

GM717

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 717: SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LOU LARSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-17

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Nominee

HEARING: **Monday, April 8, 2013; 2:45 pm; CR 016**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Slom, and Members, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing:

Thank you for hearing GM 717, and considering my nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC). I am being nominated for the seat set aside for **"community advocates for low-income housing affiliated with private nonprofit organizations that serve the residents of low-income housing"** in section 201H-3(a), HRS.

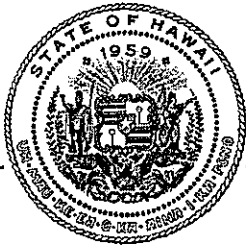
I feel strongly that consumers of housing need to have a voice when decision are made. My background and over 30 years of experience working at Catholic Charities Hawaii have prepared me to see housing from the perspective of those who need it most: families struggling for housing, the elderly / disabled, homeless folks and low-income people. I will provide this important consumer perspective on the Board.

At Catholic Charities Hawaii, I administered housing assistance programs for the elderly and homeless families. My work with housing, aging, and homeless coalitions have given me insight into the needs of the people who will reside in the affordable housing projects promoted by HHFDC. On the other hand, I know the challenges of producing affordable housing projects from my service on the boards of two non-profit housing corporations. These experiences help me to understand and balance sometimes competing needs in the decision making process to award funding at HHFDC.

Having worked with the legislature and other advocates in the 1990's to establish the Rental Housing Trust Fund. I also have a long history in advocacy to promote affordable rental housing. I am also an advocate to create an inventory of affordable housing that remains affordable for the longest period of time that is reasonable. This inventory of stable rental housing is critical for the State to reduce homelessness and provide adequate housing for our lower-income residents.

Thank you for considering my nomination to this important State agency.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING**

Monday, April 8, 2013
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of

**G.M. 717
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII' HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LOU LARSON, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing.

DBEDT supports the nomination of Betty Lou Larson as the representative of community advocates for low-income housing on the HHFDC Board of Directors.

In addition to serving on the HHFDC Board, Ms. Larson is the Social Policy legislative liaison for Catholic Charities Hawai'i and is a member of the Board of the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit developer of affordable rental housing. Ms. Larson is very familiar with the challenges involved with developing affordable housing in the State of Hawaii and is therefore well-qualified to serve on the HHFDC Board.

DBEDT respectfully requests that the Committee support Ms. Larson's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Allan Los Banos, Jr.
Vice Chair, Board of Directors of the
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING**

April 8, 2013 at 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of
G.M. 717

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LOU LARSON, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors **strongly supports** the nomination of Betty Lou Larson as the representative of community advocates for low-income housing.

Ms. Larson is well-versed in affordable housing and homeless issues in her professional life and in her community service efforts, making her a capable advocate for low-income housing. As former Chair of the Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission, Ms. Larson also previously served on the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii Board, and so is familiar with the challenges involved with developing affordable housing in the State of Hawaii.

The HHFDC respectfully requests that the Committee support Ms. Larson's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

GM 717: Support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Betty Lou Larson to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

FROM: Jerry Rauckhorst, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Monday, April 9, 2013, 2:45 pm, Conference Room 16

Thank you for the opportunity to support Betty Lou Larson's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Knowing Ms. Larson as an ethical, experienced, respected and knowledgeable expert on affordable housing with a deep commitment to the community, I can highly recommend her confirmation.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii. We are currently involved in several initiatives to improve the problem of homelessness and lack of affordable housing.

Having worked for Catholic Charities Hawaii in this area for over thirty years as both an administrator and an advocate, Ms. Larson has been a part of all of the important movements in our community during that time to help those struggling to afford housing. She was a part of establishing the Rental Housing Trust Fund, currently Hawaii's greatest hope for significantly increasing the inventory of low-income housing. Her breadth of experience and knowledge is unmatched and her ability to contribute insight and expertise to the decisions of the HHFDC Board of Directors critical to solving the housing problem in Hawaii.

Ms. Larson is also very established within the homelessness and affordable housing provider community. She provides mentorship to others and is in-demand as a taskforce, workgroup and coalition member. As a member of the HHFDC Board of Directors, Ms. Larson brings this broad perspective to the table.

Please ensure that the community will continue to benefit from Betty Lou Larson's contributions as an HHFDC Board Member. Mahalo for your consideration.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

GM 717: Support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Betty Lou Larson to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

FROM: Edward Ontai, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation

Hearing: Monday, April 9, 2013, 2:45 pm, Conference Room 16

Thank you for the opportunity to support Betty Lou Larson's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Knowing Ms. Larson as an ethical, experienced, respected and knowledgeable expert on affordable housing with a deep commitment to the community, I can highly recommend Ms. Larson's confirmation.

Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation (CCHDC) is a tax exempt, non-profit development agency whose primary purpose is to develop, own, and manage affordable housing projects targeted for low-income seniors, families, and those with special needs.

I've had the privilege to work with Ms. Larson while she's been with Catholic Charities Hawaii, both as a colleague, and now as a Board member, where she's been serving on CCHDC's board for the past several years. There's no question how knowledgeable Ms. Larson is regarding the affordable housing issues, but more importantly, she has direct knowledge of the constituents that are to be served by these very important affordable housing projects.

Its this well rounded experience Ms. Larson brings to the table that will provide a very balanced perspective for the HHFDC Board.

Please ensure that the community will continue to benefit from Betty Lou Larson's contributions as an HHFDC Board Member. Mahalo for your consideration.



**Board of Directors**

David Derauf, M.D.
Naomi C. Fujimoto, Esq.
Patrick Gardner, Esq.
John H. Johnson
David J. Reber, Esq.

Executive Director

Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting GM 717

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Scheduled for Hearing April 8, 2013, 2:45 PM, Room 016

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Betty Lou Larson's consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Housing and Finance Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center has worked extensively with Ms. Larson over the past two years in our affordable housing efforts through Partners in Care, Oahu's coalition of homeless service providers, and various coalitions and working groups. Ms. Larson is an invaluable resource to our community. She not only has a true vision for affordable housing but is also able to publicize the work of HHFDC and help the larger community understand its purpose and operations.

Her tireless commitment means she is a constant presence among affordable housing advocates and always available to provide information about the state of affordable housing in Hawai'i. As a result, she consistently furthers the interest of HHFDC in expanding our affordable housing stock through a variety of methods. Ms. Larson has both hands-on experience in affordable housing, is a skilled public advocate, and extensive experience in public policy and administrative work, particularly through her previous service on the HHFDC board.

We are fortunate to have Ms. Larson as a leading advocate for affordable housing and strongly encourage the committee to confirm her to the HHFDC board. Again, thank you for this opportunity to offer our wholehearted support for Ms. Larson's confirmation.

Aloha,

Victor Geminiani,
Executive Director

Jenny Lee,
Staff Attorney

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April 2, 2013

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing Committee
Senate District 22
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu HI 96813

Senator Sam Slom
Vice Chair
Senate District 9
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu HI 96813

RE: Ms. Betty Lou Larson Nomination to the Board of HHFDC

Dear Senators:

I am writing in support of Ms. Betty Lou Larson for confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation ("HHFDC"). As a low-income housing development consultant, I have known Ms. Larson for over 17 years, and she has always steadily been a proponent of affordable housing. Over the years she has consistently proven to me that she has the ability to balance the significant financial costs to provide decent shelter with the social needs of the less fortunate in Hawaii who are in dire need of safe affordable housing. She is of high integrity and character, and has good practical common sense.

I personally feel that HHFDC and the State will benefit with the nomination of Ms. Larson to this position.

Very truly yours,


Gary S. Furuta

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing

Monday, April 8, 2013
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 16

GM 717 - Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Luis Salaveria, current deputy director of the Department of Budget and Finance, and fellow board member for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) serving as Governor's representative. As such I've had the opportunity to work with Ms. Larson over the past year. During this time, Ms. Larson has worked diligently on upholding HHFDC's mission of overseeing affordable housing finance and development in Hawai'i. Ms. Larson's extensive experience with affordable housing projects throughout the state is a valuable asset to the board. Your favorable consideration for Ms. Larson to continue serving on the board will help facilitate the movement of current affordable housing projects.

I humbly urge the members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing to support Ms. Betty Lou Larson's nomination and advancing GM 717 for full Senate confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. Betty Lou Larson to the Board of Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.



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**GM 717
BETTY LOU LARSON
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**RICHARD B. STACK
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
A&B PROPERTIES, INC.**

APRIL 8, 2013

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
Government Operations & Housing:

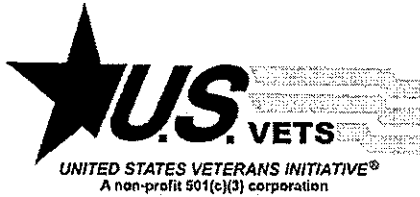
Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Betty Lou Larson as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation.

I have been acquainted with Ms. Larson for many years, first meeting her during her employment as the Housing Program Director of Catholic Charities Hawaii. In this position, Ms. Larson utilized her experience in social work along with her passion for affordable housing issues to provide housing counseling and placement services to Hawaii's most needy families. Ms. Larson then became the Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities, working with community coalitions on issues of housing, homelessness, and social services that impact the people of Hawaii. In addition, she has served as a volunteer on many government and non-profit boards supporting and advocating for homeless and affordable housing solutions.

Ms. Larson is very approachable, pleasant, and a tireless worker. Her experience, dedication and commitment to affordable housing issues will continue to provide great benefit to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation.

It is based on these observations that I support Betty Lou Larson's reappointment as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation. We are all extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated leader like Ms. Larson volunteering her personal time to public service.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

April 6, 2013

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations
and Housing (EGH)
Hearing: April 8, 2013; 2:45 p.m.; Conference Room 16
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

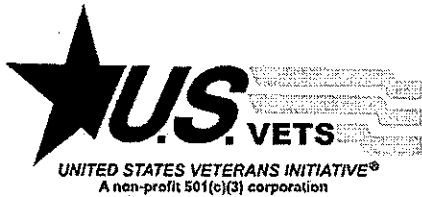
RE: GM 717, Gubernatorial Nomination for Ms. Betty Lou Larson, Continued Term, Board of Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), expiration June 30, 2017.

Senator Dela Cruz:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Ms. Betty Lou Larson's Gubernatorial Nomination by the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawaii, for an extension on the Board of Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), to June 30, 2017.

I was pleased to learn of Ms. Larson's nomination for an extended term by Governor Abercrombie (GM 717), to continue the important work she is performing with the HHFDC, for the benefit of the citizens of Hawaii. I have worked with Ms. Larson in my capacity as Executive Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), Hawaii's coalition of care providers strategizing ways to end homelessness in Hawaii, and she is an invaluable member of PIC and the Hawaii Continuum of Care, working to end homeless in Hawaii.

Ms. Larson is a strong advocate for affordable housing in Hawaii and she will continue to use the wealth of knowledge gained by actively working in the field of social services for 25 years. Ms. Larson currently serves as the Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii and previously as the Housing Programs Director for two Catholic Charities-administered housing programs. Ms. Larson has also directed the Housing Assistance Program on Oahu for elders, continues to participate on the Rental Housing Trust Fund's Advisory Commission as well as the Board of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH), Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), and the Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance. Ms. Larson actively participates on the Advocacy Committee and Executive Committee of Partners in Care's coalition of service providers as Co-Chair for the Advocacy Committee, and on the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, and the Housing & Homelessness Committee of Neighborhood Board #8.



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

Ms. Larson’s dynamic leadership has allowed her to forge strong relationships with community stakeholders, service providers, developers, and elected representatives, as evidenced by awards such as the 2010 NASW Social Worker of the Year Award for Social Justice and Advocacy, and the 2012 YWCA Hawaii Women Leaders Award. Of equal importance, is the mentorship Ms. Larson provides to all those she interacts with, which ensures that the important programs she works with will be sustainable for the next generation.

I strongly support Ms. Larson’s nomination for an extension on the Board of Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), to June 30, 2017 – she will continue to bring knowledge and leadership to the team as she serves the people of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Darryl J. Vincent
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U.S. VETS National
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Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Cell Phone: (808) 330-2825