

# GM16

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONN MENDE, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

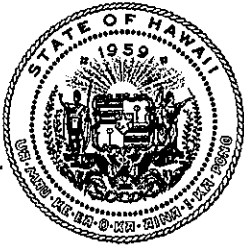
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HOU

Introducer(s):



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Statement of  
**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

August 29, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 414

In consideration of  
**G.M. 16**

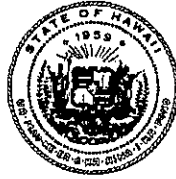
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONN MENDE, FOR A TERM TO  
EXPIRE 6-30-2021.**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Housing.

DBEDT supports the nomination of Donn Mende as the Hawaii County  
representative on the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC)  
Board. Mr. Mende has over twenty years of experience in the banking industry, and as  
former Deputy Director for the Department of Research and Development (economic  
development) for the County of Hawaii.

Among his many contributions to the local community is serving as Treasurer of  
the Big Island Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides decent,  
safe, and sanitary housing to low and moderate income families in Hawaii County. He  
is, therefore, well qualified for the Board of HHFDC whose mission it is to increase the  
supply of workforce and affordable housing. Accordingly, DBEDT respectfully requests  
that the Committee support Mr. Mende's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to  
testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
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  
**LEILANI PULMANO**  
Chair, Board of Directors of the  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

August 29, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 414

In consideration of

**G.M. 16**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONN MENDE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021.**

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation's (HHFDC) Board of Directors **supports** the nomination of Donn Mende as its Hawaii County representative.

Mr. Mende has over twenty years of banking experience in the Trust and Investment divisions of Bank of Hawaii and Central Pacific Bank, and in retail and commercial banking with American Savings Bank and Hawaii National Bank.

He also served as the Deputy Director for the Department of Research and Development (economic development) for the County of Hawaii. Mr. Mende also has a substantial record of service to the community as a Board member of several nonprofit organizations and governmental bodies, including as past chair of the Hawaii County Police Commission and the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island. Of special note is his tenure as Treasurer of the Big Island Housing Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing to low and moderate income families in Hawaii County. He is, therefore, well qualified for the HHFDC Board of Directors.

The HHFDC respectfully requests that the Committee support Mr. Mende's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Craig S. Takamine  
1266 Kamehameha Ave. #C  
Hilo, HI 96720  
8/28/2017

**Re: GM16 Nomination of Donn Mende to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation**

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto and members of this committee,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for my friend Donn Mende for the open seat on the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. I have known Donn both personally and professionally for many years and consider him a good friend. He is honest, humble and a man of high integrity. Donn is an active member of the community and volunteers on many non-profit organization boards. I feel that his experience in both the private and public sector will make him a valuable asset to the HHFDC. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig S. Takamine', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Craig S. Takamine



**GM16**  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Housing  
Hearing on August 29, 2017

August 28, 2017

**State Senate Committee on Housing, The 29<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Interim of 2017**  
Chair, Will Espero  
Vice Chair, Breene Harimoto  
Member, Josh Green  
Member, Kaiali'i Kahele  
Member, Clarence K. Nishihara

Via E-mail: [HOUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HOUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Subject: Please Confirm DONN MENDE to the HHFDC Board of Directors**

Aloha Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members:

The announcement of Governor David Ige's nomination of Donn Mende to serve on the Board of HHFDC is being met with great enthusiasm among members of the Hawaii Island business community and the community-at-large. Based on my direct experiences and observations, the qualities that will enable Donn to be effective in this appointed position include:

**Personal Integrity | High Professional Standards | Fiscally-Responsible  
Family-Oriented | Community-Minded | Solutions-Driven | Aloha Spirit**

Between April – December 2016, I served an 8-month (interim) term as the County of Hawaii's Director, Department of Research & Development; and Donn Mende was the department's Deputy Director. These were the final months of the Kenoi Administration; during which time, our department was engaged in the NextEra-HEI merger proposal at the PUC, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Aloha+ Challenge and several other initiatives. The high performance levels of our department at that time should be attributed to Donn's business leadership, due diligence and his Aloha for our community.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members, please confirm Donn Mende to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Ma'ama Pono

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John De Fries".

John De Fries  
President & Principal Advisor

NATIVE SUN BUSINESS GROUP INC.  
808.479.1556 | [NATIVESUNVISION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NATIVESUNVISION@GMAIL.COM)

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**From:** Kai, Tiffany <Tiffany.Kai@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** HOU Testimony  
**Subject:** Donn Mende Nominee to HHFDC Board

Aloha Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

Please accept this testimony supporting the nomination of Mr. Donn Mende to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

During his four (4) years of employment with the County of Hawai'i, I have worked with Mr. Mende on several projects. Mr. Mende has a multitude of knowledge, has the ability to make the right decisions based on facts, policies and regulations, and communicates concise information effectively. In addition, he has immense leadership skills and is a pleasure to work with.

I recommend the confirmation of Mr. Mende to serve on the HHFDC Board.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tiffany Kai  
Mass Transit Administrator  
County of Hawaii  
Mass Transit Agency  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: 808-961-8343  
Fax: 808-961-8745



## *Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii*

Re: GM16 Nomination of Donn Mende to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Harimoto and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i, I would like to write a letter of support for Gubernatorial Nominee Donn Mende for the Board of Director seat for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation. He is an active member in our community and truly cares about Hawai'i. His experience in the private and public sectors make him a well-rounded individual. He is a hard worker and is well respected. Donn would be a great asset to your board. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

Audrey N. Takamine  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i  
President, 2017-2018

DORTHI L. BOTELHO-KAILI  
456 MAKANI CIRCLE  
HILO, HAWAII 96720

August 28, 2017

Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
State of Hawai'i Senate COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
via email transmission to:  
[HOUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HOUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: GM 16 – Nomination of Donn Mende  
Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Dear Chair Espero and Vice Chair Harimoto,

I submit my testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Donn Mende to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

As a former secretary to Mr. Mende during his Deputy Director position at the County of Hawai'i, Department of Research and Development, and as a friend and colleague for many years prior, I can first hand state that Mr. Mende is a qualified candidate that will serve the best interests of the State of Hawai'i as a contributing member of the HHFDC. With Mr. Mende's vast knowledge of the housing conversation, including County, State and Federal levels, he not only brings to the table an economic development background, but an understanding of how to create strong and sustainable island communities with quality affordable homes. Additionally, Mr. Mende brings a wealth of financial industry background with him; years of experience managing multi-million dollar investments and banking portfolios provides for a well-round asset to any government housing program. It would be beneficial for the Committee on Housing to utilize the experience of Mr. Mende in serving the State of Hawai'i and its people with our housing concerns going forward.

Please consider Mr. Donn Mende for the appointment as nominated by Governor Ige. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Mahalo and Aloha,



DORTHI L. BOTELHO-KAILI  
Hawai'i Island resident  
Legislative Assistant/Paralegal

xc: Donn Mende