



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:

Amended Statement of
Ralph Mesick
Chair, Board of Directors
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

March 18, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

In consideration of
S.B. 2799, S.D. 2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

The HHFDC Board of Directors **supports** S.B. 2799, S.D. 2, an Administration bill. S.B. 2799, S.D. 2 authorizes the HHFDC Board of Directors to set the overall compensation of the HHFDC Executive Director, subject to an as yet unspecified dollar limit. However, the Board prefers the language of the House counterpart, H.B. 2250, H.D. 2, previously heard by this Committee

The HHFDC is a comprehensive agency with 71 authorized positions and over \$1 billion in assets. The Executive Director is the chief administrator of an agency that is responsible for facilitating the development of housing that is affordable to lower- and moderate-income households. HHFDC has assisted in the development of 3,263 affordable units statewide over the last five years, with 4,827 more units in the pipeline. In a recent national search for an executive director, only a few of the over 50 applicants possessed the desired skill set for the position. We believe this is largely due to the statutory maximum salary of 85% of that of the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development which makes it the lowest of state housing finance agencies nationwide. HHFDC is fortunate to have hired a highly qualified and committed individual who was willing to accept the set salary.

The ability to provide the Executive Director with a salary that is reasonable and not excessive is a critical governance tool for the HHFDC Board. Coupled with the existing oversight tools of establishing and monitoring goals and objectives and conducting annual performance evaluations, we believe the passage of S.B. 2799, S.D. 2 will support HHFDC in meeting its housing mission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Amended Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

March 18, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

In consideration of
S.B. 2799, S.D. 2
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION.**

Chair Nakashima, and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public
Employment.

DBEDT **supports** S.B. 2799, S.D. 2, an Administration bill. S.B. 2799, S.D. 2
authorizes the HHFDC Board of Directors to set the salary of the HHFDC Executive
Director up to an unspecified amount. However, we prefer the House counterpart bill,
H.B. 2250, H.D. 2, previously adopted by this Committee.

Under current law, the HHFDC Board of Directors conducts an annual
performance review of the Executive Director in order to set the salary level, up to the
statutory maximum of eighty-five percent of the salary of the Director of the Department
of Human Resources Development. This is the lowest of all state housing finance
agencies nationwide. Passage of this bill would allow the HHFDC Board of Directors to
set an appropriate compensation level for the current Executive Director and to attract
and retain qualified individuals in the future.

DBEDT respectfully requests that the Committee pass this bill. Thank you for the
opportunity to testify.