

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
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Statement of  
**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

February 27, 2025 at 10:01 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of  
**S.B. 771**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC has comments on SB 771, which repeals the requirement that the Chairperson of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Board of Directors be a public member. It also repeals the prohibition that certain ex officio board members shall not be eligible to serve as Chairperson of the HHFDC Board of Directors.

We believe that the reason why the legislature originally prohibited ex officio board members from serving as Chairperson was to ensure that the Board would be community-oriented and responsive to the concerns and needs of residents. This is reflected in the Board's composition with two-thirds of the Board (six of nine members) being "public" members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.