

# GM600

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, AMY LUERSEN, for a term to  
expire 6-30-2015.

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AMY SOUTH LUERSEN  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
ON  
March 8, 2012  
G.M. 600

Submitting for confirmation as a member of the  
Hawaii Community Development Authority representing Ko`olaupoko District  
For a term to expire June 30, 2015

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee,

I regret that I am not able to appear before you today as I am in Buffalo, NY on a previously scheduled trip visiting my elderly parents.

I would like to thank Governor Abercrombie for nominating me. I am honored to be considered and humbled by the responsibility to steward the He`eia Community Development District.

I would also like to thank those who are here today to support my nomination and those who submitted letters of support on my behalf. I appreciate your confidence in me and your willingness to take time from your busy schedules to express your support.

I have lived in Ko`olaupoko since 1990, when my husband and I returned to his hometown to raise our children. For the past twenty years, I have chosen to be involved in community planning issues through my role as a member of the Kahalu`u Neighborhood Board #29, as a planning consultant and as a board member for many nonprofit organizations. This has led me to appreciate the great diversity and richness within our community. It is this diversity that leads us to stronger, more sustainable solutions.

I hope that as a member of HCDA, I will be able to facilitate effective community involvement in the He`eia Community Development District. With my background as a community planner, as well as an active community member, I feel that I am well qualified to represent Ko`olaupoko on the HCDA Board.

Again, I apologize to each of you, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, Senator Fukunaga, Senator Ryan, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Tokuda and Senator Slom, for my inability to be present today. I will return to the islands in mid-March so will be happy to meet with each of you after March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Sincerely,

*Amy Luersen*



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA'KO  
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. 600 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, AMY LUERSEN, FOR A TERM  
TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

Ms. Amy Luerson is currently the Director of Philanthropic Services at the Hawaii Community Foundation. As a resident of the Windward side of the island, she is also a long serving member of the Kahaluu Neighborhood Board and has served in a variety of leadership positions.

Based on her training as land use planner, involvement in community governance and extensive experience in community issues relating to Kahaluu, Kaneohe Bay and the Koolaupoko District, I believe that she is well-qualified to serve as a member of the Heeia Authority and will bring both a professional planning and community governance perspective to our deliberations. These are certainly qualities that will serve the Hawaii Community Development Authority well in administering the Heeia Community Development District. I offer my support for her confirmation by the State Senate and urge your favorable consideration of her nomination.

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

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March 5, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 600 (GM 600)**

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, AMY LUERSEN  
HAWAI'I COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair and Members of the Committee:

**I support the nomination of Ms. Amy Luersen to the Hawai'i Community Development Corporation (HCDA).** I have known Ms. Luersen for over 15 years. During that time, I have personally worked with Ms. Luersen as a fellow Director of the Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project, a non-profit community based organization located in Kahalu'u.

Ms. Luersen is a long-time resident of Ko'olaupoko who has continuously been involved in various community initiatives, including the Kāne'ohē Bay Master Plan. What has made Amy so outstanding is her personal and professional commitment to engaging the community on issues and concerns that have broad implications to the community. She is a person of great integrity and professionalism who is well respected in Ko'olaupoko and the larger community.

Her personal experience working with the Ko'olaupoko community and her professional experience in planning uniquely qualifies her to sit on the Hawai'i Community Development Board to represent Ko'olaupoko. She will bring the necessary skills and perspective to the HCDA Board as they consider matters under their jurisdiction, in particular, those related to the lands in He'eia.

I respectfully ask that Ms. Luersen's nomination receive the consent of your committee, and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn N.S. Chang  
Principal



# *Ko'olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749, Kane'ohe, HI 96744

Ph. (808) 218-4915

March 7, 2012

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM600, NOMINATING AMY LUERSEN  
TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Ko'olau Foundation, I speak in strong support of Mrs. Amy Luersen to serve as a Ko'olaupoko member of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. She will fill one of three seats representing our moku.

Amy has enjoyed a long and loving relationship with the people of Ko'olaupoko, most particularly with all of our ahupua'a around Kane'ohe Bay, ever since she first set her roots down in our moku over 20 years ago. She understands community planning, and she understands our people.

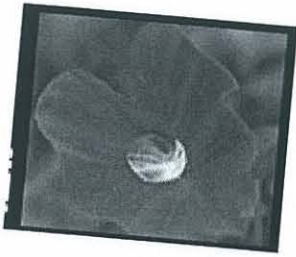
We consider her to have unquestionable integrity and commitment to our community, and believe she will bring great value to the deliberations of the Authority as it considers actions affecting HCDA lands in Ko'olaupoko.

Amy is inclusive and steadfast; she can be counted upon to be fair and objective in evaluating matters that come before her as a member of the HCDA board. She will help look out for the interests of HCDA and of the people of Hawai'i.

We urge your committee's approval of this nomination, and the Senate's confirmation of Amy to the HCDA board.

Mahalo nui loa.

MAHEALANI CYPHER



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BOARD MEMEBERS

President  
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Vice President  
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Christiane Lucas  
David Henkin

March 7, 2012

TO: Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
& Members  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, & Housing

FROM: Jerry Kaluhiwa, President  
Kako'o O'iwi

SUBJECT: GM600 – Nomination of Amy Luersen to HCDA

Aloha. **Kako'o O'iwi** offers strong **support** for the confirmation of Amy Luersen to serve on one of the Ko'olaupoko seats with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Ms. Luersen has been a longtime community volunteer, giving many hours of her time and talent to help with the neighborhood board and community planning for Kane'ohe Bay. She was instrumental in helping to develop the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Master Plan, collaborating with many community organizations and interested individuals.

We feel confident that she will be a big help to the HCDA board.

Please approve this nomination and encourage the Senate to confirm her as a new member of the HCDA.

Mahalo.



## KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 7, 2012

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Re: Testimony in Support of GM600, Nomination of Amy Luerson to HCDA

Aloha Senators Dela Cruz, Solomon, and Members of this Committee:

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club supports the nomination of Amy Luersen to serve on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, representing Ko'olaupoko.

Ms. Luersen is well-known as a dedicated community advocate and has spent many years working in our community on various land use and community matters.

We feel she will be an asset to the Authority, with her background in planning and community advocacy. She is knowledgeable about the He'eia area, where the Authority has jurisdiction over state lands.

We urge that her nomination be confirmed by the State Senate.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana'o and recommendation.

Me kealoha pumehana,

ALICE P. HEWETT

President

March 6, 2012

Aloha,


I am writing in support of the nomination of Amy Luersen (GM600) to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. I can think of no person who would be more appropriate for this position. I became acquainted with Ms. Luersen during her time on the Kahaluu Neighborhood Board and was impressed by her ability to deal effectively and thoughtfully with a wide range of issues and personalities. I am in strong support of her appointment to the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

I also will take a moment to state that I stand in strong opposition to the nomination of Alicia Maluafiti (GM590) to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. Ms Maluafiti is a registered lobbyist. The Hawaii Community Development Authority is no place for a registered lobbyist.

Mahalo,

Kimberly A. Langley





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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** scott101@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM600 on 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM GM600

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Denise Snyder  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [scott101@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:scott101@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/7/2012

Comments:  
I support the appointment of Amy Luersen.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:52 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** brilana@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM600 on 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM GM600

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brilana Silva  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [brilana@gmail.com](mailto:brilana@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/7/2012

Comments:

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM600 on 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM GM600

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Penny Levin  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/6/2012

**Comments:**

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this nomination for the HCDA.

Ms Luersen has worked in all aspects of community-based development over the last three decades, including as a founding member and board member of Roots to Wings, an empowering public school program in Windward Oahu that helps students explore and create real life solutions in their own communities. Her experience as chair of the Kahuluu Neighborhood Board and Director of Philanthropic Services at Hawaii Community Foundation (including the Mo Better Together program) and Program Officer for Education (HCF representative to the Hawaii Educational Policy Center) has provided her with the kinds of skills that would serve the HCDA well. Her familiarity with the various state and county general and regional planning documents relevant to the HCDA will be invaluable. Ms. Luersen has served the local community thoughtfully and fairly for over 30 years; she would do the same for the state HCDA.

I urge you to CONFIRM this nomination for the HCDA. mahalo.

**[REDACTED]**


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**From:** Pat Beekman [beekmanp001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:20 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Subject:** GM600 Testimony

**GM600 Testimony**

**StronglySupport Appointment of Amy Luersen to HCDA**

I strongly support the appointment of Amy Luersen to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. She has a long track record of skillful service in community development. Hawaii's future would be well-served by her.

  
**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:18 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** tohhappy@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM600 on 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM GM600

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Teresa Oh Happy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [tohhappy@gmail.com](mailto:tohhappy@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/6/2012

Comments:

~~Dana Wicker~~

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Cc:** jpappas60@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM600 on 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/8/2012 1:20:00 PM GM600

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jan Pappas  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jpappas60@gmail.com](mailto:jpappas60@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/7/2012

Comments:

March 7, 2012

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of Amy Luerson, a gubernatorial nominee to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. I have known Amy for 10 years. During that time, I have known Amy to be knowledgeable, thoughtful and fair-minded about issues in which she is involved. She is also organized, prompt and thorough in completing tasks, many of which she has taken on voluntarily. Additionally, she is a very pleasant person to work with. Please confirm the nomination of Amy Luerson.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

jpappas60@gmail.com

808-383-1988

John L. Reppun  
47-200 Waihe`e Rd.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

March 7, 2012

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
State Capitol,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing Hearing (3-8-12, Item GM600)  
Nomination of Amy Luersen, Ko`olaupoko representative to the Hawaii Community  
Development Authority**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon & Committee Members:

Please accept my testimony in strong support of the above-referenced nomination. The Governor's choice in Amy Luersen, for this newly-created Hawaii Community Development Authority position is an excellent one and one that I am sure will be welcomed by the directly-affected community. Her appointment, if approved by this Committee and the Senate, will bring much-needed depth of understanding for Ko'olaupoko interests and challenges alike to the Authority as well as critical and diverse professional expertise. The future of He'eia, as a newly created "Community Development District" under HCDA (Legislative action in 2011), will benefit greatly from her engagement.

Amy Luersen's resume speaks far more eloquently than I can with regard to her "credentials". It describes a lengthy career that has been fully dedicated to community-based planning from so many angles that are relevant (if not recommended!) to this task she will take on - beginning with an appropriate and qualified educational background in urban and regional planning; tracking through many years of application to fields such as land-use planning in the Kane'ohe Bay area ahupua'a, self-reliance as applied to local communities, economic development, philanthropic assistance and funding; and, of equal importance, her background in working with youth and families with , mauka-makai curriculum development...just a taste of what promises to be a wonderful contribution to our island community.

My own introduction to Amy, over twenty years ago came while serving on the Kaha'u Neighborhood Board. A long time associate, fellow board member and mentor introduced us, and suggested, then, that Amy might be "... a real help to our community". That opening continues to stand out as an incredible understatement as I look back on the countless hours and years she has devoted to projects such as the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan, foundational work setting up the Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, planning and management of a local incubator kitchen/non-profit (Hui Ulu Mea Ai) focused on value-added aspects and education relating to agriculture...and so much more. As the current Executive



Director of KEY Project, a 44-year old community non-profit organization serving Windward O`ahu, I can also attest to her dedication to non-profits, and philanthropy, bringing a deep understanding of that sector's needs and contributions to life in Hawai'i. Her community involvement has taken her farther afield, working with other projects around the state – excellent experience she will bring to bear on the future of this very special ahupua'a.

I ask that you please give her nomination favorable consideration, taking into account a stellar background and her proven ability to work among diverse parties to find common ground.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lewis Reppun". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John L. Reppun (239-5777 or email: [jreppun@keyproject.org](mailto:jreppun@keyproject.org))