

GM591

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN MUKAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

TESTIMONY
OF
RYAN H. MUKAI
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING
ON
March 8, 2012

G.M. 591

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority, gubernatorial nominee, RYAN H. MUKAI, for a term to expire on June 30, 2015.

Chairman Dela Cruz and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.

I would also like to thank Senate President Shan Tsutsui for submitting my name for consideration and Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me.

Finally, I want to thank everyone that submitted testimony in support of my nomination.

Born and raised in Hawaii, I am a second-generation attorney practicing in business and real estate law with a small firm for almost five years. While my professional career is fulfilling, I am interested in helping more people of the State of Hawaii through public service. Having been fortunate to serve as an interim member on the Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA") board since July 2011, I realize that serving on the HCDA board is a tremendous privilege and opportunity to help shape the future of the community development districts in Kakaako, Kalaheo, and Heeia which in turn will help make the State of Hawaii a better place for all to live, work, and play. There is great potential for these community districts to embrace a vision that balances reasonable economic development with preserving our diverse cultural and environmental heritages.

While my experience with the HCDA community development districts has been limited to my current participation as an interim member, I believe my legal expertise and my nonprofit board experience will help me provide a meaningful contribution to HCDA. I currently serve as a director of two non-profit boards, the Honolulu Zoo Society and the Waialae Golf Course Association.

Serving as a director on these two boards has enabled me to be more open-minded and a better listener. I share HCDA's executive director, Anthony Ching's belief that the core to HCDA's success is "listening and learning." Listening to your colleagues and constituents who bring different viewpoints. Learning about such different viewpoints will help me approach and tackle issues from various perspectives with the common goal of effectively representing the interests of HCDA's constituents and the people of Hawaii.

If I am confirmed to the HCDA board, I will look at all issues with an open and innovative perspective. We need to find creative and innovative ways and think "outside of the box" to accomplish the goals and missions of HCDA. During these challenging economic times, I am aware that there will be a focus in increasing the economic opportunities for the State of Hawaii through the responsible and balanced redevelopment of the community development districts. I look forward to facing and addressing these challenges.

In closing, I respectfully ask for your consideration of my nomination as a member on the HCDA board. I would like to thank this Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak before you today.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA
KOA
KALAELOA

Neil Abercrombie
Governor

Joseph L. Dwight, IV
Chairperson

Anthony J. H. Ching
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Thursday, March 8, 2012

1:20 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**G. M. 591 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, RYAN MUKAI, FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

Upon his nomination by the State Senate, Mr. Mukai has served as an interim member since July 1, 2011. Mr. Mukai currently serves as the elected Secretary of the Authority and has participated fully in the meetings of the Authority. We have also met to discuss the requirements and responsibility for serving on the Hawaii Community Development Authority board. In my opinion, he has a keen understanding of real estate and land use development in Hawaii.

Mr. Mukai has been an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii for the past five years. His area of expertise includes working on commercial real estate transactions. Given Mr. Mukai's willingness to serve and his professional experience in real estate development, I believe that he will bring an important and necessary perspective to the Authority. I believe Mr. Mukai is well-qualified to serve as an Authority member and offer my support for his confirmation by the State Senate. I urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of his nomination.

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March 5, 2012

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chairman Water, Land and Housing Committee
Senatorial District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz,

I am Richard Arakaki, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism of the Department of Medicine of the John A Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii. It is my great pleasure to submit this letter of support for his nomination to the Hawaiian Community Development Authority. Before he began his career in law, Ryan worked as a research assistant in my basic science laboratory for nearly 3 years. Although he has left the field of medicine, we have maintained a friendship over the past 10 years.

Ryan Mukai is a bright and hard working individual who is also humble and personable. He is at times soft-spoken, but when engaged he can present convincing arguments. He is also a good listener, which allows him to carefully craft his comments and conclusions on almost all issues. He is deliberate and thoughtful in his discussion and actions. He will be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Community Development Authority in urban planning for the future of Kaka'ako and Kalaeloa.

I support his nomination without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Arakaki, M.D.
Professor of Medicine

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March 1, 2012

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chairman Water, Land and Housing Committee
Senatorial District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Ryan Mukai's Nomination to HCDA Board

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

I am an attorney with the Natori Law Office LLLC and I have had the pleasure of working with **Ryan Mukai** for six years. Ryan was my colleague at the Hawaii Law Group LLP and followed me to Natori Law Office LLLC. We have worked together on many complicated legal matters for various clients with diverse backgrounds and personalities. In each instance, Ryan has exercised sound judgment and exemplified the high standards of professionalism and decorum which our legal industry strives for. He treats each client, whether it is a large corporation or an individual with modest resources, with respect and care. I have also been impressed by his youthful energy as well as his ability to analyze issues from all perspectives. These attributes will help him deal with HCDA issues with a balanced and open-minded approach.

Ryan's practice area focuses on business and real estate matters. Ryan has worked on various leasing and acquisition matters for clients. Such focus has given him a comprehensive perspective on issues which affect the development of real estate projects. This background will help him provide a meaningful contribution to HCDA as it pursues projects which benefit our community as a whole.

Ryan has also volunteered with various nonprofit corporations. He is civic-minded and has the energy to juggle his work and volunteer commitments. I strongly support Ryan's nomination to the HCDA board based upon his legal knowledge of real estate and business issues, his energy, and his strong desire to serve our community.

Very truly yours,

Natori Law Office LLLC

Nathan T. Natori

March 8, 2012

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chairman Water, Land and Housing Committee
Senatorial District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 591 Ryan Mukai's Nomination to HCDA Board

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

I am a Vice-President of Hawaiian Telcom for Government and Community Affairs, but I am writing this personal letter of support as a friend of Ryan Mukai. I was pleased to hear that Ryan had been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the HCDA board.

I have known Ryan for six years and over the course of this time he has shown me to be a person of integrity and fine moral character. Ryan's demanding law practice requires him to have the intelligence, energy, and people skills to deal with difficult legal issues as well as clients with diverse personalities. Despite such demands on his time, Ryan still finds the energy to devote to public service as a volunteer director with the Honolulu Zoo Society and Waialae Golf Course Association.

I respectfully ask that you and your committee support Ryan's nomination as a HCDA board member.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Hiraki

CAROL K. MURANAKA

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Re: Application of **Ryan Mukai** to be a director of the
Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)

I am writing you to personally support the application of Ryan Mukai to serve as a director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA). Without reservation, I support Mr. Mukai's application.

I am an attorney admitted to practice in Hawaii since 1976. During that 35+ year period, I have been involved in numerous volunteer activities in support of the Hawaii bar and other non-profit organizations.

During 2011, I served as the president of the Waiialae Golf Course Community Association (WGCCA). Following my election as president, I recruited Mr. Mukai to serve on the WGCCA board. My motivation in doing so was my firm belief that he would be a strong addition to the board, bringing both his perspective as an attorney and his conscientious nature to the issues confronting the association. I have never regretted this action. His service on the WGCCA board has been diligent, and his input in the board's decisions invariably was cogent and helpful.

I believe that that the HCDA would be well served in favorably evaluating Mr. Mukai's application to serve as a director.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Mukai in his latest public service endeavor. Should you wish further input regarding this matter, I can be reached by telephone at 808-753-7686 or by e-mail at carol.k.muranaka@gmail.com.

Very truly yours

/s/Carol K. Muranaka