

testimony

From: Sherri Dodson [sherri@habitat-maui.org]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 2:44 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Re: Testimony for Confirmation of Travis O. Thompson to the Public Housing Authority
Date: March 11, 2008, 1:15pm

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing,

I am submitting testimony in support of the re-appointment of Travis O. Thompson to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. I currently serve as a Board member and have had the chance to work with Mr. Thompson since my appointment. He personally has spent a great deal of time educating me on all the various properties and the issues surrounding these properties (especially on Maui). His experience has helped me as well as other new board members delve into the complex issues surrounding public housing. Mr. Thompson is extremely qualified to handle the current financial issues that Public Housing is grappling with. He brings a tremendous amount of experience in both finance and public housing that is essential for us to succeed at this venture. He has served for the past six years and has personal knowledge of the history of the transition from HHFDC to HPHA. There is no question that he is committed to helping this organization succeed.

As you know Public Housing is currently going through many transitions with a new Executive Director. Mr. Thompson has spent many hours with Mr. Taniguchi assisting him with both the day to day operations and with the long term goals of the organization.

I have had the privilege of knowing Travis personally for over 15 years. He worked closely with my brother for many years and when my brother became ill, Travis was a wonderful support for my brother, my sister in law and the rest of my family. When my brother passed away, Travis held a moving memorial that helped our entire family cope with the tragedy. For these reasons I know Travis to be a compassionate, caring and loving man. Over the years he has spent his "retirement" helping the Maui community on many boards and commissions. He most recently volunteered his time to help Habitat for Humanity Maui in a fundraiser that raised over \$10,000 for our organization. I have never known him to say no to a request for help from the community.

I respectfully request that you confirm Travis O. Thompson to the board of the Hawaii Public Housing Committee so that he may continue to help the people of Hawaii.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my testimony or would like further information. Sincerely,

Sherri K. Dodson
Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity Maui
PO Box 5034
Kahului, HI 96733
Ph: (808) 893-0334
Fax: (808) 877-9462
sherri@habitat-maui.org
www.habitat-maui.org

LATE

Testimony of Rene' Berthiaume

To the Senate Committees on Human Services & Public Housing

March 11, 2008

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF TRAVIS O. THOMPSON'S RENOMINATION TO
THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, HPHA, I am very much aware of Travis Thompson's leadership capabilities. I have always found him to be fair, capable, honest and open regarding all activities of the HPHA. As this Committee may be aware, the HPHA Board Chairmanship is not always an easy spot to be in. It requires hard work and dedication in trying to achieve some kind of measurable, successful outcome for the public housing program. Most would probably not want the task.

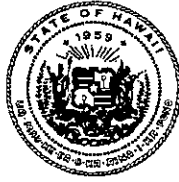
I have always found Travis to be willing to take the responsibility necessary in leading the Board in a direction that best serves the needs of public housing. Travis, like the rest of the Board knows we have a way to go before we can realize the full potential of a well run public housing system.

I have also been associated with Travis while I was in charge of a project on Maui that provided employment and training opportunities for persons with disabilities while developing an affordable housing project. At that time Travis was the Finance Director for Maui County and again my experience with him in that capacity was always straight forward, positive and helpful. We all want to see our public housing system succeed and I believe Travis is the best person to lead in the accomplishment of this goal.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me anytime for further information or input.

Rene Berthiaume, Board Member, HPHA
Berthiaut001@hawaii.rr.com
808-221-4137

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

LATE

March 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: G.M. 354 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Travis O. Thompson to the Board of
Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Travis O. Thompson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). Mr. Thompson's is the current HPHA Board Chair and his leadership has been invaluable to the HPHA since he was first appointed to the Board of Directors of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) in 2003 and the Board of Directors of HPHA in 2004.

Mr. Thompson's strong fiscal background and ability to work with public housing residents, nonprofits, community members, and county government officials as well as HPHA staff have led to improved operations of the HPHA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.

Mar. 11, 2008

LATE

Jim Bernadette Young, resident of
Kaliki Palama, I do not live in
the projects, I live in the surrounding
community for over 50 years.

The following testimony is excerpts
of what I had said at the meetings
I attended at HPHA:

First, we are not against the
disenfranchised, the homeless.
Our plate here in Kaliki is full. We
have the huge, public housing,
elderly housing, drug rehab homes,
abuse shelter for women, a huge
homeless shelter, a project for
women out of prison. Care homes on
almost every block. We have projects
here that no other community has
~~not~~ wants + we are questioning
whether our infrastructure can
handle anymore. We also live in a
weed + seed area.

Quality Homes is public housing
+ the State shouldn't put
transitional homes there. Keep at
public housing, there are thousands
of families w/ children waiting to
get in.

Puakala Homes is near & on the same block of three huge elderly housing on School St.

It was overheard at the ^{part} meeting of this proposed project ^{is successful,} HPHA's directors may ~~just~~ ^{use} ^{more} building as transitional shelters. No public housing is without problems, we don't need to have Puakala turn into another Kakaako, we don't need to exacerbate whatever problems there. #

In conclusion, if Mr. Travis Thompson cannot listen to the numerous concerns of the residents & community, then I hereby advise that his confirmation as chair of the HPHA Board be denied.

Bernadette Young

* We, The Community was not informed, no due process, no resident input, no public hearings. I first learned of what's happening from a Puakala resident.
Quality of life for community