

GM419



**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**

Friday, March 13, 2009, 2:00 p.m.  
Room 225, State Capitol

in consideration of  
**GM 419**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee Kaulana Park**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

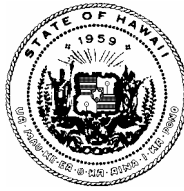
My name is Linda L. Smith and I serve as Governor Lingle's Senior Policy Advisor. I am appearing before you today in **support** of the nomination of Kaulana Park as Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Park since 2003 when I agreed to serve as a member of the advisory committee for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Kaulana and I have worked closely together when he served as the Homeless Programs Coordinator, and more recently as a member of the Board.

Mr. Park has been exemplary in his ability to address the chronic homeless issues facing our state. He has the heart and the drive to help others and has evidenced this both as the Heart Team leader, HPHA Board member, and Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I believe you are familiar with the many accomplishments he has quietly but effectively accomplished at DHHL. Kaulana, in particular, has been able to bridge the concerns of a diverse segment of our community to ensure that our community embraces and respects the importance of providing shelter for our citizens, including residents of public housing facilities, even when the issues are emotionally charged.

He has brought commitment and dedication and an ability to provide a calming voice to the Board and I urge you to confirm him for this appointment.



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

March 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Lillian B. Koller, Director

**SUBJECT:** **G. M. 419 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KAULANA H.R. PARK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Hearing: Friday, March 13, 2009; 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

**G. M. 427 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KAULANA H.R. PARK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Department of Human Services **supports** the nomination of Mr. Kaulana H.R. Park to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Mr. Park will bring in-depth knowledge and understanding of housing and homeless issues to the HPHA. He is currently the Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He served as leader of the State's Homeless Efforts Achieving Results (HEART) team to open emergency and transitional shelters and as the Governor's homeless solutions team leader.

Mr. Park's commitment to finding ways to address housing and homeless concerns will be valuable to the HPHA.

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

**Support** for the confirmation of Kaulana Park as a director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

**Aloha – We are privileged to have Kaulana Park as a member of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. Kaulana has taken the lead in providing insight and guidance to the Board relative to homelessness problems with the State of Hawaii. He has been the driving force in identifying the needs of the homeless, and recommending creative solutions to the many problems associated with homelessness. Kaulana has also volunteered his time in helping the Board work its way into mixed income projects, which may be the answer to providing renovations and improvements to the existing housing projects within the state.**

**Kaulana has made a major contribution to the Board. He fully participates in Board discussions, and decisions, and always provides a voice of reason to the issues under review. I fully support the confirmation of Kaulana to continue as a Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.**

**Sincerely,**

**Travis O. Thompson  
Chair, HPHA**

**March 11, 2009**

Testimony in support of

KAULANA PARK  
GM 419 to the  
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Friday, March 13, 2009  
2:00 pm Rm. 225

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

My name is Sam Aiona and I support the confirmation of Kaulana Park to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

As a member of the Board I have the honor and privilege of working with Kaulana and he is a very well respected, intelligent and passionate person whose insight and experiences are invaluable.

Kaulana brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board because of his experience as the Homeless Coordinator for the State and his current position as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. At the board meetings we value Kaulana's opinions and suggestions because his thoughts come with reason and intellect.

On a personal level Kaulana cares about people, he cares about the residents and he cares about the work he does. He is committed to the Board and committed to make Hawaii a better place. We need Kaulana Park on the Board of Directors for Hawaii Public Housing Authority and I urge to please confirm his nomination.

I can be reached at 306-2444 if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

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 Kaulana Park to HPHA Board of Directors

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this nomination. I strongly support the confirmation of Kaulana Park to the HPHA Board of Directors. As a sitting member of the HPHA Board, I am well aware of the expertise and experience that Kaulana Park brings to the table.

As you may be aware, HPHA is in the process of seriously considering the redevelopment and renewal of some of our largest projects. This process which has come to be known as *mixed income development* has the potential to accomplish much needed rehabilitation or redevelopment of our older worn down projects. Kaulana's role as Deputy Director of DHHL, currently perhaps the State's largest home developer, has provided him with the hands on expertise and experience to assist substantially in this effort. Kaulana brings his expertise to the process as a member of the Mixed Income Projects Taskforce Committee.

In addition, Kaulana has a positive 'let's get it done' attitude and gets along very well with people. Therefore, I highly recommend Kaulana Park to the HPHA Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be contacted anytime for more input or information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rene Berthiaume



February 26, 2009

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

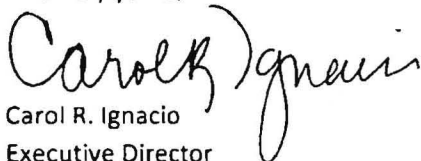
This letter is in **support** of the appointment of Ms. Clarissa Hosino and Mr. Kaulana Park to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

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.

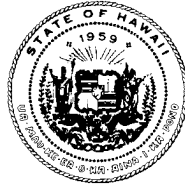
As you are well aware, this current Board of Directors inherited monumental problems and challenges from poor maintenance and oversight responsibilities for numerous years. I truly believe with the continued commitment and tenacity of the current board and members like Clarissa and Kaulana, much needed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

  
Carol R. Ignacio  
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 13, 2009 2:00 p.m.  
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**G.M. 419**

**Confirmation of gubernatorial Nominee, Kaulana H.R. Park,  
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 Kaulana Park to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

As Executive Director of HPHA I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Park on matters involving the issues facing housing and the homeless and have come to appreciate the depth of knowledge and experience he brings to the HPHA Board of Directors.

As deputy to the chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Mr. Park brings a unique and valuable viewpoint to the HPHA Board. His experience as the Governor's homeless solutions team leader is essential to HPHA in addressing in creative ways the urgent problem of homelessness throughout the state. Mr. Park also served as leader of the state's Homeless Efforts Achieving Results Together (HEART) team, working to open emergency and transitional shelters.

Mr. Park has shown that he has the depth of knowledge and commitment needed to provide guidance to the agency as a member HPHA Board of Directors.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jame.schaedel@gmail.com](mailto:jame.schaedel@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM419 on 3/13/2009 2:00:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2009 12:43:31 PM

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Testimony for EDH 3/13/2009 2:00:00 PM GM419

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jame Schaedel  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jame.schaedel@gmail.com](mailto:jame.schaedel@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/10/2009

Comments:

I strongly support Kaulana Park's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Mr. Park has unselfishly devoted himself to seeking out solutions to assist Hawaii's homeless population and will be an asset to the HPHA.

QUESTIONS

- (a) To continue to serve Hawaii's population that has the greatest need for housing, normally earning 50% and below median family income. In addition, to help the unsheltered homeless population and ensure that families and individuals are served and properly transitioned into permanent housing.
- (b) The responsibility of the HPHA Board member is to set and approve required operating policies; to adopt resolutions as required; hire and review the performance of the Executive Director on an annual basis at minimum; and to participate in the HUD HPHA annual plan.
- (c) DHHL is the largest affordable housing developer in the state today. I also served as the Governor's team leader towards the homeless efforts primarily on the Leeward Coast over a period of 1.5 years. With the combined experience of program development and housing development, I continue to provide best practices towards HPHA leadership towards fulfilling its overall mission.
- (d) Integrity, vision, and faith. These three qualities speak of transparency, foresight and an inner strength that embodies passion and aloha towards the people that we serve.
- (e) Anything that involves DHHL as the landowner and HPHA as a possible lessee would be a conflict of interest. A situation did occur last year where DHHL leased a parcel of land to HPHA for a new transitional housing facility, which was given as gratis and for a ten-year period. At the end of the period, DHHL would reacquire the parcel along with any improvements. I abstained in the vote that was unanimously approved by the Board.
- (f) Team, shared vision, and partnerships. The team must be comprised of capable and committed staff that is able to develop a comprehensive strategic plan and implement the activities over a five year period. A shared vision would comprise of all stakeholders that are involved and partnerships include both public and private.
- (g) HPHA uses the annual HUD plan and its goals to measure progress. However, consideration of a separate strategic plan could be developed that will better address our local customer base and their issues.
- (h) Due to the timeliness of this document, I must apologize as I was not able to review the current legislative bills of HPHA.
- (i) HPHA has done some good things since my tenure. Some of the highlights include the increased number of new shelters and transitional housing projects throughout the state to address the explosion of homeless living in our beaches and parks. The number of renovated HPHA units that have been occupied by those on the waitlist and the number of repaired elevators in our housing projects. The HPHA staff has also conducted community meetings at every housing project to better understand and address the numerous issues that the residents present.

However, there are areas that still need improvement. The HPHA Board and staff continue to work together to address the priority issues in a timely manner.