



Faisha Solomon
HCDC
Deputy Director

Homestead Leaders Serving on National Policy Organizations

Hawai'i – The first month of 2021 adds enrolled members of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) to national policy organizations in the areas of Rural Affordable Housing and in Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) policy.

Faisha Solomon, SCHHA Administrator and a Director of the SCHHA's Native CDFI, Hawaiian Lending & Investments (HLI), has been appointed to the national policy committee of the Native CDFI Network (NCN) headquartered in Washington DC. Solomon was raised on Hawaiian Homelands, is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, and received bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration. The NCN is the only national member-based advocacy voice on American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian loan fund policy, to advance public policy for more than 70 Native CDFIs operating in 26 states, including Hawaii.

"It's such an honor," **Solomon** said from the SCHHA Oahu office. "I'm looking forward to working with our counterparts in Indian Country and working on common policy goals not only in the upcoming Biden/Harris administration, but also elected leaders in the House and Senate in Washington DC."

Robin Puanani Danner, the SCHHA Chairwoman has been elected to the national board of the National Rural Housing Coalition (NHRC), founded in 1969 and is the national voice of rural housing and community development programs. Danner, a former banker and tribal housing authority executive director, is the CEO of the Homestead Community Development Corporation (HCDC) dedicated to affordable housing and job creation on Hawaiian Home Lands.

"Very much want to mahalo national colleagues for the nomination to bring the perspectives of our trust lands and all Native peoples to the national conversations on rural housing policy," **Danner** remarked from her office on Kauai. "It is so important to be at the table to advance rural housing issues, mahalo for the opportunity to serve."

Enrolled members of the SCHHA are focused on good public policy in all sectors, whether housing, commerce, education, healthcare, or environmental stewardship. The Native Hawaiian land trust was established by the U.S. Congress, consisting of 203,000 acres of land on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii Island. The SCHHA is led by a governing council, chaired by Danner, and a vice chair, Sybil Lopez from Molokai, Richard Soo from Oahu, Kekoa Enomoto from Maui/Lanai and Ron Kodani from Hawaii Island.

"The SCHHA is 34 years-old this year", said **Sybil Lopez**, SCHHA Vice Chairwoman. "Our travels to the Hawaii State Capitol and to Washington DC have been curbed by COVID-19, but our policy initiatives continue every day. These national appointments serve our collective work, we appreciate the recognition of the talent at the SCHHA."

SCHHA, founded in 1987, is the oldest and largest homestead association registered with the federal Department of Interior, exercising sovereignty to advance the tenets of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 and advance the interests of 10,000 land allottees and 28,000 native Hawaiians awaiting a homestead land award.

For more information, contact info@hawaiianhomesteads.org. Submitted to post on this web site by Daniel Ornellas

