



American Planning Association Hawai'i Chapter

hawai'i chapter

of the

american planning

association

p.o. box 557

honolulu

hawai'i

96809

www.hawaiiapa.org

March 17, 2023

Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Relating to the nomination of Dean Minakami as Executive Director of the
Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation

Aloha,

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Planning Association expresses its **strong support** for the confirmation of Dean Minakami as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

Mr. Minakami's extensive public and private-sector experience provides him with a wealth of knowledge that makes him well qualified to lead HHFDC. His current experience as the Development Branch Chief at HHFDC, and past experiences with A&B Properties, Castle & Cooke, Wilson Okamoto Corporation, PBR Hawaii, and Honolulu City Council provide him a background in development, planning, and policy that this position requires.

Mr. Minakami is highly respected in the planning profession and has been an active participant in the American Planning Association (APA) for over twenty years. He is also a Certified Planner under the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), which is the only nationwide, independent verification of planners' qualifications. Certified planners pledge to uphold high standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct, and maintain their skills by continuously pursuing advanced professional education.

We are confident that Mr. Minakami will continue to apply his planning and development expertise, collaborative style, and commitment to increasing affordable housing development as the Executive Director of HHFDC and respectfully urge your support of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Michael Shibata
APA Hawai'i Chapter President

*founded in 1962, the
hawai'i chapter has over
300 members, including
planning officials, public
and private sector planners,
and community advocates,
on the major islands
across the state*

*e mālama pono i ka 'āina;
nānā mai ke ola
take good care of the land;
it grants you life*

Castle & Cooke
Homes Hawaii, Inc.

March 16, 2023

Mr. Donn Mende, Chair
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Board of Directors
677 Queen Street, #300
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Special Board of Directors Meeting - March 20, 2023
Appointment of a New Executive Director

Dear Chair Donn Mende, and Members of the HHFDC Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in regards to the appointment of a new Executive Director for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Castle & Cooke Hawai'i **strongly supports** the current Executive Director Denise Iseri-Matsubara's recommendation of **Dean Minakami** as the new Executive Director. Mr. Minakami currently serves as HHFDC's Development Branch Chief.

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation oversees affordable housing finance, planning, and development in Hawaii. Their work and support has facilitated the development of affordable residential units for Hawaii families. With the current housing crisis, HHFDC's role is even more critical than ever. Mr. Minakami has an extensive background in planning and development in both the public and private sectors. He has experience and relevant knowledge having worked in State and County agencies. Having worked at Castle & Cooke on residential projects, he understands what it takes to develop a community, a project and a home. His holistic perspective, collaborative nature, and solutions orientation make him an invaluable asset and excellent choice.

I humbly request that Dean Minakami be appointed as the new Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

CASTLE & COOKE



Harry A. Saunders
President

From: Carleton Ching
To: [Pablo, Esa J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of Dean Minakami - HHFDC Executive Director
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:19:43 PM

Aloha Chairman Donn Mende and Members of the HHFDC Board,

I respectfully submit my testimony in support of Mr. Dean Minakami for the position of Executive Directive of the State HHFDC.

Mr. Minakami has 25 +years of experience and expertise in the real estate industry; having worked in varying capacities to bring forward the implementation and delivery of new residential housing inventory, for a wide spectrum of needs.

His expertise, diligence and commitment would be beneficial to HHFDC and in the role of Executive Director; to continue to move forward affordable housing programs for the State of Hawaii.

I respectfully request your consideration of Dean Minakami for the position of Executive Director of the State HHFDC

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Carleton Ching

March 15, 2023

Mr. Donn Mende, Board Chair
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF DEAN MINAKAMI

I wish to express my **full support** for the appointment of Dean Minakami who is being recommended by Denise Iseri-Matsubara to serve as the new Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

My name is Rodney Funakoshi, recently retired as Administrator of the Land Use Division of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, State of Hawaii. The Land Use Division represents the State Administration in all proceedings before the State Land Use Commission. The Division is also primarily responsible for directing State Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which largely involves mixed use and affordable housing development on State lands.

In this capacity, I had the opportunity to know and work closely with Dean Minakami for several years during his tenure with the HHFDC's Development Branch. We consulted with Dean extensively as part of HHFDC's co-chairing of the TOD Interagency Council and he provided valuable guidance and assistance on several task forces and committees, including Mahelona master plan, TOD affordable housing and TOD Infrastructure Financing. He always gave willingly of his time and expertise, was well-informed of HHFDC activities and always conducted himself in a highly professional manner.

Furthermore, I have known Dean throughout his professional career, having worked closely with him in a planning and engineering firm in various master planning and environmental projects. He has a broad range of planning and development experience which was honed during his tenure with Castle & Cooke Homes, Honolulu City Council, and private planning firms. He has been active in the Hawaii Chapter of American Planning Association, including serving as its past President. Dean has excellent communication, verbal and writing skills, works collaboratively, quickly grasps complex issues, is well-organized, is an excellent manager, and most importantly, has great planning perspective.

I know Dean will be a steadfast advocate of affordable housing and will act in the State and the public's best interests. I strongly encourage your full support of his appointment.

Sincerely,



Rodney Funakoshi
Land Use Division Administrator (retired)
State of Hawaii Office of Planning and Sustainable Development



Hunt Communities Hawaii, LLC
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2750
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Office: 808-585-7900

March 15, 2023

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street, Ste. 300
Honolulu, HI 96813

Attention: Esa Pablo

Subject: Nomination of Dean C. Minakami, AICP


To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Dean Minakami to serve as Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC). Dean has an excellent reputation and is very experienced in both the public and private sectors. This asset allows Dean to see different sides of any issue and surmise the most effective means of completing a task. For many years, HHFDC was unable to dedicate roadways built in the Villages of Kapolei to the City & County of Honolulu. Because of his ability to understand both ends of the spectrum, Dean accomplished a tremendous task. He brought the two entities together to execute a MOU and after decades, the dedication process has finally commenced.

I have personal experience with Dean as I have worked with him at Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii and at A&B Properties. In both cases, Dean was always fair and reasonable with all decision making and contributed in a very positive manner. He was and continues to be a pleasure to work with. I sincerely hope the selection committee favorably considers Dean as the Executive Director of HHFDC.

Sincerely,

Hunt Communities Hawaii, LLC,
a Hawaii limited liability company

By: 
Anthony Gaston
Senior Vice President

629 Honua Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 14, 2023

Board of Directors
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Written Testimony Supporting the Appointment of Dean Minakami

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I highly recommend the appointment of Dean Minakami as Executive Director for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC). I worked with Dean for more than 20 years, when I served as Vice President of Development for Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., and prior to that as Vice President of Development for Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, Inc. (CCHHI). I first met Dean when he was a senior level planning consultant at Wilson Okamoto. Dean was subsequently recruited to become a development project coordinator/manager for a full range of housing product types being developed and built by CCHHI in Mililani Mauka and Royal Kunia. Later, he was recruited to be a planning project manager at Alexander & Baldwin.

Dean has been dedicated, innovative and caring in his approach to all his positions. He is knowledgeable about the multiple aspects of planning, development, and finance, particularly as it relates to affordable housing. Dean is a team player and leader.

Dean is very supportive of affordable housing that is provided by both the private and public sectors. Since my retirement in late 2021, Dean has been a great resource for me as part of the volunteer development team for Puuhonua o Waianae, an agriculturally based kauhale planned for approximately 250 people, currently under construction.

I urge you to appoint Dean Minakami as Executive Director for HHFDC. I am confident that he will do an excellent job for the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie I. Kiehm', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Natalie I. Kiehm

Dan Yasui
98-1910 J Kaahumanu Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

March 14, 2023

Mr. Donn Mende, Chair
Board of Directors
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via Email

Subject: Appointment of New Executive Director

Dear Chair Mende and HHFDC Directors:

This letter is to express my support for the appointment of Mr. Dean Minakami as your new Executive Director.

Dean and I worked together at Alexander & Baldwin in land use planning and real estate development. Working with Dean, I found him to be a very competent and diligent professional. Dean understands broad organizational objectives and possesses the ability to develop and implement detailed strategies to meet these objectives. Dean was able to define and implement specific action plans with minimal supervision. Dean was a team player and well respected by his co-workers.

Dean left Alexander & Baldwin to work at HHFDC because of his long-term interest and passion for residential housing development. Dean understands the development process and the key critical factors that often determine whether a particular housing development will come to fruition. As a planner by profession and nature, he is able to identify and address issues early in the development process. I believe that Dean's career to date makes him well suited and prepared for this new role.

Please accept this letter as support for Dean Minakami as your new Executive Director.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Dan Yasui

From: LoriAnn Tsuhako
To: [Pablo, Esa J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Regarding the Appointment of a new Executive Director of HHFDC
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:17:40 AM

March 18, 2023

To the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony as I am not able to testify live at your meeting scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2023.

I am Lori Tsuhako, Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for the County of Maui. The DHHC is responsible for a wide variety of social programs in the County, as well as facilitating the development of affordable housing for our residents. As we all are aware, we across the state have been in a state of housing crisis for several years. HHFDC and the Counties must continue to collaborate to address these needs.

I am writing to express my strong support for Mr. Dean Minakami who is being considered for hire as your Executive Director. I have worked with Mr. Minakami for many years. Mr. Minakami has represented HHFDC very well in collaborative efforts with our County. He has been engaged, open to feedback and suggestions, and always honest in his interactions with me, my staff, and other County partners. Mr. Minakami has earned our trust and support through his actions and his conduct. As we continue to work on the significant Kahului Civic Center project, we look forward to achieving a successful project that benefits our community.

Please give Mr. Minakami your highest consideration as you select your new Executive Director. I have every confidence that his experience, skills, ability to work with others, and ethic make him well suited for this position of leadership of HHFDC. I look forward to working with him and his HHFDC colleagues in the future.

Sincerely,

Lori Tsuhako, LSW, ACSW
Director
Dept. of Housing and Human Concerns
2200 Main Street, #546
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 270-7478



R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA
President / Chairman

RUSSELL Y. J. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED® AP BD+C
Executive Vice-President / Principal

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI
Senior Vice-President / Principal

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED® AP BD+C
Senior Vice-President / Principal

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED® AP BD+C
Vice-President / Principal

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MARC SHIMATSU, ASLA
Associate Principal

DACHENG DONG, LEED® AP
Associate Principal

NATHALIE RAZO
Associate Principal

ANN MIKIKO BOUSLOG, PhD
Project Director

RANSAY R. M. TAUM
Cultural Sustainability Planner

MICAH McMILLEN, ASLA, LEED® AP
Senior Associate

ETSUYO KILA
Senior Associate

GREG NAKAI
Senior Associate

NICOLE SWANSON, ASLA
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printed on recycled paper

March 17, 2023

Via email to: esa.j.pablo@hawaii.gov

Mr. Donn Mende, Board Chair
Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation
677 Queen Street, Suite 300, Board Room
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DEAN MINAKAMI AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAI'I HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dear Chair Mende and Board Members,

This letter expresses PBR HAWAII's strong support of the appointment of Dean Minakami as the Executive Director of The Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

The executive officers of PBR HAWAII have known Dean for many years both professionally and personally. Some of us have known Dean for decades—since shared time as together at the University of Hawai'i Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the early 1990s. Many of our careers have entwined with Dean's over the years and we have known Dean in various private and public employment positions. Dean has also worked alongside us as a professional planner at PBR HAWAII. During his time with PBR HAWAII, Dean took on difficult and challenging projects and did exceptional work.

Dean is a dedicated professional with years of experience who keeps abreast of the most recent trends and practices in the urban and regional planning field. He has built a strong career and reputation in Hawai'i with solid relationships forged by his dedication to exceptional work in increasing challenging positions in both the public and private sectors.

Dean also has shown strong leadership in the planning profession in Hawai'i as demonstrated by his years of involvement with the American Planning Association Hawai'i Chapter, including President and previous positions on the Executive Committee.

Those of us who know Dean personally know him to be focused, ethically responsible, good-natured, and humble. With these characteristics he has demonstrated he is trustworthy, loyal, and values long-term friendships. His professional experience, personal demeanor, and respect of others allows Dean to balance many differing viewpoints with professionalism, respect, and dignity toward all.

Based on our years of shared professional development, friendship, and common interest in creating a better future for Hawai'i, we find Dean to be exceptionally qualified to for the position of Executive Director and strongly support his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

R. Stan Duncan
President

Russell Y. J. Chung
Executive Vice
President

Vincent Shigekuni
Senior Vice President

Grant Murakami
Senior Vice President

Kimi Yuen
Vice President

Catie Cullison
Vice President

Tom Schnell
Principal