



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

CHASON ISHII  
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO**  
**Executive Director**  
Hawaii Community Development Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Friday, March 7, 2025  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

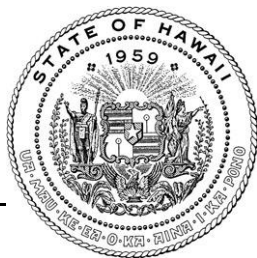
In consideration of  
**GM 559**  
**Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Community**  
**Development Authority, At-Large Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**MIKI'ALA LIDSTONE, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee. The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) supports GM 559, that considers the confirmation of Miki'ala Lidstone as an At-Large member (cultural specialist) on the HCDA Board.

As the HCDA Executive Director, I have had the privilege to work with Ms. Lidstone who, initially, served as an HCDA Kalaeloa small business/nonprofit community Board Member and is currently serving as an interim At-Large board member. Ms. Lidstone is consistent in attending all board meetings, engages in board discussions and supports HCDA in building relationships with each of our community development districts to assist the agency and board in fulfilling the responsibilities and good work of the HCDA board. Ms. Lidstone is a cultural practitioner, has deep roots in her community, and is an educator.

We look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Lidstone as an At-Large member on the HCDA Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for her nomination.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Testimony of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Friday, March 7, 2025  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 559**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the**  
**Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**MIKI'ALA LIDSTONE, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee.

I support the confirmation of Mik'iala Lidstone to the Board of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).

In addition to the HCDA, Ms. Lidstone has been a member with the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board as well as Board Secretary at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Over the last 10 years, she has served as the executive director and founder at the Ulu A'e Learning Center where she manages community programs in West O'ahu and is responsible for the stewardship of Pu'uokapolei located at the Kapolei Regional Park.

With her commitment to providing opportunities to people to grow their sense of place and relationship to the 'āina as well as her experience in stewardship and project management, I believe that Ms. Lidstone has the background to serve on the Board for the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my support.

**GM-559**

Submitted on: 2/28/2025 4:46:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority of Miki`ala Lidstone.

Miki`ala exemplifies in every way the qualities and attributes of a person who will work diligently to follow the direction and paths designed for the HCDA. Her work with Ulu A'e shows her dedication to creating a sense of place and belonging for those in her community and beyond. I met Miki`ala some years ago and have followed and supported her work including the Kapu'uola Hula Festival. Her sense of planning, organization, inclusion of all in the events and her daily work contributes to the greater health and welfare of the community and our islands. " The HCDA's work should result in economic and social opportunities and aim to meet the highest needs and aspirations of Hawai'i's people". I can think of no one more qualified for this position and ask that you SUPPORT her as well.

C. Burghardt

Kou Oahu

Committee on Water and Land

Chair: Sen. Lorraine Inouye

Vice-Chair: Sen. Brandon Elefante

Aloha mai kakou Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante and Committee Members:

My testimony is in strong support for the confirmation of MIKIALA LIDSTONE to the HCDA Cultural Specialist. I am Shirley Swinney, 20+ year homesteader in Kapolei, engaged community volunteer and former HCDA Kalaeloa District member. I've followed Mikiala's emergence as an 'oiwi leader. She sacrificed tenure in the DOE to start-up the non-profit Ulu A'e Learning Center to serve west side communities in rooting haumana and ohana in cultural practices through placed based learning and experiences. This program fosters connection to language, traditions, identity and an understanding of the collective spirit of lahui. Mikiala is kumu hula of Halau 'o Kaululaua'e demonstrating her deep understanding of Native Hawaiian traditions, language and cultural protocols. Mikiala broadened her perspective and community involvement as she was elected (and re-elected) to the Kapolei/Makakilo/Honokai Hale Neighborhood board #34.

Mikiala possesses the qualifications for HCDA Cultural Specialist. More importantly, Mikiala brings the qualities of an 'oiwi leader – perserverance(ho'omau), responsible(kuleana), humility (ha'aha'a) and aloha. HCDA, as well as, the community, would be well served through her confirmation in GM559.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for confirmation of MIKIALA LIDSTONE GM559.

'Owau me ka ha'aha'a, Shirley Swinney