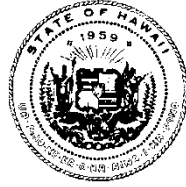


GM 748  
SUSAN KUNZ (2019)

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. 748 and G.M. 749**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Susan Kunz, for a term to expire 06-30-2019 and for a term to expire 06-30-2022.**

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 748 and Governor's Message 749, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Susan Kunz, for a term to expire June 30, 2019 and for a term to expire June 30, 2022.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the confirmation of Ms. Kunz 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. Kunz has many years of public and non-profit sector experience in affordable housing in Hawai'i County and she will be a great asset to the HPHA Board of Directors.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding G.M. 748 and G.M. 749. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Ms. Kunz to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 4/17/2019 1:09:22 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wil Okabe	Testifying for Hawaii County	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Stanley Chang and Vice Dru Kanuha,

It is a privilege and honor to forward you my strong support for the nomination of Susan Kunz to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Susan demonstrates outstanding communication skills and knowledge relating to housing programs from the county government to the private sector. As former Governor Ige's Liaison I observed enormous time and effort that she devotes to her job. Her knowledge and expertise are critical to making Public Housing a priority in this state.

I wholeheartedly recommend Susan Kunz, to the BOD of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

I have no reservations in my recommendation.

If you have any questions or concerns , please do not hesitate to contact me.



**Wil Okabe**  
Managing Director  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2306  
Hilo, HI 96720

E-mail: [wokabe@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:wokabe@hawaiicounty.gov)  
808-961-8211



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: [www.hopeserviceshawaii.org](http://www.hopeserviceshawaii.org)

Connect via email: [info@hopeserviceshawaii.org](mailto:info@hopeserviceshawaii.org)

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

Hearing: GM 748 in support  
Date: April 22, 2019  
Location: State Capitol – Rm. 423  
To: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai‘i, a nonprofit homelessness service provider, in strong support of Ms. Susan Kunz, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority.

I first met Ms. Kunz nearly 15 years ago as a community partner and colleague from the Hawai‘i County Housing and Community Development Office. She has held the top Housing position for the County of Hawai‘i, and as the previous County Housing Administrator, Susan was responsible for the planning, administration and operations of all County Housing programs including the Section 8 program. Additionally, she has overseen over \$17,000,000 annually in federal grants from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

After working with Hawai‘i County, Ms. Kunz moved on to become the Executive Director of Big Island Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing units throughout Hawai‘i Island. Her track record as a collaborative leader has led to increased affordable housing inventory and improved homeless facilities.

I’ve also witnessed Ms. Kunz in action, as she worked to ensure our community’s safety following the impacts of Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014. Ms Kunz leveraged her network of community partners, bringing people together to work toward collaborative and mutually beneficial solutions to help those most in need.

We would be so lucky to have her as a Board of Director of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to confirm Susan Kunz for the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brandee Menino

Chief Executive Officer  
HOPE Services Hawaii, Inc.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
357 Waiuanuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 935-3050  
fax: (808) 935-3794

HALE MALUHIA  
EMERGENCY SHELTER  
110 Ululani Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 443-4717  
fax: (808) 934-7456

KIHEI PUA  
EMERGENCY SHELTER  
115 Kapi‘olani Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 933-6053  
fax: (808) 934-0904

VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAMS  
21 West Ohea Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 934-8658  
fax: (808) 934-8658

FRIENDLY PLACE RESOURCE CENTER  
74-5593 Pawai Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
phone: (808) 933-6062  
fax: (808) 329-6219

WEST HAWAII EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM  
74-5593 Pawai Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
phone: (808) 217-5560  
fax: (808) 327-2171

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
President  
Anne Harpham

Interim Vice-President/  
Treasurer  
Charlene Iboshi

Secretary  
Rev. Robert Stark, SSS

Directors  
Carol R. Ignacio  
Gwen DeCoito  
Patrick Hurney  
Dean Au

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brandee Menino

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 4/16/2019 4:08:07 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donn Mende	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Susan over the past several years in her capacity as the County of Hawaii's Housing Director and in her current role as the Executive Director for the Big Island Housing Foundation. I believe she would be a great asset to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. I strongly support her nomination.

April 6, 2019

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for Susan Kunz to the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors

Aloha, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer strong support for the nomination of Susan Kunz to serve on the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors. Susan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of housing programs from the private sector and county government.

Susan did a tremendous job as the Administrator of the County of Hawai'i Office of Housing and Community Development where she oversaw the planning, administration and operation of all of the County's housing programs. I had the opportunity and pleasure to work closely with Susan on multiple housing and homeless projects. I was consistently impressed with her integrity, knowledge and hard work.

Please support Susan Kunz's nomination to the Hawai'i Public Housing Board of Directors.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarysse Kami Nunokawa', written in a cursive style.

Clarysse Kami Nunokawa

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 4/17/2019 7:34:53 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charlene Iboshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Susan Akiyama Kunz' nomination to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. When I worked at the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney, I had opportunities to observe Susan' working in different capacities for the County of Hawaii. She is competent, dedicated, knowledgeable about housing matters and the challenges government faces with the complex economic, social and behavioral health issues handled by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Susan's past and current work and integrity to do the "right thing" makes Susan an extraordinarily nomination to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Please confirm her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 4/22/2019 10:09:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy G. Self	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Amy G. Self, an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii, and I am testifying as an individual in support of GM748.

In my opinion, it would be difficult to find anyone in Hawai'i County who is more qualified to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority than Susan Kunz. Until my recent retirement from Hawai'i County, I was a deputy corporation counsel assigned to represent and advise the Office of Housing and Community Development ("OHCD") for many years. In this capacity, I worked closely with Ms. Kunz during her employment at the OHCD. I was always struck by Ms. Kunz's command of the myriad of housing issues and her deep commitment to public housing. As the County's housing administrator, the project that most stands out in my mind is the micro units directed by Ms. Kunz to provide housing for the homeless during the Governor's emergency proclamation related to homelessness. Ms. Kunz was able to coordinate with the Department of Public Works, Planning Department and HUD to finish the project with a tight deadline. The position of housing administrator was not just a job to Ms. Kunz because the mission of housing people is her passion.

Even after Ms. Kunz left as the housing administrator for the County, we have remained close friends and I can tell you that her passion for housing people has not wavered. Finally, I know from a professional level and a personal level that Ms. Kunz is extremely knowledgeable on public housing issues, she is a team player and is easy to work with, and she cares very deeply for the people of our community.

Based on the foregoing and other reasons too numerous to list in this testimony, I wholeheartedly support the Governor's nomination of Susan Kunz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (GM748).

Sincerely,

Amy G. Self

(808) 443-1275

1742 Haleloke Street



Hilo, Hawaii 96720