

GM418



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, March 16, 2009, 1:15 p.m.  
Room 225, State Capitol

in consideration of  
**GM 418**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee Clarissa P. Hosino**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda L. Smith and I serve as Governor Lingle's Senior Policy Advisor. I am appearing before you today in support of the nomination of Clarissa Puanani Hosino as Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

I have had the opportunity to work with Clarissa as an ex-officio member of the Public Housing Board. She is truly dedicated to improving the lives of those who live in public housing.

Clarissa Hosino brings a unique perspective to our Board because she represents the residents of our public housing ohana. She always comes prepared to our board meetings, listens carefully, and raises judicious questions.

Director Hosino has been particularly helpful in sensitizing her fellow Board members to such issues as the role and responsibility of Resident Advisory Boards, how to improve the selection of tenants off of the waiting lists, improving security at our public housing properties, and ensuring due process for residents who may not abide by various rules and regulations.

I had the chance to work closely with Director Hosino when we both served on a screening panel to identify potential candidates to fill the executive director position for the HPHA. She asked insightful and important questions of each candidate, helping reaffirm that our primary job is to make sure each family in public housing has a decent, safe place to live. Our Board is enriched because of her presence and I hope you will confirm her for a permanent position.

**Support for the confirmation of Clarissa Hosino as a director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

**Aloha – Clarissa Hosino is the resident representative on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Board. And what a job she does! She has the respect of every Board member – she does an incredible job of representing the many residents in public housing. She is proactive – visiting the many projects and listening to the concerns and needs of the residents.**

**She personally assisted the Board and staff in resolving communication problems on Maui, among staff, residents, and the community. She is truly involved – spending hours working with HPHA staff, and resident representatives of the various projects – to the betterment of all. Whenever there are issues requiring decisions by the Board, we know that the concerns of the many residents of public housing will be fully expressed, and considered.**

**I really appreciate the insights that Clarissa brings to the Board. Through her efforts, I believe that the decisions and actions taken by the Board fully consider the impact upon the many residents of public housing. Please confirm Clarissa Hosino.**

**Sincerely,**

**Travis O. Thompson  
Chair, HPHA**

**March 11, 2009**

Rene Berthiaume  
P.O. Box 1115  
Haleiwa, HI 96712  
808-221-4137  
berthiaut001@hawaii.rr.com

March 1, 2009

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
& Members of the Education & Housing Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding: Support for Nomination of Clarissa Hosino to HPHA Board of Directors

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this nomination. I strongly support the confirmation of Clarissa Hosino to the HPHA Board of Directors.

I strongly support the reconfirmation of Clarissa Hosino to the HPHA Board of Directors. Clarissa is the only HPHA Board Member that is actually a resident of our public housing system. Clarissa comes to the table with an understanding and perception that the rest of the Board cannot possibly have, and as such plays an important and significant role on the Board of Directors. Clarissa Chairs our Public Housing Operations/Tenant Relations Task Force Committee. In this role, I believe, Clarissa has developed a rapport with and respect from public housing residents that can only be achieved by being one of them.

Clarissa has also been very active in doing a good job of helping develop the formation of Resident Advisory Boards (RABS). These RABS play an important role in giving a voice to the tenants of public housing and Clarissa is the force behind the goal of having a RAB for every project in the State. I have come to know Clarissa as a strong advocate and supporter for the concerns of residents and as someone who does not hesitate to speak out on their behalf. I always look forward to seeing and working with her and highly recommend her reconfirmation to the HPHA Board of Directors.

I can be contacted anytime for any further input or information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rene Berthiaume



February 26, 2009

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Committee Members

This letter is in support of the appointment of Ms. Clarissa Hosino and Mr. Kaulana Park to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

As a member of the HPHA Board, I have had the privilege of serving with both Clarrisa and Kaulana as fellow board members. Both people have brought invaluable experience, manao, credibility and direction to the work of the Board. Clarissa as a representative of the resident associations and residents and Kaulana with his vast experience and knowledge in community development, housing and cultural awareness.

As you are well aware, this current Board of Directors inherited monumental problems and challenges from poor maintenance and oversight responsibilities for numerous years. I truly believe with the continued commitment and tenacity of the current board and members like Clarissa and Kaulana, much needed changes and directions will continue to be realized.

I humbly ask that you approve the appointments of Ms. Clarissa Hosino and Mr. Kaulana Park to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. Thank you for your favorable response to this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol R. Ignacio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "I".

Carol R. Ignacio  
Executive Director

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A United Way Agency

*Kukui - An ancient Hawaiian source for healing and symbol of enlightenment*

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**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 EDUCATION AND HOUSING**

March 16, 2009 2:00 p.m.  
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**G.M. 418**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Clarissa P. Hosino,  
to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Clarissa Hosino to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). As Executive Director of HPHA I have worked with Ms. Hosino on matters before the HPHA Board and am aware of her contributions and qualifications.

It is important to have the voice of our public housing residents heard not only at Board meetings, but also on the Board itself. HRS 356D-3, which established the HPHA Board of Directors, requires that one member be a beneficiary of HPHA services.

Ms. Hosino serves as the Resident Member and is a forceful voice for residents. She attends resident community meetings regularly and brings to the Board many of the concerns that might not otherwise be raised at that level. As a member of the Board, Ms. Hosino is able to communicate the Board's policies and intentions to residents at those meetings with an authority beyond that of the HPHA staff.

Active resident associations are important to the effective operation of the public housing system and the goals of Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Ms. Hosino is very active in organizing and assisting the resident associations in being more effective, and in doing so helps HPHA be a more effective agency.

March 16, 2009

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
415 South Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Clarissa Hosino, who is currently on the HPHA Board of Directors as the Resident Representative.

As coordinator for the Resident Advisory Board, I have come into contact with Clarissa, who makes it a point to attend every RAB meeting that we have because she feels that it's very important to have input into the policies that are outlined in the Public Housing Agency's 5 year and annual plan. She takes the time to consult with the residents from various housing projects (not only her own) as to what the resident's view are regarding issues being discussed. The viewpoints and opinions that she brings to the table, are truly reflective of the residents that she represents.

Clarissa and I have been working together in establishing resident associations at every public housing property and providing assistance to those associations that are already established. Clarissa realizes that it is important that each property have an association to coordinate activities to bring the residents together but more importantly to be the "eyes" "ears" and "voice" of the residents. Clarissa, being a resident and association president herself, knows that the resident association board is important in bringing concerns of the community to the management's attention, which may help the problems from escalating.

A very important characteristic that makes Clarissa effective in the positions she holds, is that she is seen as very approachable by the residents. The residents trust her and open up to her with the concerns that need to be addressed. The mutual trust and respect that she shows them is attributed to why they consider her in high regard.

I highly recommend Clarissa Hosino to be re-appointed to the Resident Seat on the HPHA Board of Directors. With her continued leadership, initiative and insight, Clarissa is considered an asset to the HPHA Board of Directors.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Sagayaga  
HPHA Program Specialist  
Property Management and Maintenance Service Section

**From:** [Vals Pals](#)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM418 Nomination to the Board of Directors  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009 10:36:16 AM

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GM418 Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I nominate Clarissa Hosino for this position.  
She has done an excellent job as long as I have been associated with her.  
I cannot speak more highly of her.

Mahalo,  
Valerie Kauffman  
Secretary, Piilani Homes Resident Association  
Lahaina, HI



March 03, 2009

Clarissa Hosino  
1220 Aala St. # 901  
Honolulu, HI 96817

GM 418: Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Aloha, Senator  
Chair Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Senate Committee,

I want to thank you for the opportunity for the nomination for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term to serve as a Board of Director on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

As a Kama'ina of our great state it is, my privileged to continue serving the people of Hawaii who appreciate a voice they can count on, to address their issues and concerns that require the changes need to have a safe and healthy living within our community. At my last nomination I submitted my documentation of who I am and on my accomplishments that I have done in my 64 yrs of life.

As a resident of the HPHA, I pursue the needs and concerns for improvement for all residents of Hawaii. We need to respect the rights of others as we expect the same courtesy to be for us. I understand the tremendous changes in our housing industry and feel others need someone like me to help explain and understand to accept what will benefit the changes we encounter.

I volunteer for safety against crime with the weed and seed program to help control the illegal activities, to coordinate community patrols, neighborhood watches for all of our housing communities.

I support to improve living conditions for the homeless, disable, elderly and families of all who are in need of assistance to form associations and committees to address their agendas. As a Council member and a resident I live in the same environment and conditions, I understand the needs of our residents and our children to address changes within the Housing Authority.

My Qualities as a person, is a friend, a resident, and neighbor, to communicate, listen and understand and be patient and humble for the best interest of the people. Care for people who are less fortunate then I and do what is right and not be afraid in addressing issues. My greatest asset is the confidence knowing that I have fulfilled and achieved the trust by advising support for the people, leaving a legacy of how to be strong in your beliefs and

to respect the rights of others following the law of rules and regulations and always be accountable for my actions.

I do not see a conflict of interest that I would encounter for I know how to step out of a decision making policy that represent an issue I believe, I would not make a fair judgment to the issue at hand.

Three ways for Hawaii public housing to accomplish the needs is to follow up on improving staff and management to maintain communication with residents on housing issues and be committed in the promises made.

Goals of HPHA, is to re-create Resident Services to support training for all Associations for each Amps working together to improve communication between management and residents and creating a solid agency.

Create and enforce a curfew for children under the age of sixteen for the Hawaii Public Housing.

Establish a Resident Monitor on property to address emergency issues after office hours and on weekends.

I support: SB734  
SB753 SD1  
SB1221 SD1  
SB535  
SB439 SD1  
SB445 SD1  
SB910  
SB1294

don't support: SB445 SD1 Public housing smoking  
I believe this bill creates an invasion of our privacy  
in our own space of living.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority needs to address Residents with respect, as they would want the same courtesy and to standards as they proclaim they live by.  
Stop treating residents as second hand citizens, when confronting them with changes.

REFERENCES: Linda Smith Ph. 808 586-5330  
808 586-0027  
Travis Thompson 808 874-8028  
Eric Beaver 808 293-9201  
Carol Ignacio 808 933-6005  
Matilda Yoshioka 808 245-6692

Aloha to everyone of the Senate Committee.