

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 24, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director
Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **G. M. 551 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF JASON T.
ESPERO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Hearing: Thursday, March 24, 2011 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016 State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Jason T. Espero to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Administration (HPHA).

Mr. Espero is currently the Shelter Director for the Waikiki Health Center. His experience in administering homeless shelters and programs as well as the supporting social services will be an asset to the Board of the HPHA.

Mr. Espero is active in the community as a member of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations and St. Elizabeth Church.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Espero's nomination.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DENISE M. WISE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Denise M. Wise
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 24, 2011 1:15 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
G.M. 551

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, JASON T. ESPERO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Governor's Message 551, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON T. ESPERO, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Mr. Espero to the HPHA Board of Directors. The HPHA Board needs directors with a variety of life experiences and professional expertise in order to effectively fulfill its role as policy guide for HPHA. Mr. Espero's appointment to the Board will bring a new perspective and will provide the Board with the advantage of Mr. Espero's community service experience, particularly with respect to the disabled population served by the agency.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency's position regarding G.M. 551. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Mr. Espero to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.



Care-A-Van
Health Care for the Homeless

Testimony in Support of GM 551

Senate Human Services Committee
March 24, 2011
Hawai'i State Legislature

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors, gubernatorial nominee, JASON T. ESPERO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

To: Senate Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senate Vice Chair Les Ihara
and
Members of the Committee

From: Gary D. Lloyd

I am writing in support to Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination to consider and confirm Jason T. Espero to serve as a board of director on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

My name is Gary Lloyd and I am the Hawaii Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and Internationally Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor employed with Waikiki Health Center, Care-A-Van homeless programs. I have worked in the substance abuse treatment field in Hawaii nearly ten years; and prior work history in Washington State since 1985. I was a member on the Board of Directors of the Washington State Chemical Dependency Professionals Association 1990 – 1992.

My personal experience working with Jason has been very positive. He is a motivated and genuinely concerned social worker; an asset to our communities. I believe he has a clear understanding of the public housing crisis we have in Hawaii and Oahu in particular, along with realistic and fresh ideas for change. Jason Espero is an excellent candidate for a position on this board.

Respectfully yours,

Gary D. Lloyd, CSAC, ICADC
312-A Iolani Avenue
Post Office Box 377
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Waikiki Health Center
has been serving the needs of
the community for over 30
years. Our mission is to
provide low-cost, high-quality,
medical and mental services
that are accessible and
affordable for everyone,
regardless of their ability to

Participating Agency



Aloha United Way

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Visit us at: www.waikikihealthcenter.org

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LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organization's support of GM 551 and the confirmation of Mr. Jason Espero as a member of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

I have known Mr. Espero for at least four years now and in that time, I have observed first-hand his steadfast commitment towards serving the public's interest.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Espero when he was still a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In the spring of 2008, Mr. Espero was one of six students who participated in a two-day organizing and leadership workshop organized by Local 5 that introduced students to Hawaii's local labor movement and concepts related to grassroots organizing. Subsequent to his participation in our workshop, Mr. Espero was offered a summer organizing intern position that eventually carried through the fall semester and ended with his graduation in December of 2008.

Mr. Espero's time and work with Local 5 was very much centered on our core mission and values as a local labor organization. He was chosen as an intern because he possessed a clear and genuine sense of who he was. From the very beginning it was apparent that serving the public's interest was what Mr. Espero was motivated by.

As a young professional with a background in social and economic justice and housing, I am confident that Mr. Espero will bring with him an appropriate amount of experience, dedication and fresh new perspectives to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors. As an intern, we saw in Mr. Espero the potential for becoming a productive leader in our community. It is our hope that his time with Local 5 will have served him well in his quest to continue to serve the public's interest. We are confident that Mr. Espero will be a valuable contributor to our State's Public Housing Authority.

We stand in support of GM 551 and humbly ask for your Committee's support of Mr. Espero's nomination.

Sincerely,

Cade Watanabe
Community/Political Organizer

March 24, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Conference Room 016, 1:15 p.m.
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Strong Support For GM 551 Nominee Jason T. Espero

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

I have known the applicant, Mr. Jason T. Espero for the past ten years. Mr. Espero is an effective communicator, a great listener, and is easy to work with. He has spent many countless hours working with homeless and housing issues. Mr. Espero's collaborative leadership style has proven to be successful as an employee of Waikiki Health Center and in the community. His relations with his co-workers are superb. He takes the initiative to meet and reach out to almost every individual to make sure that each of them is on the right path for success. Mr. Espero is intelligent, articulate, and manages his time effectively in order to accommodate everyone. Most notably, Mr. Espero continues to demonstrate his resonant leadership style by his ability to listen carefully to the concerns of each individual with respect and fairness.

Mr. Espero will be a great asset to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors because he will make a positive contribution to the board and will be a well-regarded colleague. I humbly ask this committee to support Mr. Espero's nomination to the board. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Elefante', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brandon Elefante
brandon.elefante@gmail.com

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:12 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: dr.e.bethea@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM551 on 3/24/2011 1:15:00 PM

Categories: Orange Category

Testimony for HMS 3/24/2011 1:15:00 PM GM551

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon Malloy, MSW, LCSW
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dr.e.bethea@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members,

It gives me great pleasure to submit this testimony in strong support of Jason T. Espero's nomination to serve on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority.

I have worked with Mr. Espero at Waikiki Health Center for the past 2 years, serving homeless adults on O'ahu. I am continually impressed with his passion, vision, servant leadership, deep understanding of the issues and total commitment to a life of service to his community. On both a personal and a professional level, I have never known an individual who consistently goes to such extraordinary lengths in seeking out opportunities to address human suffering and social injustice. There is no question in my mind that Mr. Espero is destined to become one of Hawai'i's noteworthy leaders. I strongly encourage you to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue, in which we all have a profound stake.

Sincerely, Sharon Malloy, MSW, LCSW

Testimony in Support of GM 551

Senate President

March 23, 2011

Hawai'i State Legislature

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to be on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON ESPERO, for a term to expire June 30, 1915.

To: Senate President Shan Tsutsui, Vice President Donna Mercado Kim, Human Services Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee

From: Rita K. Martin

I am writing in support to Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination to consider and confirm Jason Espero as a Board Director for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Mr. Espero worked at the U. S. Veterans Initiative site in Waianae, Pai'olu Kaiaulu, assisting veterans and other homeless families. His caring approach to assisting our elderly and disabled clients was commendable. Mr. Espero's enthusiasm in facing each new day with fervor and dedication enabled many clients to press on with their goals. I also worked with him at the Next Step Project in Kakaako. We need more dedicated young men like Mr. Espero to serve as positive role models for serving folks who are oftentimes forgotten. He has a good working knowledge of working with non-profit organizations and the huge gap they try to fill with much-needed client services.

I humbly request your support in his confirmation.

Mahalo,

Rita K. Martin
Private Citizen

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Senate Human Services Committee

Wednesday, March 24, 2011

Support for GM 551, Relating to Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

I am writing in support of Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Jason Espero for the Public Housing Authority board.

I have now worked with Jason for several months as a volunteer one night per week at the Next Step Shelter. He is my mentor at the shelter, and I have found him to be open minded, interested in new ideas, and willing to work with a variety of people. Many residents of the shelter are mentally and physically impaired, but this does not keep Jason from striving to find the best setting for them and helping them along the pathway to public housing and work situations outside of the shelter.

Jason has worked with many people helping them become eligible for public housing and knows the problems that an advocate for the disabled must deal with in terms of public housing.

Jason has the experience and the enthusiasm for this job and is committed to ending the homeless cycle where one is evicted and begins the homeless process all over again.

Sincerely

Patricia Snyder, Ph.D.

Testimony in Support of GM 551

Senate Human Services Committee
March 24, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors, Governatorial Nominee, JASON T. ESPERO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

To: Senate Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senate Vice Chair Les Ihara and Members of the Committee

From: Craig Alan Thistleton

I am writing in support to Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination to consider and confirm Jason T. Espero to serve as a board of director on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

My name is Craig Thistleton and I am the senior outreach worker to the homeless, at the Waikiki Health Center. I am also a two term board member, of neighborhood board #10.

I have had the pleasure of working with Jason for the last few years. He is an ambitious worker and a person of great integrity. I believe he has a firm grasp of the public housing crisis we have in the state. He would be an excellent candidate for a position on this board.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this fine young man.

Regards,

Craig Alan Thistleton
Private Citizen