



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN TODANI  
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG NAKAMOTO**  
**Interim Executive Director**  
Hawaii Community Development Authority

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Friday, March 4, 2022  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**GM 553**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community  
Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
PETER APO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the Committee. The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports GM 553**, that confirms Peter Apo as the cultural specialist of the HCDA board.

Among his many accomplishments, Peter Apo has extensive experience as a Native Hawaiian leader, was a founding member of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, served as its past chairman and its Director of Culture & Education. He chaired the boards of both the Historic Hawaii Foundation and Pacific Islanders in Communications. He served as the City & County of Honolulu's Director of Culture and Arts, and later as the Special Assistant on Hawaiian Affairs to Governor Ben Cayetano.

In 1975, Mr. Apo was elected as the first chair of the Waianae Neighborhood Board, and his career in public service began. He was elected to the first board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Served as a legislator in the State House of Representatives for 14 years. In 2010, Apo returned to serve on the OHA board for 8 more years. In total, Mr. Apo has dedicated 40 years to public service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.



March 2, 2022

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy,  
Economic Development and Tourism  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 553 – confirmation of Peter Apo to the Hawaii Community Development Authority

Dear Senator Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 553 regarding the confirmation of Peter Apo's appointment to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. I have known Peter Apo for 20+ years. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he brings to the table. Peter has had a distinguished career in public service. In 1980, he was elected to the first Board of Trustees of OHA. In 1982 he won election to the Hawaii State House of Representatives where he served for 14 years. In 1994 Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris appointed him to become the City's Director of Culture and Arts. In 1996 he assumed the position of Special Assistant on Hawaiian Affairs to Governor Ben Cayetano. He subsequently returned to the City & County of Honolulu as Director of Waikiki Development. He was re-elected as a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in 2010.

Peter is also a founding member of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, served as its past chairman, and was its Director of Culture & Education. He has chaired the Pacific Islanders in Communications and is a past chair of the Historic Hawaii Foundation and the Friends of the Natatorium. Peter has also served on the Chaminade University Board of Regents and the board of directors for the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau. In addition, Peter has had the honor of serving as Civilian Aide to the U.S. Secretary of the Army for West Oahu and Kauai. He continues serving the community on numerous boards and commissions.

In short, in my view, Peter is the right person to help guide HCDA, and we as a community are very fortunate to have him step up to serve.

With Aloha,

**Mitchell A. Imanaka**, Managing Principal