

GM611

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DE MELLO, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HOU

Introducer(s):



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 5, 2016

**Testimony of Rep. Clift Tsuji
Before the Senate Committee on Housing
Thursday, April 7, 2016, 2:45 p.m. State Capitol, Room 225
RE: GM 610 and GM 611**

Aloha Chair Harimoto and Committee Members:

Please accept my support for George De Mello's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. I believe that Mr. De Mello's extensive work history, record of community service, and personal experience as a resident and leader of a public housing community, makes him someone who will bring significant benefit to this Board of Directors.

I have known Mr. De Mello for 20 years and can attest to his good character and the enthusiasm with which he takes on projects. He managed restaurants and coordinated banquet service, served as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 65, and established his own small business.

At present, Mr. De Mello serves as the President of the Lanakila Residents Association, is a member of the State Residents Advisory Board, and is Chairman of the Hilo Evictions Board. Within the Hilo community, Mr. De Mello volunteers with the Merrie Monarch Festival, having done so for the past 41 years, where he has served in several leadership positions and is currently the Assistant Festival Coordinator.

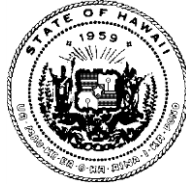
Mr. De Mello's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority will bring his strong work ethic, civic mindedness, and valuable experience to the Board. I humbly ask that you give positive consideration to Mr. De Mello's nomination.

Sincerely,



CLIFT TSUJI

27-9



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

April 5, 2016

TO: The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: GM610: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DE MELLO, for a term to expire 06-30-2016.

GM611: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DE MELLO, for a term to expire 06-30-2020

Hearing: Thursday, April 7, 2016, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

Department's Position: The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of George De Mello to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. George De Mello for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). Mr. De Mello has a variety of professional and volunteer experiences as an active member of the Hilo community and brings a valuable tenant perspective. He has also served in leadership roles on a number of advisory boards related to low income housing.

The Department's mission and multi-generational approach, 'Ohana Nui, are focused on serving children, families, and individuals in our community and empower Hawai'i residents with support and services to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life, and personal dignity.

Access to secure, stable, and affordable housing is essential. Public housing is an integral part of our mission, and DHS appreciates partnering with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to provide access to homes in our community.

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