

January 23, 2019

Councilmember Mike Molina,
Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee Chairman
Maui County Council

RE: Testimony on Appointment and Removal of Administrative
Heads of Departments (Managing Director) GET-1(1))

My name is Susie Thieman, and I am the Executive Director of Lokahi Pacific. I am speaking in favor of approving the appointment of Sandy Baz as Managing Director.

Over the past 14 years it has been my pleasure to work with Sandy both as a co-worker and as Budget Director for the County of Maui.

When I started working at MEO, Sandy was deputy director to Gladys Baisa, the Executive Director. I soon became CEO of MEO Business Development Corp. and shortly thereafter Gladys retired and Sandy was named the CEO of MEO, Inc. In that capacity he served on our Loan Committee and on our Board of Directors. When I would come up with some "first of their kind projects" he would always ask the questions that would give him the information he needed to either encourage me or ask additional questions to help me decide for myself whether to pursue the project or not.

Seven years later, he is Budget Director for the County and I am Executive Director at Lokahi Pacific. I watched as he maneuvered through the volumes of line items and numbers so he could respond to the Councilmembers questions, whether it was at budget time or just quick questions regarding availability of funds in a committee meeting. In meetings with Sandy and other County officials, he listened carefully to the discussions and is always ready with good responses when asked.

He has continued his formal education, always wanting to be prepared for that next position with its additional responsibilities and challenges that it would bring for him to meet. Today he meets the qualifications for the position of Managing Director as set forth in County Code.

RECEIVED AT GET MEETING ON 1-23-19