

July 30, 2022

**Syliva Luke:** The union's campaign of retribution against my campaign for Lieutenant Governor has begun. I'm being punished because in 2017, I refused to saddle the residents of O'ahu with a permanent tax increase to fund the rail project.

**Be Change Now response:** Be Change Now backs candidates with strong records of support for working families. Be Change Now opposes candidates who have not stood with working families. Rather than answer these legitimate criticisms of her record, Sylvia Luke is slinging attacks against the working women and men who keep Hawaii strong.

**Syliva Luke:** The ad uses a mishmash of disconnected facts to impugn my integrity and confuse voters. I have no quarrel with a union supporting a candidate. But these ugly tactics do our electorate a disservice.

**Be Change Now response:** The bottom line is that Sylvia Luke has not – because she cannot – dispute a single claim in Be Change Now's ad. The ad is truthful, factual, and raises crucial questions about whether government should work for the middle class or whether it should do the bidding of powerful insiders.

**Sylvia Luke:** This ad attempts to connect the indictment of a prolific campaign donor named Martin Kao on federal fraud charges to a five-year old state law supporting tenants forced to relocate by an ambitious harbor redevelopment project. There simply is no connection.

**Be Change Now response:** The central question in this race is whether Hawaii will have a lieutenant governor who works for the middle-class or whether Hawaii will have a lieutenant governor who does the bidding of insiders. The sweetheart deal that Navatek received in 2017 and the later allegations against Mr. Kao stem from the same problem: that government, too often, works for powerful insiders instead of the middle class. Be Change Now's advertisement sheds light on this important issue. Over a 6 year period, Navatek gave nearly \$180,000 in contributions to Hawaii candidates and received over \$8 million dollars in tax credits and rent relief. Specifically regarding our ad, Luke accepted thousands from Navatek and

their CEO. Perhaps most concerning, she accepted high dollar donations from the CEO and his Vice President the very same month her Navatek tax legislation moved through the state legislature. The legislation extended highly controversial tax credits worth up to \$7.5 million that benefited Navatek and their subsidiary. Even worse, that is not the only time Sylvia went out of her way to use state funding to help Navatek. Sylvia, along with her right hand man Ty Cullen, awarded Navatek \$1.25 million in government grants-in-aid, taxpayer funds meant for non-profit organizations who provide critical social services. We are not alone in our worries about the strange GIA move, In 2017 The Star Advertiser editorial board deeply criticized the GIA process.

Reference articles:

Tax credit granted to harbor firm divides lawmakers | Honolulu Star-Advertiser (staradvertiser.com)

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2014/Testimony/HB1702\\_HD1\\_TESTIMONY\\_FIN\\_02-20-14\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2014/Testimony/HB1702_HD1_TESTIMONY_FIN_02-20-14_.PDF)

Tighten rules for state grants-in-aid | Honolulu Star-Advertiser (staradvertiser.com)

**Sylvia Luke:** Publicly available media logs show that it has committed \$565,000 for TV and Radio ads on behalf of LG candidate Ikaika Anderson.

**Be Change Now response:** Be Change Now represents the voices of actual working local families, and we believe that the public dialogue is best served by fair and balanced media coverage of our work and the election. Be Change Now, the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters and Pacific Resource Partnership are 100% local. We are not “outside, mainland money.” We are part of the middle-class and the foundation of Hawaii’s economy. While our ad is bold and hard hitting, it is factual and accurate. Sylvia Luke has not refuted the claims because the claims are factual.