

# **GM748**

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA FUKUMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HOU

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
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  
**LEILANI PULMANO**  
Chair, Board of Directors of the  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

April 13, 2017 at 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of

**G.M. 748**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII' I HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA S. Y. FUKUMOTO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors **strongly supports** the nomination of Rona S. Y. Fukumoto as the Board's representative of community advocates for low-income housing.

Ms. Fukumoto is highly qualified to serve in this position. She is currently division administrator for Catholic Charities Hawaii's Housing Assistance and Referral Programs, and is the nonprofit's former director of intake, information and referral. Prior to that, she worked her way up from employment specialist to vice president and director of employment and community programs at Winners at Work from 1995 to 2004. Ms. Fukumoto also served as an educational specialist and office assistant at UH Manoa's KOKUA Program. She currently volunteers as a member of the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation and Hawaii State Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Advisory Council, is a former member of the Hawaii Parkinson Association, and also volunteers for Project Dana, providing respite care through home visits to elderly individuals. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in public administration from UH Manoa.

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



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 748: Rona Fukumoto

**TO:** Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Housing

**FROM:** Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

**Hearing:** Thursday, April 13, 2017; 2:45 pm; CR 225

It is our great pleasure to strongly support the confirmation of **Rona Fukumoto to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).**

Ms. Fukumoto brings a unique perspective to the board, as both a service provider and a board member of a non-profit housing corporation. Her work for 13 years at Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) as Director of Intake, Information and Referral and as Division Administrator has given her a deep understanding of the needs of lower income people, especially the challenges they face with housing. She has secured millions of dollars in contracts for CCH to provide services and assistance to people-in-need, primarily for housing related services.

Every day, Catholic Charities Hawai'i receives calls from renters facing homelessness. Ms. Fukumoto has managed programs that address these needs for veterans, the elderly, families with minor children, the chronically homeless (through a Housing First partnership), homeless and at-risk individuals who often don't know where to turn for help.

She also has strong links with a wide range of community organizations. As a member of Partners in Care, she has serviced as the Planning Chair. She has participated in community, parish, and state planning in regard to enhancing the coordination of service delivery among organizations, community/government agencies and groups serving the homeless or persons at-risk of homelessness. She also serves as CCH's representative to the Hawaii State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

On the other hand, as a member of the Board of Directors of a non-profit housing corporation, Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation since 2012, she understands the complexities of development. She brings both sides of the housing equation together: development and the people who will eventually live in the projects funded by HHFDC.

Ms. Fukumoto also has a strong background in employment services from her almost 20 years of work at Winners at Work. As HHFDC looks at workforce housing and how to house Hawaii's workers, her experience gives her a unique perspective on the needs of a wide range of workers.

We strongly urge your support for the appointment of Rona Fukumoto to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), or at 373-0356, if you have any questions.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 1:17 PM  
**To:** HOU Testimony  
**Cc:** marcil@stoptheviolence.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM748 on Apr 13, 2017 14:45PM\*

**GM748**

Submitted on: 4/6/2017

Testimony for HOU on Apr 13, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marci Lopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To:

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Subject:

GM 748

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Governatorial Nominee, RONA FUKUMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Hearing:

DATE: Thursday, April 13, 2017  
TIME: 2:45 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Hello, I am Marlee Kealoha and I'm a Graduate Student at UH Manoa, studying for my Master's in Social Work. I'm testifying on in support of consideration and confirmation of Rona Fukumoto for Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing and Development Corporation.

I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Rona when I was a practicum student at Catholic Charities, in the Intake, Information & Referral department. Rona was a great person to work with even though she was a very busy person. Rona did her best to be available to the employees in the department. While I was there, I saw that she was a dedicated, hard working person and that she cared about her staff. She encouraged her staff, checked in on them and followed up with them. She met with the various programs in the department and made time to make sure that things were on track. She even cared about the practicum students in the office by not forgetting about us. She treated us just like we were employees, with respect and involved us in office gatherings.

From my experience, I believe that Rona would be an asset to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation. I again support that Rona Fukumoto be confirmed to the Board. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Marlee Kealoha  
University of Hawai'i Manoa



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

April 7, 2017

Senator Will Espero  
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St., Room 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my desire to continue serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation with you and the Senate Committee on Housing. I am honored to be nominated by Governor Ige for a second term. I look forward to continuing to ensure that the affordable housing needs in Hawai'i are met.

Thank you for considering my nomination. If you have further questions or would like clarification of any response, please contact me at 728-9981 or email [rfukumoto@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:rfukumoto@catholiccharitieshawaii.org).

Sincerely,

Rona S.Y. Fukumoto

Enclosure



Written Statement for the April 13, 2017 hearing to confirm the nomination of Rona S.Y. Fukumoto to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation?

I would like to continue to serve on the Board of Directors for HHFDC to advocate on behalf of the low income individuals and families served by homeless programs and service provider coalitions across the state (i.e. Partners in Care, Bridging the Gap, Nations of Micronesia). Other members of the board are experts in the financial aspects of housing development, I want to ensure that the social aspects are also considered as we develop affordable housing.

- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of this board?

I believe my role is to advocate for low-income households. Many of the individuals and families served by the Housing Assistance and Referral Programs Division of Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) have very low income and I understand the struggle they face in the housing market. As a leader in homeless services I keep abreast of resource needs, best practices and available services for people who are homeless or at-risk. I believe my role is to look for opportunities to bridge service providers and housing development so the needs of our community are met.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of this board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a board member.

I have over 13 years of experience working with clients facing housing instability and homelessness. CCH administers multiple housing assistance programs; including programs that target families with children, seniors, veterans, Native Hawaiians, and chronically homeless individuals. Through my work, I have an understanding of the diverse housing needs in the community. I serve in a field that primarily views the issue through a social work lens; however, my Master's degree is in Public Administration and I understand that managing public resources requires partnership between the government, non-profit and private businesses. Balancing the requirements of all the entities is essential for projects that serve the community to work. This is very evident in the development of affordable housing. As a board member, I will view the issue through multiple lenses and work with the staff of HHFDC and the rest of the board to make the best decision for the community. In addition, I serve on the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation. Through this experience, I have an understanding of housing development through the lens of a developer. This also helps me to have a balanced approach.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to be a good steward of state resources and help significantly increase the stock of affordable housing in Hawaii with special consideration for very low-income households.

- (5) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on this board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

A possible conflict of interest are the projects that CCHDC submits for funding. I will recuse myself from discussion and voting when these projects are considered.