



GM 701

GILBERT DE MOTTA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GILBERT DE MOTTA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Current Referral: HMS



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 9, 2014

Statement of

Senator Malama Solomon,

Hawai'i Senate District 4 (Hilo, Hāmākua, Waimea, Kohala, Waikoloa, Kona)

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, April 10, 2014; 1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of

GM 701

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF GILBERT DE MOTTA**

To the Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Vice Chair Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

I respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Gilbert De Motta to serve as a Board of Director of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2015. Mr. De Motta has been nominated to fill the role as director having substantial experience or expertise in developing housing on Hawai'i County.

Mr. De Motta is well known for his past services as a leader in the community by forming a non-profit organization, The Hāmākua Company, to assist when the plantations closed by providing adequate housing for Plantation workers. Mr. De Motta is well regarded and his resume illustrates his contributions to the community.

For these reasons, I urge your confirmation of Mr. De Motta's appointment to serve as a Board of Director on the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority.

Aloha Pumehana,

Senator Malama Solomon, Ph.D.
Hawai'i Senate District 4
(Hilo, Hāmākua, Waimea, Kohala, Waikoloa, Kona)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 9, 2014

Senator Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM701 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GILBERT DE MOTTA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I highly recommend the appointment of nominee Gilbert De Motta to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

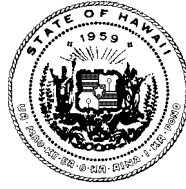
Mr. De Motta has held numerous leadership roles including serving as the President of the Board to Hawaii Island Community Development, which assists individuals to obtain homeownership. He also served as the President for the Board of Jack Hall Housing Projects on Hawaii Island. His collaborative efforts have focused on the best interest of our local community, and his motivation and perseverance helped the success of programs such as the USDA Rural Development's Mutual Self-Help Housing Program, which assists very-low to low income families in attaining homeownership.

I believe Gilbert De Motta will do an exemplary job serving the people of Hawaii, and will utilize his experience and knowledge to be a quality contributor on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Sincerely,

CLIFT TSUJI

Representative Clift Tsuji
District 2: Keaukaha; parts of Hilo, Panaewa & Waiakea
State Capitol 415 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8480 Toll-free from Hawaii Island 974-4000 ext. 68480
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

April 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 701 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF MR. GILBERT DE
MOTTA TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 2014, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Mr. Gilbert De Motta to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Mr. De Motta has been and is still currently actively involved with housing development on Hawaii Island as the Chairman of the ILWU Housing Committee for the Big Island. He was the President of the Hawaii Community Development Corporation for 15 years.

Mr. De Motta's community involvement and knowledge of the issues facing persons who need housing will help the HPHA Board in articulating their important public housing issues and proposals.

The DHS requests a favorable consideration of Mr. De Motta's nomination to the HPHA Board.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

JADE T. BUTAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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**TESTIMONY BY DWIGHT TAKAMINE
IN SUPPORT OF NOMINEE**

GILBERT DE MOTTA

To the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Senate Committee on Human Services

Thursday, April 10, 2014

1:15p

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for the confirmation of Gilbert De Motta as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I have had the honor of knowing Mr. De Motta for nearly 30 years. We worked closely when I was a state legislator for the Hamakua District and he was the ILWU Housing Committee Chairman for the Big Island, a position he still holds. He was instrumental in helping employees of the Hamakua Sugar Company secure the plantation homes they lived in for generations following the closing of the company.

In addition to his knowledge and good judgment, Mr. DeMotta has been committed to serving the best interests of workers in Hawaii for all of his working life. When most of the ILWU members, which were sugar workers and their families, lived in camp housing, their rent was cheap. Therefore, when the Kulaimano Housing Program was developed, it was difficult for the employees to accept a higher mortgage payment in lieu of paying cheaper rent to the plantation.

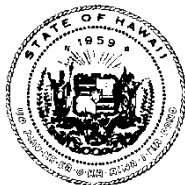
Mr. DeMotta was responsible for helping to educate many of the workers and convincing them that this would be an "investment" in their future. Today, many of these workers and their families have a valuable asset to pass on to their children, and in retrospect, appreciate the efforts Mr. DeMotta made to help so many sugar worker families.

I believe that Mr. De Motta will be an excellent addition to the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. His dedication to the housing concerns of the Big Island will prove to be an invaluable asset. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dwight Takamine
Director, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

April 10, 2014 1:15 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 701

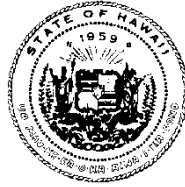
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII' I PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GILBERT DE MOTTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Governor's Message (G.M.) 701, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Gilbert De Motta, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Mr. De Motta to the HPHA Board of Directors. The HPHA Board needs directors with a variety of life experiences and professional expertise in order to effectively fulfill its role as a policy guide for the agency. Mr. De Motta's years of experience in assisting the community with home ownership through the Hamakua Company, as well as his experience as a past President of the Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation Board and current member of the Hamakua Credit Union Board, will be extremely valuable to the HPHA Board when reviewing redevelopment and policy issues.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency's position regarding G.M. 701. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Mr. Gilbert De Motta to the Hawaii'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
David J. Gierlach
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

April 10, 2014 1:15 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 701

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GILBERT DE MOTTA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Governor's Message (G.M.) 701, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Gilbert De Motta, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

My name is David Gierlach, and I am the Chair of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors (BOARD) and support the confirmation of Mr. Gilbert De Motta to the HPHA Board of Directors. I believe that with Mr. Gilbert De Motta's experience as a past President of the Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation Board, as well as a current member of the Hamakua Credit Union Board, he will bring a fresh perspective, and I am confident that Mr. Gilbert De Motta will be an asset to the State and to this BOARD.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with my position regarding G.M. 701. I respectfully request the Committee to confirm Mr. Gilbert De Motta to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

The Senate
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Committee on Human Services
April 10, 2014, 1:15 p.m.
Room 016

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters on GM 701,
Confirmation of Gilbert De Motta to the Board of Directors, Hawaii Public Housing Authority

We urge the confirmation of Gilbert De Motta to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

While no one person can know how to overcome the many challenges in carrying out the mission of the Public Housing Authority, Mr. De Motta's years of experience in the successful provision of affordable housing will add an important perspective. He has, and continues to serve voluntarily on the Boards of numerous nonprofit housing organizations, has lead the transition for thousands of plantation workers and their families from aged rental stock to fee simple ownership, and has walked tent to tent to talk with park dwellers about subsidized rental housing.

He has always kept the people in need of housing as the priority, but has also experienced the realities of project ownership and management purposed with serving the greater good. Mr. De Motta gained this experience while actually getting decent shelter built for families and the elderly earning 50% and below median income. Through this work in the private nonprofit sector, he has gained an awareness of financing, construction and renovation realities.

He will bring a conviction of fairness for the residents he has walked among all his life, combined with practical approaches to operating housing for renters of modest means. Thank you for your support of the confirmation of Gilbert De Motta.

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014

THE SENATE

Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Thursday, April 10, 2014; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 701 ON GILBERT DE MOTTA
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports G.M. 701 for the confirmation of Gilbert DeMotta to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Mr. DeMotta was a rank-and-file member of the ILWU for more than 40 years. He retired when the sugar company he worked for, Hilo Coast Processing Company, shut down in the mid-1990s, but he continued to work as a tour bus driver, even taking classes for a state certification.

While working as an ILWU member and in retirement, Mr. DeMotta volunteered with the ILWU housing program, helping to develop fee-simple subdivisions for sugar plantation workers (notably, 400 homes in Kulaimano converted from ownership by C. Brewer to the workers themselves) and affordable rental housing for low- to moderate-income elderly individuals and families. He was the chair of the ILWU's Statewide Housing Committee for many years and coordinated self-help housing on the Big Island for more than 30 years.

Mr. DeMotta helped the ILWU initiate several nonprofit housing corporations that, through the years, developed affordable rental housing projects for families and the elderly in Waipahu, Kona, Ewa, Waikoloa, Kohala, and Pahala. Mr. DeMotta was involved in the development of these projects from their inception and continues to be involved in their continuing operation.

While he has worked tirelessly to ensure that ordinary workers can qualify for homeownership, Mr. DeMotta also fully understands the need for affordable rental housing. His many years of experience and his expertise will prove invaluable in helping to advance the mission of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Gilbert DeMotta for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Thank you for considering our testimony.