The model proposed in SB2918 could advance legislative goals more rapidly and efficiently within the framework established in 1976 under HRS Chapter 206E.

This is an opportunity to leverage HCDA's expertise alongside grassroots engagement to strengthen Chinatown and capitalize on transit-oriented development and related opportunities. The measure also, importantly, requires local government to have "skin in the game" as well to further ensure a cooperative, coordinated effort between the State and the City.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure to the Committee on Ways & Means for further consideration.

Mahalo,



P.S. Full disclosure: I serve as an unpaid volunteer member on SHADE Institute's Advisory Board. Even if I didn't serve, I would support this legislation.

**LATE**

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:04:38 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Talitha Liu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I agree that the Community Action Center should be established in Chinatown to accelerate the economic and physical improvement of Honolulu's urban core in coordination with TOD planning and rail construction as described in the proposed legislation.**

**LATE**

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:36:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Pugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Chinatown, I believe this proposal is very important. I strongly support this initiative.