



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Housing
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By

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Hawai'i System

WRITTEN ONLY

GM 745 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, PONO SHIM, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Members of the Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony for Mr. Pono Shim in strong support of his nomination to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Board.

As vice president for research and innovation for the University of Hawai'i System and as a board member of the O'ahu Economic Development Board (OEDB), I have had the distinct honor and privilege of working closely with Mr. Shim for a number of years through his role as president/chief executive officer of OEDB. With his insightfulness on a broad range of social issues at home and abroad, and most importantly – his ability to bring people together in a common cause, I can think of no one more qualified to help address the challenges of public housing in Hawai'i.

As my office has been actively engaged with the local business community on an innovation-based economic stimulus initiative to help diversify the state's economy, I have been extremely fortunate to have a person of Mr. Shim's qualifications and character leading OEDB and as a confidant. Through his inclusive style and influence in the community, Mr. Shim has established OEDB as a critical partner to the success of this initiative.

In 2012, Mr. Shim successfully led the efforts of Punawai 'O Pu'uhonua's New Market Tax Credit Application that resulted in a \$40 million allocation for economic development in low-income communities in Hawai'i. His core values are further illustrated by his unselfish donation of time and leadership training to various state departments, including: human services, public safety, human resources, judiciary, and welfare services. He continues to serve on the directory boards or as an advisor to numerous organizations.

It is with strong support that I recommend that Mr. Pono Shim be reappointed as a board member of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.