

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Kakaako, Kalaeloa & Heeia Development Districts
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 4, 2017

Chairperson and Members
Hawaii Community Development Authority
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

HCDA Board Members:

SUBJECT: Shall the Authority Adopt Recommendations Provided By The 2017 Legislative Task Force on Legislation That May Affect The Hawaii Community Development Authority?

SUMMARY:

Each year during the Legislative session bills are introduced that affect the HCDA directly and indirectly, and may require the board to provide comments. As the Board meets monthly, it is difficult for the Board to provide comments on a moment's notice. Therefore, the 2017 Legislative Task Force recommends the Board take positions, based on previous legislative subjects that affected HCDA. These positions will also provide the Executive Director and staff guidance on how to proceed on certain items.

AUTHORITIES:

The 2017 Legislative Task Force was appointed at the September 7, 2016 meeting of the Board.

BACKGROUND:

The 2017 Regular Session of the Hawaii State Legislature convenes on January 18, 2017.

The Task Force met on October 11, 2016 and December 28, 2016 and is recommending the following general positions to the Board:

Homelessness

- The HCDA Board supports any measure seeking additional help from other state agencies to address the issue of homelessness.

Infrastructure improvements

- The HCDA board supports any measure that would support infrastructure improvement projects within its districts as long as it is coupled with staffing to support implementation.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) or expanding HCDA's areas or responsibility

- The HCDA board is unable to support any measure that expands HCDA's development districts unless it is coupled with staffing to support implementation.

Repeal of HCDA special funds

- The HCDA board opposes any measure to repeal its special funds as the HCDA relies on the funds for its operations.

In addition, the Task Force is recommending a matrix of bills affecting HCDA be posted on its website at www.hcdaweb.org and updated regularly. Members and the public will be able to see the bills current status as well as HCDA's testimony.

ANALYSIS:

The Task Force discussions on homelessness centered on ensuring HCDA receives assistance from other state agencies, if available. Last year, there were proposals to create a state team that would work with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to assist with enforcement of various laws.

On infrastructure improvements and TOD, the Task Force discussed the staff's ability to implement any new projects without a corresponding increase in staffing.

On the repeal of HCDA special funds, the Task Force considered the effect of the loss of special funds as those funds are necessary for HCDA to operate.

The HCDA has previously taken general positions to address groups of bills on the same subject areas.

During the 2016 Regular Session of the Hawaii State Legislature, the Board approved two general positions at its February Board meeting.

- The HCDA board supports bills that would support CIP projects within our districts as long as it is coupled with HCDA staffing ability to support implementation.
- The board would support HCDA seeking additional help from other state agencies with regards taking of the homeless situation.

Those two positions are the same as the positions contemplated by the Task Force.

RECOMMENDATION:

HCDA staff recommends that the Board adopt the recommendations of the 2017 Legislative Task Force that:

1. The HCDA Board supports any measure seeking additional help from other state agencies to address the issue of homelessness.
2. The HCDA board supports any measure that would support infrastructure improvement projects within its districts as long as it is coupled with staffing and necessary funding to support implementation.

3. The HCDA board is unable to support any measure that expands HCDA's development districts unless it is coupled with staffing and necessary funding to support implementation.
4. The HCDA board opposes any measure to repeal its special funds as the HCDA relies on the funds for its operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Garett Kamemoto,
Compliance Assurance and Community Outreach
Officer

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Jesse K. Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority