

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 313

In consideration of
H.B. 757
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

The HHFDC opposes H.B. 757. The placement of the DHHL Chairperson on the HHFDC Board as proposed in this bill reduces the number of public members on the HHFDC Board from 4 to 3. Public members on HHFDC's Board have knowledge and expertise in public or private financing and development of affordable housing. HHFDC's public members have been a valuable resource to the agency and have guided the agency in fulfilling its mission through economic ups and downs.

We believe that the current collaboration between HHFDC and DHHL on areas of mutual interest and benefit is far more productive. HHFDC has partnered with DHHL on the development of water infrastructure to support housing development in Lahaina, Maui and North Kona, Hawaii. HHFDC is providing \$10 million in DURF funds for a Honokowai well to facilitate housing development by DHHL and HHFDC in Leialii, Maui.

HHFDC is also partnering with DHHL for the development of North Kona wells (Keopu Well – Well no. 4 and/or Ota Well) that will benefit their project in the Villages of La'i'opua. HHFDC also regularly collaborates with DHHL on the Hawaii Housing Planning Study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of The Michaels Organization | Michaels Development - Hawai`i Region
RELATING TO House Bill No. 757

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair; Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair; and Rep. Della Au Belatti;
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama; Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi; Rep. Gregg Takayama;
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi; AND Rep. Val Okimoto; Members

Oppose

Public members offer a unique value to a government board, as they enhance its credibility with the public, make the board more accountable to the public, provide valuable expertise on a wide variety of subjects, and bring a different perspective with new ideas to its deliberations in fulfilling its mission.

Reduction of the number of public member board seats does not serve the purpose of the board, which is to provide an opportunity for citizens to have a voice in their government and provide a means of influencing decisions that shape the future of Hawai`i.

As a former Executive Director of Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), I submit that it would be a disservice to the mission to lose the input of a public member that provides knowledge and expertise in public or private financing and/or development of affordable housing, as HHFDC is intended to be a government corporation that conducts business that needs the input of public members with subject matter expertise.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **opposition** to House Bill 757.



Karen Seddon
Regional Vice President
Michaels Development – Hawai`i Region

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2021 AT 9:30AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**HB 757, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

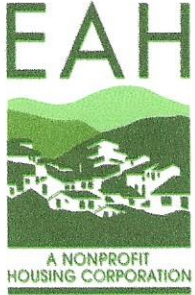
February 5, 2021

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 757, which adds the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) to the board of directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) and reduces the number of public members appointed by the Governor.

The mission of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is to manage the Hawaiian Home Lands trust effectively and to develop and deliver lands to native Hawaiians. HHFDC is tasked with developing and financing low- and moderate-income housing projects and administering homeownership programs. There are many examples of collaboration between DHHL and HHFDC and allowing the Chairperson of the HHC or the Chairperson's designee to serve as an ex officio voting member of the HHFDC similar to the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Director of Finance or their designated representatives would allow for greater advocacy for beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



February 4, 2021

LATE

House Committee on Economic Development
Friday, February 5, 2021
Conference Room 312, 9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB757
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dear Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

EAH is a nonprofit developer and manager of low-income rental housing serving those with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income. We are a customer of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) as we finance our housing communities utilizing Low Income Housing Tax Credits and the State's Rental Housing Revolving Fund.

EAH Housing is opposed to HB757, which would replace a public member of the Board of Directors of the HHFDC with the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. EAH believes that displacement of a public member on the HHFDC Board in this way does not serve the public interest.

HHFDC's mission is to increase housing for ALL residents regardless of race or ethnicity. Public members on HHFDC's Board have knowledge and expertise in public or private financing and in the development of affordable housing. They are valuable because they provide guidance to the agency on policies and decisions that have resulted in successful affordable housing developments like ours throughout the State.

HHFDC already supports Native Hawaiians through its current finance and development programs. A good percentage of the inhabitants in LIHTC or HRS 201-H assisted projects are Hawaiian. HHFDC is already collaborating with DHHL on infrastructure on Maui and the Big Island to support their efforts to develop homesteads in those counties. EAH therefore does not see the need for the changes to the HHFDC Board proposed in this bill. If anything is going to be changed, we would encourage more public participation on the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kevin R. Carney', is written over a horizontal line.

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

LATE

HB-757

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:30:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Schatz	Schatz Collaborative LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose allowing a public position on the HHFDC board to be given up for a DHHL position. DHHL operates autonomously for the most part to provide homes for Native Hawaiians. Their membership on the board is a conflict, especially when HHFDC board members must approve for actions that grant subsidies federal and state to fund housing projects. They are also a State agency that receive such funds and often competing for funds during the legislative process.

To also reduce additional public representation on the board not only reduces transparency of decisions but also limits the broad perspective of the public's needs on housing. We need public representation not tied to a governmental agency to ensure that the community's needs come first in making decisions about financing housing.

Best Regards,

Linda Schatz

Schatz Collaborative LLC

808-428-8717



LATE

Testimony of the Ahe Group
RELATING TO house Bill No. 757

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9:30am
Conference Room 312

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair; Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair; and Rep. Della Au Belatti;
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama; Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi; Rep. Gregg Takayama;
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi; AND Rep. Val Okimoto; Members

OPPOSE

The public participation on boards enhances the credibility with the public, serve to make the board accountable, and provide valuable expertise on a wide variety of subjects. Bringing a different perspective with new ideas to boards improves deliberations and aids in fulfilling their mission.

Reducing the number of public members on boards does not serve the purpose of the board nor does it serve and to allow citizens a voice within their government and contribute to the important decisions that impact Hawaii.

As an affordable housing developer, I believe it would be in conflict with the stated mission of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to reduce public input who provides knowledge and expertise in financing and development of affordable housing. The opportunity to include public members with expertise in the specific areas of finance and development are essential.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **OPPOSITION** to House Bill 757.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Makani Maeva'.

Makani Maeva President,
Ahe Group

LATE

HB-757

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:28:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanford Carr	Stanford Carr Development, LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha:

Please see attached my letter in opposition to Bill757.

Mahalo,

Stanford S. Carr