

LATE

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Resources  
State Senate, State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 226  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

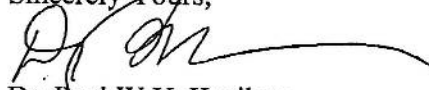
Re: Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Dear Senator Chun Oakland

I am writing as a personal friend of Mrs. Sheri Tanaka and a member of her church. I have worked with her in a number of church affiliated responsibilities and with the Boys Scouts of America. Mrs. Tanaka has always been prompt, willing and excited to serve and give of her time to help church members and also the young men that I was responsible for. As a Doctor and small business owner and one who has been involved with helping individuals in our church try to find housing I have a understanding of the needs of the people of Hawaii in regards to assisted living and feel that Mrs. Tanaka would use her compassion, good judgment, and professional experience to benefit the Department and the State.

Her ability to work with individuals and people in a group setting and her deep desire to achieve common goals without pushing hidden agendas would help the whole political process. Mrs. Sheri Tanaka is genuine in her desires and I would support her nomination.

Sincerely Yours,



Dr. Paul W. Y. Kurihara

LATE

TESTIMONY  
OF  
SHERI J. TANAKA  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN SERVICES  
AFFAIRS  
ON  
March 27, 2014

G.M. 603 and 604

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, gubernatorial nominee, Sheri J. Tanaka, for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered as a member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. I want to also extend a warm mahalo to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here in attendance lending me their support and aloha.

I truly feel blessed to have had the opportunity to be born and raised in Hawaii. I am deeply grateful for the many friends and families who have guided me in my personal life and business career. I have a couple of mentors who I owe a tremendous amount of aloha and mahalo to. First, my parents Nelson Tanaka and Peggy Tanaka, who have taught me the importance of education, commitment, hard work, and integrity. Second, my brothers Ronald and Ryan Tanaka and my husband Lou, who have been examples to

me and taught me throughout my life that any dream is possible through determination and hard work. Third, I would like to thank all of my family and friends who have been the foundation in my life and truly touched my life in so many ways. All of these individuals constantly remind me of the true spirit of “aloha” and the responsibility I have to give back to the community for all that I have been given.

Through the support of my family and friends, I was able to obtain my bachelors degree in Broadcast Journalism and minor in Political Science from Brigham Young University. I then had the opportunity to attend law school and obtain my bar license in both Hawaii and California and my Hawaii Real Estate License. I currently have my own law firm and I feel strongly that my legal perspective will greatly contribute to my role as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (“HPHA”).

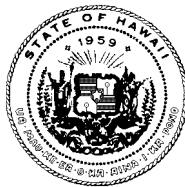
Over the last decade, I have had the opportunity to travel abroad and spend time in places such as American Samoa, Western Samoa, Guam, Palau, New Zealand, Tahiti, Japan, and so forth. These unique experiences abroad have allowed me to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures and traditions in Hawaii. I know that my diversity of experiences through work and in my personal life will allow me to assist in fulfilling the Hawaii Public Housing Authority’s Mission “to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.”

There are many challenges the State is facing with regard to housing. My vision for HPHA is to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority currently in place and to work with the community to collaborate and provide solutions to overcome the current problems and obstacles facing the community.

Through my hard work ethic, legal perspective, humility, commitment, and desire to serve, I will strive to serve the State of Hawaii and the public to the best of my abilities.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for your continual hard work and all that you do for the State of Hawaii. I appreciate having the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for considering my nomination and again, thank you to everyone who submitted testimony on my behalf and to those who are here supporting me today.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 27, 2014

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 603 – Gubernatorial Nomination of Ms. Sheri Tanaka to the  
Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2014, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Ms. Sheri Tanaka to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Ms. Tanaka's legal, real estate, and media background will help the HPHA Board in articulating important public housing issues and proposals.

The DHS requests a favorable consideration of Ms. Tanaka's nomination to the HPHA Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.