

# GM57

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority Kakaako District, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON OKUHAMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Hawai'i Community Development Authority Kakaako District

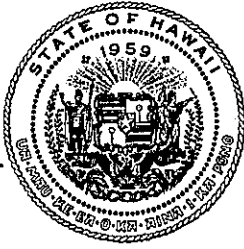
Description:

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

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Statement of  
**Luis P. Salaveria**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the

**Senate Committee on Housing**  
Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of

**GM57**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY KAKAAKO DISTRICT,**  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JASON OKUHAMA,**  
**FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021.**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully requests that this Committee favorably consider the re-appointment of Jason Okuhama to serve on the Hawaii Community Development Authority for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

Mr. Okuhama currently serves on the HCDA board representing the Kakaako District. He is a managing partner at Hawaii Lending Specialists, LLC, dba Commercial and Business Lending. With his experience in the banking industry, he would be able to provide significant input on financial matters brought before the board. Moreover, he currently resides in the Kakaako District, which is a requirement for the HCDA board representative for the Kakaako District.

For these reasons, we believe he is well qualified to serve on the board and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Okuhama's re-appointment to serve as the representative for the Kakaako District on the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Jesse K. Souki  
Honolulu, Hawaii

August 29, 2017, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 414

Senate Committee on Housing  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Interim of 2017

**RE: Testimony on Gov. Msg. No. 57 Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Jason Okuhama for Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) Kaka'ako District**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I **support** the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Jason Okuhama for HCDA Kaka'ako District.

As the executive director of HCDA, I support the work of Mr. Okuhama who is a current member of the Kaka'ako Community Development District. His thoughtful input and participation in board proceedings are appreciated by his colleagues and staff. Mr. Okuhama is always prepared for meetings and hearings, and his expertise in lending and financing adds great value to discussions.

The public benefits greatly from his continued participation on the board, and he will help to ensure that the vision of the community in the Kaka'ako Community Development Plan comes to fruition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jesse K. Souki

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**From:** Edmay Apana <rbapana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** HOU Testimony  
**Subject:** HCDA confirmation  
**Attachments:** Hearing HOU 08-29-17.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Dear Committee ,

This is in regard to your committee meeting on August 29, 2017 at 1:15pm, GM57.

Please consider the reappointment of Jason Okuhama to the HCDA board. Mr. Okuhama is a resident of Kakaako and is very concerned about the rapid changes occurring in the area and wants to make certain that developers follow the guidelines and rules published by the HCDA.

Thank you for considering my testimony as to Mr. Okuhama's appointment.

Aloha,  
Edmay Apana

August 29, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY KAKAAKO DISTRICT

Testimony of  
**CARLITO P. CALIBOSO**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason Okuhama to the Hawaii Community Development Authority Kakaako District (the "Authority").

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Okuhama to the Authority. I have known Mr. Okuhama for many years professionally and personally, and as a colleague and a friend.

As a highly experienced commercial financing professional and entrepreneur, Mr. Okuhama is in tune with the pulse of business and the economy of Hawaii. Mr. Okuhama has a wide range of experience analyzing and working with all forms of businesses in Hawaii from small businesses to big businesses; from commercial real estate financing to aircraft financing; from financing innovative startup ventures to financing established expanding businesses. Mr. Okuhama brings extensive finance, real estate and business experience to the Authority.

I personally know that Mr. Okuhama is very diligent, conscientious, energetic, hardworking and of high integrity.

I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Okuhama's appointment to the Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



CARLITO P. CALIBOSO

August 29, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GM57, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
KAKA'AKO DISTRICT

Testimony of **Abbey Seth Mayer**

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

**It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in strong support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) Kaka'ako District.**

I have known and worked with Mr. Okuhama in many capacities over the past 10 years: in his capacity as President of the Board of the Hawai'i Alliance of Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED); in his professional capacity as a expert and specialist in the area of financing for rural and community development projects and programs, and; in his capacity as Board Member of HCDA.

In all phases of his professional life, Mr. Okuhama is consistently thoughtful, open-minded, considerate, and professional. Mr. Okuhama possesses a rare combination of traits—professional, skilled, and always willing to give his time and energy in service of his community. He is exactly the type of person who will represent well the City, the State, and the community.

During the past 2-3 years I served as a predevelopment consultant and project manager for two affordable housing projects in Kaka'ako—the Artspace Project on Waimanu Street and the Nohona Hale project on Cooke Street. In all cases that my clients and I appeared before the HCDA Board, I witnessed Mr. Okuhama providing his particular brand of quiet leadership while upholding his fiduciary duties to the HCDA. He is always mindful of how his decisions will live on and guide the development and growth of our precious island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Abbey Seth Mayer  
Honolulu, HI 96817

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**From:** Sharon Moriwaki <sharonmi@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 26, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** HOU Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of GM57, Senate Committee on Housing, August 29, 1:15 p.m.,  
Conference Room 414  
**Attachments:** JASON OKUHAMA TESTIMONY.pdf

Aloha

Attached is testimony in strong support of GM57, nomination of Jason Okuhama to the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

It will be heard in the Senate Committee on Housing on August 29 at 1:15 p.m. in conference room 414.

Testimony before the  
Senate Committee on Housing  
Tuesday August 29, 2017, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

**In Strong Support of Governor's Message No.57**  
Nominating **Jason Okuhama** as Kaka'ako's Community Resident Representative  
to the Hawaii Community Development Authority

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, a resident of Kaka'ako, Vice-president of the One Waterfront Towers (OWT) board, a 306-unit condominium in Kaka'ako, and President of Kaka'ako United, an organization of concerned residents and other citizens committed to ensure the quality of life for an integrated Kaka'ako community from mauka to makai as envisioned in law.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has responsibility for ensuring that the Kaka'ako Community Development District ("Kaka'ako") is developed to achieve the vision, goals and plans in state law (chapter 206E,HRS). Needless to say, HCDA is very important to those of us living in Kaka'ako; its members are stewards of our district. The Kaka'ako members -- two representing residents and one representing small business — are the eyes and ears of the district and bring the interests and concerns to HCDA in its deliberations to deliver on the Kaka'ako plans and rules.

We are thus pleased with the Governor's nomination of Jason Okuhama as one of the two Kaka'ako community resident representatives. His reappointment will continue Kaka'ako residents' excellent representation on the HCDA.

I can attest to Jason's understanding of Kaka'ako and the community perspective as I continue to work with him as our OWT board president and as I have seen him tackling some of the challenging issues facing Kaka'ako and HCDA. He has attended residents' meetings and addressed priority issues; he has listened calmly, fairly, and carefully. We look forward to his continuing representation of resident interests amidst the challenges that the rapid development in the area brings, including much needed solutions to park and open public spaces, infrastructure improvement and homelessness.

I have no doubt he will continue to bring his accessible and open communication as well as careful and thoughtful decision-making to HCDA. He will also bring his expertise as a mortgage broker – understanding the needs and interests of developers and landowners; as a community member –not only as a member of the condo association board but also of organizations that serve the community such as the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Development (HACBED) and the Aloha Tower Development Corporation. His knowledge of business and community perspectives, networks and interests are of great benefit to HCDA and to the sustainable, quality development of Kaka'ako.

For the above reasons, I urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Jason Okuhama as Kaka'ako community resident member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





August 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM 57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).

Mr. Okuhama is highly qualified to serve on the HCDA Board based on his extensive banking and commercial real estate and business lending expertise. Mr. Okuhama served on the Aloha Tower Development Corporation Board and his vast knowledge and expertise in business development, financing, and community revitalization efforts will again be helpful to guide HCDA's efforts to redevelop the Kaka'ako area. Mr. Okuhama's work demonstrates history of community involvement and mindful economic development that has aimed to lift the genuine wealth of families across the islands.

I have also had the opportunity to work with Mr. Okuhama over the past five years in his role as HACBED's Board President. As a new Executive Director, Mr. Okuhama was integral in supporting my transition by providing compassionate leadership, an open-minded and collaborative approach, and a willingness to help me effectuate my vision for HACBED. Such mindfulness and commitment to supporting someone with limited professional experience is a testament to Mr. Okuhama's understanding of mindful development and true community involvement.

HACBED is a statewide, intermediary, and federally tax exempt nonprofit organization that was established in 1992 to "*achieve economic, social, and environmental justice in Hawai'i through community-based economic development*," and Mr. Okuhama acts both professionally and personally to effectuate our mission. Over the 20 years of service to HACBED, Mr. Okuhama has been extremely generous volunteering his expertise and experience and experience to assist many community-based

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Recommending Appointment of JASON T. OKUHAMA  
August 28, 2017  
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organizations and small businesses to establish viable ventures that have generated meaningful economic opportunities for residents in low- and moderate-income communities in Hawai'i.

I believe Mr. Okuhama's extensive experience and knowledge, and more importantly, his ability to lead compassionately in an open-minded and collaborative way that lifts up the values of the community are critical assets for a Board of Director of the HCDA. I thus hope you act affirmatively on Mr. Okuhama's nomination to be considered and confirmed as an HCDA Board Member as he brings capabilities that will support HCDA as it moves forward and carries out economic development that supports families that is grounded and based in the values of this place -- Hawai'i.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at (808)550-2661 or [bkakesako@hacbed.org](mailto:bkakesako@hacbed.org).

Mahalo,

Brent N. Kakesako  
Executive Director

August 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of **Lisa L. Tarumoto**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Okuhama for over 20 years both professionally and personally. On a professional level, Mr. Okuhama was instrumental in my early training years in the mortgage industry where he shared his wealth of knowledge and experience in lending. Mr. Okuhama is a well versed individual in lending from commercial to residential to small business loans, and would continue to bring that knowledge to the Authority. On a personal level, Jason is a dear friend who is one of the most organized, thoughtful and considerate persons I know. He is the type of friend that is always there if and when you need him.

I strongly support Jason T. Okuhama's confirmation for an additional term on the HCDA Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



Lisa L. Tarumoto

August 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of Joseph Burns

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I have worked directly with Mr. Okuhama over the last several years in my capacity as the Director of the Hawai'i Small Business Development Center, Oahu Office. Many of the projects undertaken have led to significant economic and social impact, thus in my view Mr. Okuhama has demonstrated that he is well qualified for this position.

On a personal level, I have found that Mr. Okuhama has the ability to offer creative and effective solutions to challenging situations. Some words to describe him are: collaborative, honorable, reliable and not without an appropriate sense of humor. Based on his excellent qualifications and personal characteristics, I hope you will vote favorably for his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

  
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Hawai'i Small Business Development Center-O'ahu

August 29, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of **Carole M. Lau**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

My name is Carole M. Lau and I am employed as a Senior Vice President in the Commercial Real Estate Loan Division of Bank of Hawaii. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Okuhama for the past 25 years. Mr. Okuhama brings to the Board a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of financing, business development and community economic development. He has a deep sense of commitment and dedication to economic development strategies and has the vision and determination to see things through and to make things happen. He has been extremely giving of his expertise and experience to assist many community-based organizations and small businesses to establish economic ventures that have generated economic opportunities for residents in low and moderate income communities across the islands.

I personally know Mr. Okuhama to be of high integrity, dedication and energy. He is a qualified individual that has a positive attitude and mindset of collaboration and teamwork and I am confident that he will continue to bring much value to this position. I urge your favorable vote on his nomination to be considered and confirmed as an HCDA Board Member.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole M. Lau". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Carole M. Lau

August 29, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of **KATHY DAILY**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I am the Senior Vice President of First Financial Bank's Farm and Ranch Division, located in Louisville, Kentucky. First Financial Bank provides agricultural real estate loans nationwide. Over the last 15 years I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Okuhama to bring financing options to the agricultural producers of Hawai'i. Since we do not have an employee on the islands it is essential that the individuals we choose to do business with exhibit impeccable business ethics and relationships. I have always found Mr. Okuhama to be honest, dedicated, professional, diligent and industrious.

I have personally seen Mr. Okuhama interact with a broad range of individuals over multiple occasions and have always found him to be professional, while putting others at ease even when he is delivering unpleasant news. Mr. Okuhama is articulate and results driven.

I highly recommend Mr. Jason Okuhama and believe that he will be a tremendous asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

*Kathy Daily*

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Kathy Daily  
First Financial Bank  
1717 Alliant Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40299

August 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of **Donald K. W. Lau**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my testimony in support of Jason T. Okuhama's confirmation as Board of Director for the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

I strongly support Jason T. Okuhama as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

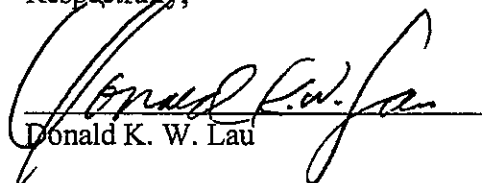
I have known Mr. Okuhama for many years starting with a financial institution we both were employed at and again at another financial institution. He is an excellent colleague and friend and has a lot of commercial financing experience.

Jason Okuhama is honest, dependable, creative, and capable. He also has integrity and is a hard worker and uses a lot of initiative in performing his daily duties. Jason Okuhama would be an excellent contributing Board member. Being an existing Board member, he has gained valuable knowledge and experience as a director which would make Jason Okuhama an asset to the Board.

I strongly urge your favorable vote on confirming him to the HCDA Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

  
Donald K. W. Lau

August 29, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JASON T. OKUHAMA  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Testimony of Michael Loke

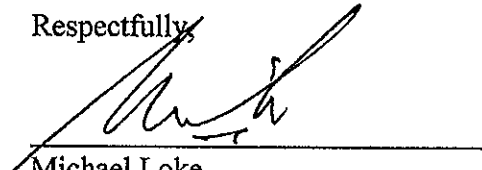
Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing, in support of GM57, the confirmation of Jason T. Okuhama to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA).

I am President of the Board at Century Square and Jason was previously the Treasurer and remains a Board of Director. His knowledge in finances exceeds everyone's expectation. He is also very responsive and reliable. I highly recommend him to a second term to the HCDA Board and I have no doubt he will be a great asset for this State Agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,



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Michael Loke  
President of the Board  
AOAO Century Square