



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

March 5, 2009

Senator Norman Sakamoto
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

RE: GM 417: Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC)

Thank you for your flexibility to accommodate my confirmation hearing after my return from the Mainland. I appreciate your consideration of my schedule.

In response to your letter dated February 27, 2009, I have attached my resume with a list of references to this letter. In response to the questions listed in your letter:

1. I wish to be a member of the HHFDC Board to represent Hawaii's homeless, special need populations, and families that need affordable housing, as well as service providers that assist these populations.
2. **Role and Responsibilities:** the overall role is to oversee the HHFDC to ensure that they remain on track for their mission to facilitate the creation of more housing for the citizens for Hawaii. This Board is unique in that members are designated from different areas of the community. I feel my role would be to be the voice of the consumers of housing to ensure that adequate, appropriate housing is created. I also feel that the State needs to address the needs of those who are most vulnerable. My experience with the elderly and homeless gives me a unique perspective to voice the concerns and needs of a wide range of special needs persons as well as the general public who need affordable housing.
3. **Qualifications:** 27+ years in the housing programs at Catholic Charities Hawaii has given me a wide understanding of the needs of the people of Hawaii. Serving on the Board a non-profit housing corporation for 14 years gives me understanding of the complexities of the development process. I participated in the advocacy efforts in the 1990's that created the Rental Housing Trust Fund and was on their Advisory Commission for many years, giving me a deep understanding of this key tool to promote the creation of affordable rental housing. My years on the Boards of HHFDC and its predecessor, HCDCH, have given me an understanding of the range of programs and challenges faced by the State to produce more affordable housing.



4. Qualities: I have a Board knowledge of: 1) consumer needs; 2) affordable housing development process and challenges (from the perspective of a non-profit developer), and 3) tools and financial resources available at the HHFDC. These 3 diverse areas of expertise would benefit the HHFDC since I understand and can balance the needs of all three. I also bring a deep consumer perspective which is otherwise missing from the Board.
5. Conflicts of Interest: Since I am on the Board of a non-profit housing developer as well as work for Catholic Charities Hawai'i which has established its own non-profit housing development corporation, these organizations may come before the HHFDC for funds for housing projects. I would recuse myself from any decisions concerning these entities, based on the advice of the deputy Attorney General who attends the HHFDC Board meetings.
6. 3 Ways to meet the housing needs in Hawaii: 1) HHFDC needs to work with the Legislature to obtain funds to create affordable rentals (e.g. permanent and ongoing funding to the Rental Housing Trust Fund). 2) Promote partnerships with non-profits to create housing that will be long-term since their mission is to maintain affordable housing; 3) HHFDC needs to plan for and promote the long term sustainability and affordability of rental housing. Producing housing that may leave the inventory in 30 or 40 years, etc. (as with Kukui Gardens) leaves the future at risk. Government has had to finance the repurchase of some projects at higher costs, in order to keep these units affordable.
7. Goals: HHFDC should set goals for the number of units to be produced utilizing various resources of HHFDC. Board should measure the goals on a quarterly basis and also correlate distribution of funding (LIHTC, RHTF, DURF, etc.) to how these meet the goals.
8. Vision: government needs to partner with non-profits especially to achieve long lasting affordable rental housing. Government can also encourage for profit and non-profits to team up, to possibly construct projects utilizing economies of scale with for profits, and long term ownership and management by non-profits.
9. Single Room Occupancy: This is a good idea for singles, possibly elderly and disabled and small single parent families. It will not be appropriate for larger families due to overcrowding. The problem is that these projects often face NIMBY reactions in the community.
10. Transit Oriented Development: HHFDC definitely must work with the City to ENSURE that affordable housing is not only discussed but is actually achieved. I have been part of the Transit Oriented Work Group for the Moiliili-McCully area which has identified affordable rentals as a key objective in the development of

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Committee on Education and Housing
March 5, 2009
Page 3 of 3

transit. Communities need to be involved to ensure this goal is achieved over the long period of development of a transit system.

11. In Retrospect: I would like to see HHFDC seriously consider the issue of perpetuity, or other ways to ensure that housing projects do not need to be re-purchased again and again utilizing government funds, in order to keep them affordable. We need to not only fund projects for NOW, but consider how to keep these projects in the housing inventory for the long haul. Housing does go in cycles---now we are experiencing Section 8 buildings going to market, since their mandated affordability period has expired.

Thank you for offering me this opportunity to express my views. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the date for the confirmation hearing for my nomination to the Board of HHFDC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 595-5934, or blarson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org.

Sincerely,

Betty Lou Larson, MSW
Housing Programs Director

(Housing- HAP- Legislature- 2009: GM 417-Senate Confirmation to HHFDC Board- ltr)

GM417



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
LINDA L. SMITH**
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Monday, April 6, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

in consideration of
GM 417
Gubernatorial Nominee Betty Lou Larson

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

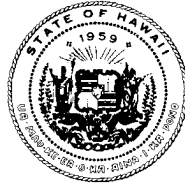
I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support** of the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

I have had the opportunity to serve with Betty Lou since 2003 when I joined the former HCDCH Board. Betty Lou serves as the voice of those who are in need of affordable housing. She is particularly keen to the needs of our elderly population and asks the relevant questions needed to make sure the affordable housing developments the Board approves are also sensitive to the income and quality of life issues facing our citizens.

Betty Lou is conscientious in her attendance, comes prepared to our meetings, is willing to speak up and ask hard questions, and reminds her fellow Board members that our job, after all, is about housing those less fortunate.

I hope you will support her reappointment to this Board.

Linda Lingle
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
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

IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Charles King
Chair, Board of Directors of the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

April 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

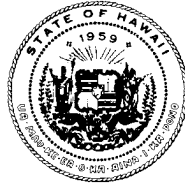
In consideration of
G.M. 417

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LOU LARSON
TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, I am offering my **strong support** for the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to serve as the representative of community advocates for low-income housing on the Board.

Ms. Larson has a wealth of experience with affordable housing and homeless issues. She is well versed in the many complex issues involved in serving the elderly and low-income populations, and is an able advocate for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Ms. Betty Lou Larson.



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

April 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 417

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LOU LARSON
TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) **strongly supports** the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to serve as the representative of community advocates for low-income housing on its Board of Directors. Ms. Larson is well-versed in affordable housing and homeless issues in her professional life and in her community service efforts, making her a capable advocate for low-income housing.

Ms. Larson is the Housing Assistance Program Director for Catholic Charities Elderly Services. She also serves on the Board of the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation, a leading developer of affordable rental housing on Oahu.

Ms. Larson also serves the community as a member of the McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Board and Chair of its Housing and Homelessness Committee. As former Chair of the Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission, Ms. Larson also previously served on the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii Board as well as the HHFDC Board, and so is familiar with the challenges involved with developing affordable housing in the State of Hawaii.

The HHFDC respectfully requests that the Committee recommend confirmation of Ms. Larson's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792



MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Education and Housing
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Sakamoto and Members:

Subject: GM417, Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing
Finance & Development Corporation – Betty Lou Larson

I am writing in **support** of Betty Lou Larson's confirmation to the Board of the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

As Catholic Charities Hawaii's Housing Programs Director for over 27 years,
Ms. Larson has assisted seniors and others with housing programs. Ms. Larson has
successfully implemented multiple grants awarded by my department to Ma`ili Land
Transitional Housing Program for supportive services to families experiencing
homelessness. Ms. Larson is also a valued member of the homeless coalition,
Partners in Care, serving as Treasurer and actively participating in the Advocacy
Committee where she advocates for legislation supporting affordable housing and
services for persons in need. She has also served on the boards of several other
nonprofit agencies as well as on the HHFDC and its predecessor board.

Ms. Larson has a deep understanding of the issues affecting low – and
moderate – income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and individuals
experiencing homelessness and has been a steadfast and ardent advocate over her
entire career. She will utilize her knowledge and experience to be a valuable
representative on the HHFDC Board for consumers and advocates of affordable
housing.

Sincerely,


Deborah Kim Morikawa
Director

DKM:so

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail: EDHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: Senate EDH Hearing
Hearing on: April 6, 2009 @ 1:15 p.m. in room #225

Date: March 24, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Education & Housing
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Dennis Arakaki
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference

Re: **Support for GM 417 (Betty Lou Larson) for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation**

HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD

Francis Oda
President

Austin Imamura
Vice-President

Gill Berger
Secretary

Brogan, Mary Lou
D'Olier, H. Mitchell
Pace, Dr. Nancy
Paty, William
Pflueger, Nancy
Tsujiimura, R. Brian
Young, Sandra

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BOARD

Most Reverend Clarence Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Alexander, Very Rev. Marc
Andrade, Eva
Chung, Sr. Earnest
Coleman, David
Downes, Patrick
Himenes, Dr. Carmen
Ignacio, Carol
Larson, Betty Lou
Pilar, Prudencio
Rauckhorst, Jerome
Tong, Myron
Yoshimitsu, Walter

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Education & Housing, I am Dennis Arakaki, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

We are pleased to support the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to the **Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation**. Ms. Larson's education, experience, common sense, intellect and professionalism make her an exemplary choice to serve on the Board of Directors.

Currently Betty Lou Larson is the Housing Programs Director at Catholic Charities Hawaii. In addition to that main role, she administers two transitional housing projects (Ma'ili Land in Waianae and Kawaihae on the Big Island) for homeless families. For 25 years, she has also directed the Housing Assistance Program on Oahu for elders, which provides housing counseling and assistance, shared housing, and a data base for affordable rental housing.

To further make her a perfect candidate, Ms. Larson has served on the Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission and the Board of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH). She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation (a non-profit), and the Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance. She actively participates in both Partners in Care and the Housing and Homelessness Committee of Neighborhood Board #8.

In her capacity at Catholic Charities, I have worked directly with Ms. Larson on a number of issues, including affordable housing and homelessness. I have found her to be highly professional, knowledgeable, practical and compassionate in her approach to public policy. Please support her nomination.



PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

RE: GM 417: NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – BETTY LOU LARSON

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Education and Housing

FROM: Holly Holowach, Chair – Partners In Care

RE: Senate Hearing, Monday, April 6, 2009, 1:15 PM, Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Education and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to show our support for the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. For several years, Ms. Larson has been an active member of Partners In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care which is a coalition of homeless service providers, state and city officials and others who are interested in creating programs and housing opportunities for Oahu's most vulnerable individuals: our homeless and elderly populations. She is a tireless advocate for the need for more affordable housing.

Low and moderate income families, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are homeless need a strong advocate, such as Ms. Larson, on the Board to ensure that their needs are addressed. She will also assist to ensure that the Board works to address the overall housing needs of our state's residents to ensure that those who live and work in our State can afford adequate housing. Her education and career have been dedicated to serving those who are most in need and her diverse experiences give her the tools needed to succeed in such a position on the Board.

As the Housing Programs Director at Catholic Charities, Betty Lou Larson has shown strong leadership and a broad understanding of the needs of the people of Hawaii. She has vast experience serving the elderly and homeless families. She has seen first hand how the lack of affordable housing has lead to homelessness and an overwhelming need for more housing. We feel Ms. Larson is uniquely qualified to be a strong voice on the Board to move the state forward to help those who need it the most.

Through a unanimous vote of the Partners In Care members, Betty Lou Larson won the support of PIC to represent us on the HHFDC Board. We urge you to accept her nomination and place her on the Board.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Holly Holowach

Holly Holowach
Chair ~ Partners In Care

Director
Weinberg Village Waimanalo



PARTNERS IN CARE

TESTIMONY- Support – GM417: Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

TO: Senator Sakamoto, Chair; Senator Kidani, Vice Chair and members of Committee on Education and Housing

FROM: Darlene W. Hein, Partners In Care

HEARING: Monday April 6, 2009 at 1:15 am CR 225

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony consideration and confirmation of Betty Lou Larson to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation. I am Darlene Hein, Advocacy Chair Partners In Care. Partners In Care strongly supports her appointment.

Partners In Care is a membership organization of providers of homeless services, concerned professionals, units of local and state government, consumers, and other community representatives located in the City and County of Honolulu. We are a coordinating body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on Oahu and provide direction in response to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care annual announcement for homeless assistance funds. We also assist in implementing new or expanded programs while preserving effective existing programs for individuals who are homeless and living on Oahu.

Betty Lou Larson has been a strong advocate for affordable housing, is knowledgeable about the issues and has represented the residents of Hawaii well. We urge you to confirm her for another term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

PARTNERS IN CARE: Darlene Hein, Advocacy Chair
Phone 791-9380, email dhein@waikihc.org



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Education and Housing

FROM: Stella M.Q. Wong, Vice President of Programs *Stella M.Q. Wong*

DATE: Monday, April 6, 2009, (1:15 p.m., Conf Rm 225)

RE: **In Support of GM417, Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation – Betty Lou Larson, for a term to expire 6-30-2013**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the House Committee on Education and Housing, my name is Stella Wong and I am the Vice President of Programs at Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH). I am testifying in support of GM417, Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation of Betty Lou Larson for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

During her 27 years as an employee of CCH, Betty Lou Larson has been tireless in her efforts to address homeless issues and promoting the development of affordable housing in Hawaii. Currently, she serves as our Housing Programs Director, and oversees three housing specific programs: Housing Assistance Program for seniors on Oahu, Ma'ili Land Transitional Housing Program on the Leeward Coast, and Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program on the Big Island.

Betty Lou can ably represent the needs of consumers and advocates for housing on the HHFDC Board. Her professional work has brought her into direct contact with homeless elders and homeless families. As a result, she has also developed a passion for advocacy to stimulate the development of affordable housing as a long term solution to the problem of homelessness. Her advocacy includes participation in coalitions such as Partners in Care (PIC) and Housing Hawaii.

Betty Lou has also served on the Board of the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit development corporation, for over 14 years. This Corporation is now building its 9th affordable housing project. It is through Betty Lou's involvement with this nonprofit development corporation that she has become very familiar with the resources of HHFDC.

Betty Lou was also involved in the development of the Rental Housing Trust Fund in the 1990's. She also served as a member, and then as Chair, of the Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission prior to its ending in June 2005.

Catholic Charities Hawaii
Testimony on GM 417
Committee on Education and Housing
Monday, April 6, 2009 (1:15 p.m. Room 225)
Page 2 of 2

Catholic Charities Hawai`i asks for your support of the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for a term to expire 6-30-2013. She has a valuable perspective as both a provider and advocate who can ably represent the voice of those in need - low and moderate income families, the elderly, the disabled, and those who are homeless.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 535-0889 or via email at swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.

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be human and to help"
- Fr. Du Teil

Women & Families' Shelter

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Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone 808.447.2800
Bus Phone 808.845.7150
Bus Fax 808.845.7190

Men's Shelter

350 Sumner Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone 808.447.2900
Fax 808.537.2697
www.IHS-hawaii.org

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Room 230
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Nomination of Betty Lou Larson for Board Membership on
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC)**

Aloha Senator Sakamoto and Members
of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing,

Board of Directors:

C. Malina Kaulukukui
President

Christopher Benjamin
Vice President
Alvin Sakamoto
Treasurer

Kelli Abe Trifonovitch
Secretary

Edmund Aczon

Ann R. Botticelli

Andy Chang

Michael S. Chu

Sharon M. Crofts

Dick Dubanoski

Karl Essig

Ian Fitz-Patrick

Stacey C.G. Hee, Esq.

Audrey Hidano

Michael T. Jones

Rev. Andy Lee

Violet Loo

Curt Nakamura

Bruce M. Nakaoka

Patsy K. Saiki, Esq.

Rev. Timothy Sexton

Frank B. Smith

K. James Steiner, Jr., Esq.

Aileen Utterdyke

Shelley Wilson

Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

I would like to offer my **support** for the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to continue her service as a member on the Board of HHFDC. She has long been a staunch advocate for homeless individuals and families and has a broad view of the housing needs of this constituency. Whenever the issues of housing for those who can least afford it are up for discussion, Ms. Larson is there to advocate and to help problem solve.

I have served with Ms. Larson on the Partners in Care Executive Board for the last two years and have always found her to be thoughtful and respectful in our deliberations. She also brings to the HHFDC a wealth of experience and knowledge about low-income housing development from her many past positions of service to homeless and low-income families. I believe her record of service on the Board speaks for itself.

Please reappoint Betty Lou Larson to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Mahalo,

Connie Mitchell
Executive Director

The Rev. Msgr. Terrence Watanabe
Member Emeritus

From: [Joel Fischer](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM417;EDH;4/6/09;1:15PM;Rm 225
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2009 3:00:04 PM
Importance: High

GM417, Mary Lou Larson
EDH; Chair, Sen Sakamoto

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION

Mary Lou Larson is one of the best qualified housing experts in the state, especially when it comes to the needs of people with low incomes. No one is better qualified to be appointed to the Board of HFD.

Mary Lou has done it all regarding housing needs for the community. She has been in the trenches both in the community and at the Legislature. I cannot think of any other person whom I would rather have representing the needs of the community than Mary Lou.

Thank you very much for supporting her nomination.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill