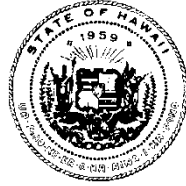


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Monday, April 15, 2024
1:00 PM
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 722

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GEORGE DEMELLO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2028

Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 722, to consider and confirm George De Mello to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Proudly representing our federal low-rent public housing community, and currently serving as the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Vice Chairman, Mr. De Mello has provided leadership, support, dedication, and care to the State's often overlooked and under-served low-income populations. Mr. De Mello's past 8 years of service on the HPHA Board of Directors, as well as the many years serving on the HPHA's Resident Advisory Board, Hilo Evictions Board, and Lanakila Residents Association, will continue to assist the State in giving our public housing tenants a voice on the HPHA Board of Directors. This perspective will be extremely valuable to the HPHA Board of Directors when reviewing policy changes that affect the HPHA's program participants.

The HPHA Board 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. Mr. De Mello's knowledge and

experience will continue to make him a great asset to the HPHA Board of Directors, and I am honored to be working alongside him.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the Agency's position regarding GM 722. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. De Mello to the HPHA Board of Directors.