

LATE

April 6, 2011

Written testimony on Hearing for Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr; Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Berentania Street

GM 726 Submitting testimony for George Yokoyama,

Gubernatorial Nominee for...

Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara

and the members of the Committee:

I am Gerald De Mello and I am writing with regard to the upcoming confirmation hearing for George Yokoyama's nomination to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. I know George to be a hard working, conscientious and a dedicated person who has been advocating and working to alleviate the conditions of poverty in Hawaii County. He is a well respected and valued member of our community and is noted for his expertise, sensibility and commitment to building healthy communities. For his hard work as an advocate of the economically disadvantaged George has received County, State and National recognition.


For all of us in Hawaii, with any level of sensibility public housing issues are very compelling and have received a lot of public attention via media, elected officials and the public. George has a lot of experience in working with low income

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residents as well as tenants of public housing and is able to offer resourceful ideas and solutions to public housing issues. Hawaii is being challenged with unprecedented public housing issues and many people given personal misfortune are living out in parks and streets. They are "houseless", clearly economically disadvantaged. George is sensitized to these issues and challenges. He has decades of experience as a community action leader in developing self- help housing projects and employment training programs experiences that could weigh in with insights to help the Board with public housing issues. Notably, he has put in place many innovative programs for residents who live in public housing. George will work hard to solve an immediate problem, yet at the same time has the attribute of being able to take a long view of problem solving. I am confident, that George has the community mindset and personal will to commit his energy to work with others on the Board responsibilities that he finds to be the scope of the Hawaii Housing Authority.

We in Hawaii are at a critical time in our history. We are challenged with many fiscal issues that stem from unprecedented economic conditions. George would like very much to serve on this Board and has a lot of knowledge and passion that will benefit the Board. The people of Hawaii who live in public housing are very fortunate that George has an interest on serving on this Board. He is highly regarded at the grass level in our community and the kind of resourcefulness and talent that the commission will find very productive. I am pleased to confidently endorse Mr. George Yokoyama's nomination to the Hawaii Housing Authority. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support for this appointment.

Sincerely,


Gerald De Mello, Director of University Relations

University of Hawaii at Hilo

LATE

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

April 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director
Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **G. M. 726 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF GEORGE
YOKOYAMA TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Hearing: Thursday, April 7, 2011 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016 State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of George Yokoyama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Mr. Yokoyama vast experience in the organization and implementation of community services programs. As Executive Director of the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council, he spearheaded the mobilization of public and private resources to develop employment and training projects, self-help housing projects, business development projects and projects for underachieving students.

Mr. Yokoyama has received numerous awards for his leadership and advocacy for services and projects to help his community.

Mr. Yokoyama's extensive experience and expertise in community development and his experience as a member of the predecessor agency to the

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

HPHA, the Hawaii Housing Authority, will make him a valuable member of the HPHA Board

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

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:12 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: carpenterd@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for GM726 on 4/7/2011 2:00:00 PM

Categories: Blue Category

Testimony for HMS 4/7/2011 2:00:00 PM GM726

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dante K. Carpenter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: carpenterd@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 4/7/2011

Comments:
Senate Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Sen. Chun Oakland, V. C. Sen. Ihara and Members:

I am in total support of the nomination of George Yokoyama to the Board of Directors of the Public Housing Authority, in accordance with GM 726.

Mr. Yokoyama has distinguished himself for over 30 years as the Big Island Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, wherein he has championed the cause for the underprivileged and downtrodden, among others.

He is a community leader extraordinaire and, indeed, eminently qualified to sit on Board of Directors by virtue of training and experience over these many years. We thank him for continuing his service to the public.

Please confirm George Yokoyama for a term to expire 6-30-15.

Thank You very much.

Dante K. Carpenter
Former Mayor
County of Hawaii