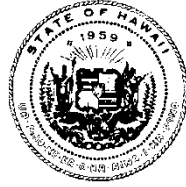


GM 746
BETTY LARSON

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Monday, April 22, 2019
1:00 PM
Room 423, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 746

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Betty Larson, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony in support of Governor's Message 746, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Betty Larson, for a term to expire June 30, 2023.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Ms. Larson 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. Ms. Larson has many years of public and non-profit sector experience in housing and homelessness and is a former Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) Board Member. Ms. Larson will be extremely valuable in providing policy guidance that will lead the HPHA Board of Directors into the future.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding G.M. 746. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Ms. Larson to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.



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
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

April 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of
G.M. 746

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BETTY LARSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023.

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation ***strongly supports*** the nomination of Betty Lou Larson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). The HPHA will be fortunate to have an individual with Ms. Larson's depth and breadth of experience with low-income housing and homeless issues on its Board.

Ms. Larson is well-versed in affordable housing and homeless issues in her past professional life and in her community service. As former Housing Programs Director and current Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii, and current Board President of the Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii, she has demonstrated her strong commitment to these issues. Ms. Larson also previously served on the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii Board, so she is familiar with the challenges in maintaining the State's public housing inventory.

The HHFDC respectfully requests that the Committee support Ms. Larson's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of this nomination.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TO: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Stella M.Q. Wong, Acting Chief Executive Officer

HEARING: Monday, April 22, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 423

Subject: **Testimony in Support of GM 746: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of GM 746 and the nomination of Betty Lou Larson** to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Ms. Larson has been employed by Catholic Charities Hawai'i for almost 38 years. During that time, she has had a wide range of experiences working with disabled and independent elders, homeless families and individuals in need of affordable rental housing. She has been an advocate for affordable housing since the 1990's when she participated in the advocacy that created the Rental Housing Revolving Fund. She has served on numerous government boards and commissions, including the board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority when it was merged with the current Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. This has given her experience in the oversight of government agencies and state goals and initiatives.

Ms. Larson also brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of housing development from her participation on three non-profit housing corporation boards, including the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation. As the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is in the process of re-developing many of its family and senior housing projects, Ms. Larson would be a strong asset to the board.

I urge your support of Betty Lou Larson for the board of the HPHA. Thank you.





1809 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Thursday, April 18, 2019

Testimony in Support of GM 746: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

TO: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Rona Fukumoto, Lanakila Pacific

HEARING: (Monday, April 22, 2019, 1:00 pm Room #423

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of GM 746 and the nomination of Betty Lou Larson** to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

Ms. Larson has been employed by Catholic Charities Hawai'i for almost 38 years where I was privileged to work alongside of her. During that time, she had a wide range of experiences working with elders, homeless families and individuals in need of stable housing. She has been an advocate for affordable housing since the 1990's when she participated in the advocacy that created the Rental Housing Revolving Fund.

Ms. Larson has served on numerous government boards and commissions, including the board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority when it was merged with the current Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. This has given her experience in the oversight of government agencies and state goals and initiatives.

Ms. Larson brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of housing needs, housing development and the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Ms. Larson would be a strong asset to the board. I urge your support for Betty Lou Larson for the board of the HPHA.

Lanakila Pacific Board
Scott Nahme, *Chair*
Carl Hinson, *Vice Chair*
Kristi O'Heron *Secretary*
Dwayne Takeno, *Treasurer*
Bob Toyofuku
Suzanne Kaulukukui

JoAnn Yosemori
Savan Patel
Tom Hutton
Maria Borje-Bonkowski
Sherri Yim
Paige Choy
Dawn Hirano
Frank Ho

Foundation Board
Ryan Yamamoto, *Chair*
Cleo Brown, *Vice Chair*
Alton Murakami,
Treasurer/Secretary
Bill Kern
Ed Sugimoto

Jackson Nakasone
Jodi Endo Chai
Scott Kavanaugh
Mike Robinson
Bryan Kapeckas
Emmit Kane

President and CEO
Rona Yagi Fukumoto





CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Testimony in Support of GM 746: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTY LOU LARSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

TO: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Nominee

HEARING: **Monday, 4/22/19; 1:00 pm; Conference Room 423**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for hearing **GM 746**, and considering my nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). I am being nominated for the seat addressing disabled persons.

I feel strongly that consumers of housing need to have a voice when decision are made. My background and almost 38 years of experience working at Catholic Charities Hawaii have prepared me to see housing from the perspective of those who need it most: disabled persons including elders, as well as families struggling for housing, homeless folks and low-income people. I will provide this important consumer perspective.

At Catholic Charities Hawaii, I administered housing assistance programs for the elderly and homeless families. My work with housing, aging, and homeless coalitions have given me insight into the needs of the people who will reside in the public housing projects operated by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Many of the elders that I personally assisted in our Housing Assistance Program were disabled. Some were in our group homes and many other disabled elders were able to be placed in senior housing for independent living. I also know the challenges of producing affordable housing projects from my service on the boards of three non-profit housing corporations. Since the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is in the process of redeveloping its many units of affordable housing, I feel that my experiences help me to understand and balance sometimes competing needs in the decision making process to develop new housing that would meet the needs of the people of Hawaii.

I am an advocate to create an inventory of affordable housing that addresses a range of incomes but most critically, will provide housing to very low income persons, including the disabled and elders. This is a critical mission of the HPHA. This inventory of stable rental housing is essential for the State to reduce homelessness and provide adequate housing for our lower-income residents.

Thank you for considering my nomination to this important State agency.



Statement of
Mary Alice Evans

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Monday, April 22, 2019
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of
GM 746
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority, gubernatorial Nominee,
BETTY LARSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2023.**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **support** for the confirmation of Betty Lou Larson to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I had the good fortune to serve with Betty Lou on the HHFDC board for several years. Betty Lou worked for Catholic Charities for many years as their affordable housing advocate. She has a detailed knowledge of the many challenges that Hawaii's low-income families face in finding and keeping affordable homes. She will be a valuable addition to the HPHA board.

I respectfully urge you to recommend advise and consent to the nomination of Betty Larson to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-746

Submitted on: 4/19/2019 11:17:43 AM

Testimony for HOU on 4/22/2019 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Members of the Housing Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of MS. BETTY LARSON for the Board of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. I have seen Ms. Larson over the years in a number of civic capacities, as a capable housing advocate who is curious and knowledgeable about financing and urban planning. We need people with Ms. Larson's technical proficiency and dedication involved in public housing.

Writing as an urban planner, it is important that we seek the utmost in integrity and professionalism as we go about the society-impacting work of planning. Ms. Larson's nomination mirrors the American Institute of Certified Planners' Code of Ethics. Its very first tenet states:

"Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest and we, therefore, owe our allegiance to a conscientiously attained concept of the public interest that is formulated through continuous and open debate. We shall achieve high standards of professional integrity, proficiency, and knowledge. To comply with our obligation to the public, we aspire to the following principles)

a) We shall always be conscious of the rights of others.

b) We shall have special concern for the long-range consequences of present actions.

c) We shall pay special attention to the interrelatedness of decisions.

d) We shall provide timely, adequate, clear, and accurate information on planning issues to all affected persons and to governmental decision makers.

e) We shall give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them. Participation should be broad enough to include those who lack formal organization or influence.

f) We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs.

g) We shall promote excellence of design and endeavor to conserve and preserve the integrity and heritage of the natural and built environment.

h) We shall deal fairly with all participants in the planning process. Those of us who are public officials or employees shall also deal evenhandedly with all planning process participants.

The above speak to Ms. Larson's character and experiential qualifications. I believe she will seek truth as it can be derived from available facts. Further, she will work to represent diverse and underserved voices on the Board. She thinks carefully about the long-range consequences of the Board's actions, aspiring and striving for an improved social welfare. That makes her a formidable person to debate against. The public needs such advocates who are tough, honest and compassionate. Please vote to confirm.

Respectfully,

Dylan P. Armstrong,
indiv.