

**Travis O. Thompson**

89 Pukolu Way – Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753

Home Phone 808-874-8028 – Fax 808-874-5091

Email [tot@maui.net](mailto:tot@maui.net)

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Human Services and Public Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**Re: Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public  
Housing Authority (HPHA)**

**Aloha Senator:**

**In accordance with your letter of February 26, 2008, I am enclosing the information requested; 1) a resume with a list of references; and 2) a written statement addressing seven questions were asked. I look forward to the hearing on March 11, 2008.**


**Several years ago, the Governor nominated me to be the Maui representative on the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawai'i Board. The Senate approved, and I served on the HCDCH Board until it was separated into two separate entities. At that time, I asked to stay with the HPHA Board – primarily because I saw the management of public housing to be a major challenge. It was my feeling that my management background and experience could be put to good use in this area.**

**In my opinion, we have a lot of opportunities for improvement ahead of us. With our Executive Director, Chad Taniguchi, we are making progress in improving our public housing, both state and federal. For example, we have focused on getting better results on Maui, in response to a specific request from the Maui County Council. Direct communication with residents, members of the local community, as well as involved non-profits and government agencies, have demonstrated that with better communication, and focus, the quality of life for the many residents in public housing can be improved.**

**Similar actions are taking place throughout the state, as we improve the collection of rents, reduce the number of vacancies, and perform much needed maintenance. We have a Board that is motivated, and we have an Executive Director who has demonstrated that he cares.**

**I would appreciate the support of you and your committee in confirming my nomination for four additional years as a member of the Board of Directors of HPHA. HPHA is a work in progress, one which I believe we will be successful. I would like to continue to be part of the solution – helping provide a better quality of life for the many people who need to have housing that they can afford.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O. Thompson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Travis O. Thompson**

## **RESUME**

**Travis O. Thompson  
89 Pukolu Way  
Wailea, Hawaii 96753**

### **Present**

**Chairman, Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
President, Wailea Community Association  
Secretary, Maui Arts and Cultural Center**

### **Previous**

**Board Member, Housing and Community Development Corporation of  
Hawaii  
Chair, Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Director of Finance, County of Maui  
Chair, Maui United Way  
Senior Program Manager, Boeing Commercial Airplane Company  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt., United States Air Force, Auditor**

### **Personal**

**Spouse – Alice (Ali)  
Children – Tarn, Lynne  
Education:**

**BS – Commerce, University of Virginia  
MBA – University of Washington**

**Telephone – 808 874-8028  
Fax: 808 874-5091  
Cell 808 280-4116**

### **References**

**Paul W. Hallin, P.O. Box 3440, Honolulu, HI 96801-3440  
James Haynes, 680 Olinda Road, Makawao, HI 96768  
Judy Siracusa, 453 Laulea Place, Paia, 96779  
Anne Takabuki, 100 Wailea Golf Club Drive, Wailea, HI 96753-4000**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENT**

**Travis O. Thompson**

**I view the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as one of the most challenging agencies within the State. This agency directly affects the lives of thousands of people here in Hawaii. As a member of the Board, I will continue to do all in my power to make the agency more effective in meeting the needs of the people of Hawaii.**

**As a member of the Board, my role is to assure the effective management of public housing for those earning up to eighty percent of median family income, while helping the unsheltered homeless population, ensuring that more homeless persons and families are being served and transitioned into permanent housing. The Board's role is to set policy, establish the procedures for the implementation of policy, and to further enhance quality of life for the residents.**

**My qualifications for the position include over forty-five years of management and executive experience in both the private and public sector. Specifically, as a senior program manager for the Boeing Company, I was responsible for all aspects leading to the on-time delivery of 747 and 767 aircraft. Subsequently, as Director of Finance for the County of Maui, I was responsible for fiscal management of a major political entity. Additionally, I have served on the boards of non-profit organizations including Maui United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, and the Wailea Community Association.**

**During my term of service, I believe that HPHA will emerge as a fully functional organization, collecting rents in an effective manner, turning units over in a minimal amount of time, and demonstrating a high level of occupancy. I also believe that improved financial management of HPHA will enable the agency to meet the federal and state reporting requirements.**

**From early days at the University of Virginia, a sense of honor and integrity was basic to the way of life of every undergraduate. Those qualities have continued to influence my approach to life. I am highly motivated to make progress in the area of public housing, and to**

**provide a record of continuing improvement for the agency. I certainly enjoy the challenges provided by the agency, and working with management to meet the challenges. There is no lack of opportunity for improvements in public housing. It is exciting to work with a motivated Board of Directors, and to focus their efforts on the longer range goals and objectives of public housing.**

**In early 1989, the Boeing Company was producing the 747-400, to a very aggressive delivery schedule. Technical problems prevented our on-time deliveries, and the company became 6 months or more behind schedule. I was asked to manage the program to communicate our revised delivery plans to a large number of customers, and to assure that we met our commitments. We retained the integrity of our initial schedule, delivering each airplane in the original sequence, even though we could have enhanced our cash flow by focusing on airplanes with relatively little rework required. The process of communication on a frequent basis with each customer resulted in the company being recognized for keeping its commitments, and, in spite of our delayed deliveries, a high level of customer satisfaction. One customer adopted the process for the next generation of airplanes – the 777. This same adherence to the commitments that have been made will enhance the reputation of the Board, and demonstrate the integrity of the efforts that are currently underway.**

**There are no conflicts of interests foreseen, and in fact, it is not possible for me to envision any potential conflicts. If for some remote reason, a conflict did arise, I would of course recuse myself from any involvement in the matter at hand.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. O. Thompson', written in a cursive style.

**Travis O. Thompson**



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of Linda L. Smith  
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 16

GM 354 Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor on the nomination of Mr. Travis O. Thompson to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

I have had the opportunity to serve as a fellow Board member with Mr. Thompson since the Authority was established in July of 2006. During that period of time, as a member of the Board, Mr. Thompson has demonstrated a dedication to public service and a willingness to give countless hours of his personal time to addressing the housing problems facing our State today.

Mr. Thompson brings with him a distinguished career in the private sector as a senior program manager with Boeing Corporation. Mr. Thompson also served as Director of the Department of Finance for the County of Maui.

In his current role as a member of the HPHA Board, Mr. Thompson was selected by his fellow Board members to serve as the chairman of the Board. He also serves as chair of the Authority's Task Force on Finance/Audit/Asset Management.

Mr. Thompson, as chair of the Authority, has demonstrated the ability to run the meetings of the Board in a fair and even-handed manner, giving members of the public, members of the Board, and staff ample opportunity to speak at our meetings. He has dealt with various of challenges facing this Authority with an open mind and a sensitivity to those in public housing and those who are homeless—the constituencies this Authority serves.

I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Thompson's confirmation to continue to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

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Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

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I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Thompson's confirmation to continue to serve on the Board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

TESTIMONY ON GM 355, CONFIRMATION OF TRAVIS O. THOMPSON  
Before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.; Conference Room 016

Testimony in Support Submitted by: Janice Takahashi

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Travis O. Thompson to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Director Thompson is currently the Chair of the HPHA and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii. His continued participation as a Board member of the HPHA will be critical because of the history and knowledge that he brings to the Board and staff of the agency.

Director Thompson has a strong financial background, which is absolutely necessary during the financially challenging period that the HPHA now faces. He remains committed to guiding the HPHA towards improving the operations of the agency for the benefit of the low-income residents that it serves.

I ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of Travis O. Thompson to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Thank you.



March 9, 2008

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

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee,

**RE: OPPOSITION TO CONFIRMATION OF MR. TRAVIS THOMPSON as  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority Director.**

Mr. Travis Thompson and the HPHA Board have decided to place transitional families into Puahala Homes, which is designated for public housing. They did not notify or request input from Puahala residents and our community before making their decision.

The HPHA Board, chaired by Mr. Thompson, is pursuing a plan which is unfair, as it uses different rules and conditions to prioritize transitional families over thousands of applicants awaiting vacant public housing units. (see attachment A)

The premise for their decision to implement this plan is not valid. HRS 356D-44 (b) (2) (see attachment B) cannot be applied. Not only has the State Legislature allocated funds for the renovation of Puahala units, the estimated start date for the contractor is March 24, 2008. The applications office has already begun the process to contact at least 10 families on the public housing waitlist to be ready to move in once the repairs are completed (see attachment C). At any rate, funds were available long before the HPHA Board made their decision on October 18, 2007. Further, as taxpayers, we are concerned that our money may be used inappropriately and without Legislative oversight.

The blind pursuit of their plan is evidenced in the frustration of our community. There has been a lack of information and even misinformation from the HPHA Board to the Liliha Neighborhood Board and community in this matter. The Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board has already rejected HPHA's plan.

The reconsideration request from Legislators and our community to rescind HPHA's October 18, 2007 decision has now been delayed three times, creating undue hardship for concerned parties. At a special meeting held on February 15, 2008, which was publicized only at the Governor's office, no action was taken after a number of people appeared and provided overwhelming testimony requesting that HPHA rescind their decision. HPHA's regular meeting scheduled for February 21, 2008 at 9:00am was cancelled on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>, after the public made arrangements to take time off from work to attend. The rescheduled meeting was held on February 29, 2008. At this meeting, Mr. Thompson, who was aware that prior testimony was overwhelmingly opposed to HPHA's plan, announced that those who had


testified at previous meetings would not be allowed to speak. As a result, only a couple of people provided testimony. Mr. Thompson's action prevented new and important information from being discussed regarding HRS 356D-44 (b) (2), and he may have violated our First Amendment Right to speak at open public meetings.

The Board then moved into Executive Session. When they returned, Mr. Thompson announced that the Deputy Attorney General has determined that they can proceed with their plan.


A motion was then made to defer reconsideration until the end of June to allow more input from the community. It doesn't make sense to suppress public testimony after three meetings (January 24, February 15 and February 29, 2008) then defer reconsideration to seek more input.

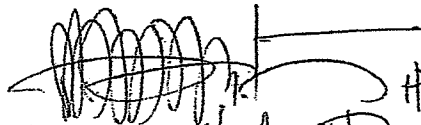
These actions by Mr. Thompson and the Board have been a disservice to our community and have weakened our faith in the democratic process. We strongly oppose the confirmation of Mr. Thompson's appointment.

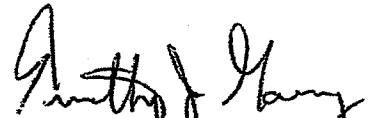
Sincerely,


  
PO Box 23059  
Honolulu, HI 96823


J Linda Yamakawa  
1726 N. Kalia St. E

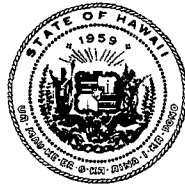
  
925 SIMONS ROAD  
Bernadette Young  
Mount Kalamie  
1652 Old Palama Dr. #9

  
Hideo Kobayashi  
1149 Hala Dr.  
Beatrice A. Kobayashi  
1149 Hala Dr

  
1143 HALA DR  
Honolulu, HI 96817

  
1143 HALA DR  
HONOLULU 96817

  
1747 B-1 Lanakila Cir  
Hon. 96817, Hawaii



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of  
**Chad K. Taniguchi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING**

March 11, 2008, 1:30 p.m.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**G.M. 354**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Travis O. Thompson,  
to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Travis Thompson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

As the Executive Director of HPHA for the past nine months I have had the honor of working alongside Mr. Thompson. The tasks presently before the Public Housing Authority -- to fix and fill Hawaii's public housing projects, administer homeless programs, and administer rental assistance programs during a statewide housing crisis -- are formidable. HPHA is fortunate that Mr. Thompson has been committed to being an active part of the solution by lending his knowledge and experience to the HPHA Board of Directors as Chairman for the past nine months.

Mr. Thompson's leadership has been valuable since he was first appointed to the Board of Directors of the Housing & Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) in 2003 and the Board of Directors of HPHA in 2004. His strong fiscal background has been a particular asset as HPHA works to re-establish financial management systems neglected due to lack of management staffing, and to increase income and reduce operational expenses.

Several months ago, concerns over the condition of public housing on Maui were raised by the county council. Mr. Thompson was actively involved as HPHA held multiple meetings with public housing residents, nonprofits, community members, and county government officials to develop and implement a solution oriented action plan. Since that time there has been considerable turnaround as to the quantity and quality of work that HPHA's staff and residents have done as they work together to make real changes.

Mr. Thompson has proven to be a valuable leader on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Board of Directors. I offer my strong support and gratitude and look forward to working with him as we make HPHA a high performing organization in all facets of our work.