

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA  
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  
**DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

April 8, 2021 at 1.00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of

**G.M. 526**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONN MENDE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) **strongly supports** the nomination of Donn Mende as the Hawaii County representative to its Board of Directors. Mr. Mende is the current Board chair and is highly qualified to serve for another term on the HHFDC Board.

Mr. Mende has a wealth of experience and expertise in the banking industry that is invaluable to the HHFDC. He has been the current HFS Federal Credit Union Lending Manager since 2017. Previously, he has worked in the Trust and Investment divisions of Bank of Hawaii and Central Pacific Bank, and in retail and commercial banking with American Savings Bank and Hawaii National Bank. He also served as the Deputy Director for the Department of Research and Development (economic development) for the County of Hawaii.

Mr. Mende also has a substantial record of service to the community as a Board member of several nonprofit organizations and governmental bodies. His current commitments include sitting on the Boards of the Japanese Chamber and the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island, and as Vice President of the Board of the Big Island Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing to low and moderate income families in Hawaii County.

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

**GM-526**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:46:21 PM

Testimony for HOU on 4/8/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Carney	Testifying for EAH Housing	Support	No

Comments:

EAH Housing strongly supports the nomination of Donn Mende as the Hawaii County representative to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors. Mr. Menda has direct experience as he currently serves as the Board chair and is very deserving and willing to serve for another term.

Please give Mr. Mende your full support to his nomination for this additional term on the Board. Thank you.

Kevin R. Carney (PB), HAHP-E

Vice President, Hawaii

EAH Housing



## TAKAMINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

April 5, 2021

Re: GM526 Nomination of Donn Mende to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Aloha Chair Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair Dru Kanuha and members of the committee,

My name is Craig Takamine. I am the President of Takamine Construction a local general contracting firm that my wife Audrey and I founded in 2003. Being born and raised in Hilo, I have a great appreciation for our island values, our local culture, and the natural beauty of Hawai'i Island.

I would like to write a letter of support for Gubernatorial Nominee Donn Mende to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation. He is an active member in our community and truly cares about Hawai'i. His experience in the private and public sectors make him a well-rounded individual. Donn is a family man, has great work ethic, and is well respected. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig S. Takamine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig S. Takamine  
President

**John De Fries**

Private Citizen  
73-1211A Kaiminani Drive  
Kailua-Kona Hawaii 96740

April 6, 2021

**Hawaii State Senate Committee on Housing**

31<sup>st</sup> Hawaii State Legislature, 2021

Chair, Stanley Chang

Vice Chair, Dru Mamo Kanuha

Members: Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Karl Rhoads and Kurt Fevella

**Subject: GM526 – Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation of Gubernatorial Nominee, DONN MENDE**

**Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Honorable Members of the Committee:**

While I currently serve as president and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA), I submit this testimony of support as a private citizen and as a former supervisor to the nominee, Donn Mende.

There are five qualities about Donn Mende which cause me to endorse his confirmation:

- 1) **Intelligent:** He has a depth of knowledge in business and finance, and he is a “quick study”.
- 2) **Ethical:** He is an honest man – plain and simple.
- 3) **Creative:** He is solutions-oriented while always adhering to compliance standards.
- 4) **Team Player:** He can work collaboratively, and he is a good listener and facilitator.
- 5) **Aloha Spirit:** He is empathetic, and he cares deeply about the people in his community.

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation will be well-served by Donn Mende, as a new member of its Board of Directors.

With your unanimous support, please confirm Donn Mende.

Malama Pono,

*John De Fries*

Private Citizen

