



LATE TESTIMONY

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

March 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Education and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **G. M. 418 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CLARISSA P. HOSINO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

G. M. 418 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CLARISSA P. HOSINO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Ms. Clarissa P. Hosino to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Ms. Hosino currently serves as the Resident Member of the HPHA Board. She provides invaluable insight to the Board on the concerns of our public housing residents through her active participation in resident community meetings and assistance in organizing the resident association in being more effective.

She is an important liaison between the HPHA Board and our public housing residents to provide information to the Board and also to the resident communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Hosino's nomination to the Board of Directors of the HPHA.

LATE TESTIMONY

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 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

**Clarissa Hosino
Resident Representative**

Associations was formed to assist the Hawaii Public Housing in representing residents to create community and neighborhood patrols and to participate in the communication between managers and HPHA.

As of this date, I was informed funds will not be distributed to associations and will be diminished until audit is done.

I have work with housing managers and residents to form and create an active association for each Amp working together for a safe and healthy community.

As a Representative I am discouraged and will not address any of the unsolved issues as of this date until valid information is received by the Board of Directors meeting on March 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. for public testimony.

No Funds, no Associations, no Resident Monitors and no Resident Advisory Board. Is this legal by Hud Federal Agency of PHA CFR.

It was not addressed to the residents about their decision and we are discouraged by HPHA's actions on the slogan used, stated at Amp meetings To do the right thing.

Is this the example of how HPHA express to the Residents of Hawaii, who volunteer free services to improve relationships between agency and residents?

The residents and I are requesting an explanation, regarding the decision before hand to address the BOD, why the funds will no longer be available for associations who are committed in assisting to improve the housing complex and properties where we live as a community.

Funds are in need for Associations but also, to pay for services in training new associations a Resident Service person to assist training. Traveling to the outer islands for the new board member council on there property would cut cost by not having to pay for these new associations to travel here on Oahu.

We are requesting an audit of funds being used by Hawaii Public Housing Authority they receive for all RAB and Association expenditures.