

# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Testimony of

**Derek S.K. Kawakami**

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

**Senate Committee on Housing**

Thursday, April 14, 2022; 1:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of

**GM 637 Relating to the Appointment of**

**Gary Mackler**

**To the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation**

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

I am honored to testify in **SUPPORT** of Gary Mackler as the Kaua'i representative to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors.

With over 24 years of experience as the County of Kaua'i's Housing Development Coordinator, Gary certainly understands the housing industry here in Hawai'i. His past work experiences attest to his overall knowledge of housing and development. This includes his experience in land acquisition and environmental review, procurement, contracting with professional design services and general contractors, construction permitting, federal grant administration and regulatory compliance for HUD housing programs, multifamily project underwriting, and coordinating with federal, state, and county stakeholders. Most notably in his career, Gary had administered the county's HOME program allocations from 1993 through 2017, including \$32 million in Hurricane Iniki disaster relief funds. And as the county's Lima Ola Affordable Housing Project in 'Ele'ele continues construction into 2022, we are reminded of Gary's vital role in the project's master plan and his participation in what will become our largest affordable housing project on the island once completed.

Gary's professional experience also goes beyond his work at the County of Kaua'i. In addition to his current position as Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gary is currently a board member of the Hawai'i Home Ownership Center – Community Land Trust, and a board member of the Kaua'i Housing Development Corporation. He understands the responsibility he holds in these important roles and is committed to excellence and integrity in every decision made and every discussion held. At the center of housing and development is community, and Gary understands that best. He has served in our community as the past president of the West Kaua'i Youth Baseball League, which is an instrumental organization which has fostered our youth through generations. Above all, what truly shines the most about Gary is his character. There are not many who are willing to lead and help our community without hesitation, but Gary has stepped up to the plate again and again. More importantly, he is someone who I am confident will continue to work hard, be accountable, and have Kaua'i's best interest at heart.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my **support** for Gary Mackler, as I strongly believe he will serve Kaua'i well as our representative for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors.



April 5, 2022

Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Housing  
Attn: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair and Vice Chair Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha

**Subject: GM637 Nomination of Mr. Gary Mackler to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation Board. Hearing Date: April 14, 2022, 1:00pm, Room 225**

Aloha Chair Chang and Vice Chair Kanuha:

On behalf of EAH Housing, I am extremely pleased to submit testimony in strong support of Mr. Gary Mackler and his nomination to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation's (HHFDC) Board of Directors.

But first, a brief explanation of who we are - EAH Housing is a non-profit developer and manager of low-income rental housing serving those with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income. Our managed inventory currently consists of 2,336 apartments in multifamily and senior housing on Kauai, Maui, and Oahu with another 280 units in our development pipeline which will expand our operations to the Big Island as well.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gary on a professional level for many years going back to his employment with the Kauai Housing Agency. I believe we first met in 2010, maybe sooner, when EAH began managing Pa'anau Village for the County of Kauai. EAH also co-developed two properties on Kauai with the help of Kauai's Housing Agency. During Gary's tenure we also came before the HHFDC Board with a number of Oahu projects seeking financing.

In my opinion, Gary may be the most qualified nominee with his extension experience in LIHTC financing, including HOME and CDBG programs. In all our interactions Gary has always been cordial and professional. EAH is in very strong support of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Carney, RB-16444  
(PB), NAHP-E  
Vice President, Special Projects, Hawaii



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April 11, 2022

Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: HEARING HOU 04-14-22 - GM637: Letter of Support for Gary Mackler's confirmation to the HHFDC Board of Directors

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in support of Gary Mackler being confirmed for the HHFDC Board of Directors. I have known Gary through his volunteer service as a Board Member for HHOC Housing and Land Trust (HHLT), a nonprofit corporation with a mission to create and preserve affordable homes. He has been part of the board prior to our organization delivering program services and instrumental in creating our program design thanks to his extensive background in housing and government.

Gary has been very generous with his time and contacts to ensure our Board of Directors has access to the information needed to make good decisions for our organization. As HHLT is a new organization that started providing services in late 2019, Gary's insight contributes to the Board's decision making process. I am positive that he would bring this same type of value to the HHFDC Board of Directors, including a voice that represents Kauai County.

From what I know of HHFDC's mission, I think Gary would be an excellent contributor to the work the Board of Directors is charged with.

If you have any questions related to my letter or Gary's involvement with our organization, please feel free to contact me at [reina@hihomeownership.org](mailto:reina@hihomeownership.org) or 808-523-8116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reina Miyamoto".

Reina Miyamoto  
Executive Director

**GM-637**

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 3:21:12 PM

Testimony for HOU on 4/14/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Seddon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Gary Mackler to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC). Mr. Mackler is very well-qualified to serve in this position, as he performed all aspects of affordable housing development while employed at the County of Kauai Housing Agency for almost 25 years.

Please give Mr. Mackler your full consideration in confirming his nomination. Thank you.

Karen Seddon