

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

**February 26, 2008, Committee Hearing
Conference Room 224
1:15PM**

**Senate Bill 3166
Relating to The Hawaii Community Development Authority**

Chair Fukunaga and Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I support the passage of Senate Bill 3166.

I am Dexter Okada. I am the president of U. Okada & Co., Ltd., a third generation small family business that has been located on Queen Street in Kaka'ako for over fifty years. I also represent the Kaka'ako Business and Landowners Association, a group of small businesses and small landowners.

In the 2006 session, I supported SB2487(Act 252) because I believed that there should be more community representation in HCDA. House Speaker Calvin Say knows who I am and knows of my involvement with small business and community issues in Kaka'ako. I believe that for those reasons in 2007, the Speaker put my name in on the list of nominees for the new position on the HCDA board created by Act252. And for those same reasons, the Administration submitted my name for confirmation. The Senate confirmation committee also knew who I was and they confirmed my nomination to the HCDA board. But prior to HCDA's July 2007 board meeting, the Deputy AG assigned to HCDA informed me that I must recuse myself from participating in HCDA's item for actions dealing with the Small Business Task Force and the Mauka Area plan and rules because of financial conflict of interest. Some say it is because Act 252 did not clearly define the small business representative.

I hope that SB3166 resolves this problem and if the Governor selects me to be one of the two small business representatives, I can fulfill my purpose for accepting the nomination to be on HCDA board, to represent small businesses community.

Thank you,

Dexter Okada

Chauncey T. K. Ching
3625 Yuma Street NW | Washington DC 20008 | Phone 202.262.6619 | Fax 508.632.0245 | email cc@cchng.com

February 23, 2008

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Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I write in support of Senate Bill 3166 and urge passage without amendment.

My name is Chauncey Ching and my family has been an owner of property in the 800 block of Queen Street for many years. We have leased our property to several small businesses over the years, some of whom have outgrown our limited space and moved on to larger facilities. Other small businesses have had the usual challenges of startup and have failed. This is, unfortunately, the nature of small business development and we are proud to be part of the process.

My support for Senate Bill 3166 stems from my belief that public policy requires the best possible information in its formation. In the case at hand, having representation from within the Kakaako community fulfills this need for accurate information in support of sound public policy. Further, the bill provides sufficient safeguards that minimize potential conflicts of interest.

I urge passage of Senate Bill 3166.

Thank you for your consideration of my views,



Chauncey Ching