



March 8, 2012

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Senate Committee On Water, Land, & Housing

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair

Gubernatorial Nominee Amy S. Luersen
Submitted For Consideration & Confirmation As
Hawai'i Community Development Authority Member

Testimony of Robert Agres, Jr.
Executive Director, Hawai'i Alliance For Community-Based Economic
Development (HACBED)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water, Land, & Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my testimony in support of
**G.M. No. 600, the consideration and confirmation of Amy S. Luersen as a
Member of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).**

I believe that Ms. Luersen is especially qualified to serve as an HCDA Member
because of her extensive community-based planning, community development,
and community leadership experience. Her vast knowledge and expertise in
planning, community revitalization, and community engagement processes are
well-suited to helping guide HCDA's work to redevelop designated *Community
Development Districts* in ways that address resident needs, create economic
opportunities, and aloha 'āina, malama 'āina. Over the 20 years that I have
known Ms. Luersen, I have seen her consistently and effectively act on her
commitment to and passion for implementing innovative community and
economic development approaches that have already realized true benefits for
Hawai'i's people and communities.

In addition, I have had the pleasure and honor of working alongside Ms. Luersen
in her role as a previous Board Member and Board President of HACBED. In
that capacity, she provided strong and steady leadership, a clear and strategic
vision, and a creative and collaborative problem solving approach that helped to
guide our organization. She has also been extremely generous in the
volunteering of her expertise and experience to assist many community-based
organizations and small businesses to establish viable ventures that have
generated meaningful economic opportunities for residents in low and moderate
income communities across the islands.

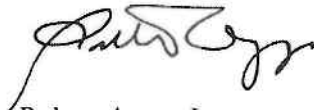
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I believe Ms. Luersen will be a strong member of HCDA because she possesses:


- a high sense of professionalism and integrity;
- a values base of active listening and compassion;
- an attitude and mindset of collaboration and team work;
- a keenly intelligent and analytical mind; and
- a deep sense of commitment and dedication to economic development strategies that truly benefit Hawai'i's people and sustain those aspects of Hawai'i that make it a special and unique place to live, work, and thrive.

I, therefore, hope that you confirm Ms. Luersen's nomination to allow her to contribute her experience, expertise, and love for these islands to HCDA's work to build vibrant and dynamic communities that bring meaningful social and economic benefits to nurture and support Hawai'i's families.

Sincerely,



Robert Agres, Jr.
Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)


From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:43 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: SistahCash@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: Yes
Submitted by: Natalie Cash
Organization: Hawaii Farmers Union United
E-mail: SistahCash@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2012

Comments:

Amy Luersen (Roots to Wings Program and Hawaii Community Foundation) is a great person being nominated with long running, skilled experience in community development.

We are in STRONG SUPPORT of this nominee.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:08 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: BMcD50@aol.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: Beth McDermott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: BMcD50@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2012

Comments:
I am writing to support the appointment of Amy Luersen to the HCDA.