

# GM726

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE YOKOYAMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

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**

April 7, 2011 2:00 P.M.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**G.M. 726**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII'  
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, GEORGE YOKOYAMA, 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 726, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE YOKOYAMA, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Mr. Yokoyama 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 the agency. Mr. Yokoyama's many years of prior experience as a member and officer of the Hawaii Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners, this agency's predecessor, will be invaluable to provide a perspective on the state of public housing in Hawaii over the last twenty five years. His experience as Executive Director of the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council will further provide the Board with his expertise in operational management and economic development practice.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency's position regarding G.M. 726. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Mr. Yokoyama to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

TESTIMONY BY DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF  
NOMINEE, GEORGE YOKOYAMA  
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAI'I PUBLIC HOUSING  
AUTHORITY

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Thursday, April 7, 2011

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 16

Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee.

George Yokoyama has spent most of his life tirelessly working on behalf of the people and communities that struggle in a life of poverty. For the last four decades, George has pursued efforts to promote the health, education and general welfare of lower income residents by helping lead the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council. Notably, George has used his grant writing abilities to bring over \$75 million to fight the war on poverty on the Big Island over the years. George has the heart, skills, and lifelong commitment to serving that will enable him to contribute to and help the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority pursue its goals.

I can personally attest to George's qualifications as I have had the honor and pleasure of working side by side with George in efforts to improve the quality of life in the Big Island's communities, and especially for those facing greater challenges, for nearly thirty years. George has the character, knowledge and enthusiasm to serve as a valuable asset not only to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, but ultimately to the entire State. In summary, George Yokoyama is well qualified and deserving of confirmation for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.