



## **HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

### **Board Member Biographical Statements**

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#### **Milo Spindt, Chair, (Kauai)**

Milo Spindt previously served the Kauai District Land Agent for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Land Division. He brings his experience as a Property Manager and Real Estate Broker where he worked with private and non-profit affordable housing developers. He also founded a 501 (c) 3 for the purpose of public/private partnerships in developing affordable low income housing.

Mr. Spindt is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

#### **Leilani Pulmano, Vice Chair (Maui)**

Leilani Pulmano, holds a degree from the University of Hawaii's School of Travel Industry Management. This guided Leilani to a career in tourism with Hyatt Hotels and Resorts where she worked in several different cities before returning to Hawaii to work for Maui Land & Pineapple Company in Community Development. She is currently a Project Manager at Pacific Rim Land, Inc.

Leilani is active in the community with Lahaina Bypass Now, an organization working towards transportation solutions, and Ka Ipu Kukui, an organization of upcoming leaders dedicated to improving Maui Nui.

#### **Rona Fukumoto, Secretary, (Private Non-Profit)**

Rona Fukumoto of Honolulu is currently President and CEO of Lanikila Pacific, a non-profit organization dedicated to offering programs that build independence and improve quality of life for people with challenges. Previously, she was the division administrator for Catholic Charities Hawaii's Housing Assistance and Referral Programs, and the nonprofit's former director of Intake, Information and Referral. She currently volunteers as a member of the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation, the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, and Hawaii State Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Advisory Council. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in public administration from UH Manoa.

#### **Melvin Kahele, Director, (At-Large)**

Melvin Kahele, Jr.'s brings his experience as President/Principal Executive Officer for the Teamsters Union, Local 996 and Legislative lobbyist for the Ironworkers Union, Local 625 Stabilization Fund to the HHFDC board. His other professional and community service include chairing 7 Teamsters union trust funds.

Following an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, he attended Leeward Community College for three years. While attending college, he began a twenty-five year career at the Gas Company, he served as a shop steward and negotiating committee member for nineteen of those years. In 1996, he was elected to the Executive Board of the Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Union, Local 996.

Mr Kahele also served as a member of the U.S. Human Rights Commission and boards of the Asian Pacific Labor Alliance and Aloha United Way.

### **George Atta, Director, (Oahu)**

George Atta was recently the Director of the Department of Planning & Permitting, City & County of Honolulu, a department of 300 employees in areas relating to long-range planning; building and construction; traffic and engineering, land use and development, and commercial/residential enforcement.

He was also the principal, partner, and project manager of Group 70, Honolulu, Hawaii, where he provided leadership for transit design plans, public facilities, environmental assessment/EIS documents, and various land use permit applications. He also coordinated community advisory groups and public meetings, as well as managed project scheduling, budgets and consultant coordination. His areas of specialization included public facilities, historical/cultural landscapes, resource management, land use compatibility, wetlands delineation, environmental inspections and disaster planning and mitigation.

### **Donn Mende, Director, (Hawaii)**

Donn Mende, a resident of Hilo with over 20 years' experience in the Finance and Banking industry is currently the Lending Manager for HFS Federal Credit Union on Hawaii Island. He has also served as the Deputy Director for the Department of Research & Development of the County of Hawaii's economic development arm. Donn is very active in the community serving on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Island, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii and the Big Island Housing Foundation.

### **Luis Salaveria, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism**

Luis P. Salaveria brings more than 20 years of public and private sector experience and most recently served as the deputy director of finance where he assisted the director of finance in the planning, design and management of the annual \$12 billion operational and \$3 billion capital improvement budgets of the State of Hawaii; managing the State Treasury with more than \$3 billion in assets; conducting general obligation and revenue bond issuances; introducing and implementing fiscal and economic legislation and policies; conducting public affairs and stakeholder outreach; and administering the operations of all divisions and attached agencies (Employee Retirement System, Employer Union Trust Fund, Public Utilities Commission, and Public Defenders Office) of the more than 300-employee department.

Salaveria holds a degree in economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is a graduate of Kaiser Permanente's National Manager's Leadership Program, and earned his Fiduciary Trustee Certificate from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

### **Sara Lin, Senior Special Assistant, Office of the Governor**

Sara Lin is Gov. David Ige's lead for housing, responsible for helping to drive his affordable housing initiatives and serving as his liaison to private sector, nonprofit and government stakeholders in Hawaii's housing community. She is an accomplished media professional with more than 15 years of experience in journalism and communications. Before joining the governor's office, Sara worked at the Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation, a government venture capital program tasked with building a startup ecosystem in Hawaii through public-private partnerships. Part of her work with the Governor's office also involves speechwriting and strategic planning on the Governor's goals for the state. Her journalism background includes stints as a staff writer at the Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, and most recently, as a founding editor of Honolulu Civil Beat, an online investigative news startup launched by eBay founder and philanthropist Pierre Omidyar. She is a graduate of Princeton University.

### **Laurel Johnston, Director, Dept. of Budget and Finance**

During her 30-year career in Hawai'i, Johnston has served as: Gov. Ige's deputy chief of staff; director of the University of Hawai'i's Budget Office; assistant Senate Clerk with the Hawai'i State Senate; executive director of Hawai'i Uninsured Project; assistant superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education, Planning, Budget and Resource Development Office; staff director, Hawai'i Senate Judiciary Committee; senior legislative researcher, Hawai'i Senate Majority Office; legislative analyst, Office of the Auditor, State of Hawai'i.

Johnston earned a Master of Science degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology, both from Florida State University.