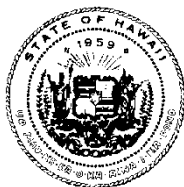


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

April 8, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 556
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GEORGE DE MELLO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2024

Honorable Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding Governor's Message 556 (G.M. 556), submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. George De Mello, for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Mr. De Mello to the HPHA Board of Directors. The HPHA Board always 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. The HPHA Board tremendously benefits from directors who have familiarity with the concerns of fellow residents of the HPHA as well as the HPHA's programs and policies. Mr. De Mello's past 5 years of service on the HPHA Board of Directors, as well as the many years serving on the HPHA's Resident Advisory Board, will assist the State in continuing to give our public housing tenants a voice on the HPHA Board of Directors. This perspective will be extremely valuable to the HPHA Board when reviewing policy changes that affect the HPHA's program participants.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the agency's position regarding G.M. 556. We respectfully request the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. George De Mello to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.