



HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board Member Biographical Statements

Donn Mende, Chair, (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.

Gary Mackler, Vice-Chair, (Kauai)

Gary Mackler previously served as the Housing Development Coordinator for the County of Kauai, Housing Agency, helping to expand affordable rental and for-sale housing opportunities for Kauai's residents. During his 24-year tenure with the County Housing Agency, he focused on all aspects of affordable housing development, where he facilitated the development and production of more than 1,200 housing units island wide.

Since his retirement from the County in 2017, Gary continues to keep active in the field of affordable housing and is currently serving on the boards of the Hawaii Homeownership Center - Community Land Trust, and Kauai Housing Development Corporation.

Gary is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies. He also holds a Juris Doctor degree from Western State University, College of Law.

Rona Fukumoto, Secretary, (Private Non-Profit)

Rona Fukumoto of Honolulu is currently President and CEO of Lanikila Pacific. 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. Prior to that, she worked her way up from employment specialist to vice president and director of employment and community programs at Winners at Work from 1995 to 2004. Fukumoto also served as an educational specialist and office assistant at UH Manoa's KOKUA Program. She currently volunteers as a member of the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation and Hawaii State Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Advisory Council, and is a former member of the Hawaii Parkinson Association. Fukumoto also volunteers for Project Dana, providing respite care through home visits to elderly individuals. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in public administration from UH Manoa.

Carol Reimann, Director, (Maui)

Appointed as VP Maui for Alexander & Baldwin in 2018, Carol has embraced executive leadership roles in diverse fields such as housing & human concerns, agriculture, tourism and events management. Most notably, she enjoyed a 25-year career in the visitor industry where she specialized in government advocacy, community support & engagement, marketing, public relations and events management.

In her current role, she serves as the senior representative of A&B's interests on Maui that includes commercial real estate and development, as well as overseeing government and community relations.

In addition to serving as a Rotarian, she is very engaged in her community and holds board positions on the Maui Chamber of Commerce, MEO, MEDB and Hale Makua. In the past, she also served as Chair of the Maui County Salary Commission and board member of the Committee on the Status of Women, Maui County Council Boy Scouts of America, Maui Workforce Investment Board, Hawaii Adult Education Council, Maui County Farm Bureau and Maui Visitors Bureau.

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.

Craig Hirai, Acting Director, Department of Budget and Finance

Hirai served as executive director of the HHFDC from 2013 to 2019. He is also the sole member of Craig K. Hirai, CPA, LLC. Previously, Hirai was a consultant (shareholder/director) at Bowen Hunsaker Hirai Consulting, Inc. and Bowen Hunsaker Hirai, Certified Public Accountants. In addition, Hirai worked as a tax attorney in private practice. Hirai is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton) where he earned an M.S. in accounting and an M.B.A. He went on to earn his J.D. at Hastings College of Law at the University of California San Francisco, and his LL.M – a Master of Laws (in taxation), a post-graduate law degree from New York University

Mike McCartney, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Mike McCartney has been Governor Ige's chief of staff since December 2014. He is the past president and chief executive officer of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the state's tourism agency. Prior to serving in this role, he was the executive director of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association. He also served as the director of the Department of Human Resources Management and was president and CEO of PBS Hawai'i. He served in the Hawai'i State Senate for 10 years.

Kymberly Sparlin, Policy Director, Office of the Governor, Sparlin most recently served as the Energy Program specialist, military and federal partner coordinator and legislative coordinator with the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism's (DBEDT) Energy Office. Previously, Sparlin worked in various capacities at DBEDT as executive assistant to the administrator and project manager, as well as a consultant.

Sparlin also worked as an office services administrator and administrative assistant at NCL America in Honolulu and was a legislative aide to Rep. Ryan Yamane in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.