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State Honors Sue Taoka of Seattle

Tacoma, Wash.—Sept. 16, 2008— Sue Taoka was honored last night for years of service to the mission of expanding affordable housing resources for the benefit of Washington’s low-income residents. Before an audience of 500 colleagues, Ms. Taoka received a *Friend of Housing* award presented annually by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. The awards ceremony took place on Sept. 16 at the 2008 *Housing Washington* conference at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.

“Sue has devoted her life to improving the lives of low-income, traditionally underserved people,” said Paul Waudé, fund development manager for the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority. “Her determined efforts have been driven by her belief in social justice— that everyone deserves good housing and critical life services.”

In 14 years as executive director of the Authority, Ms. Taoka has increased affordable housing in the International District by 400 percent. To name just one example, she played an instrumental role in the development of the International District Village Square, a mixed-use multicultural complex that includes 57 family-sized apartments and 75 units of senior housing. This complex project stimulated the largest public-private philanthropic partnership in the history of the International District, and is studied by community development organizations nationwide as a model of success and innovation.

From 1990 to 1992, Ms. Taoka served as Deputy Chief of Staff under Mayor Norm Rice and was responsible for the oversight of the City’s housing policy and development, economic and community development, neighborhood planning and development, parks acquisition and development, and land use code and policy development.

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She has served the Fannie Mae Housing Impact Advisory Committee, Washington Mutual Housing Advisory Committee, and on the Boards of Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle and Impact Capital. She was influential in establishing the Washington State Housing Trust Fund and is a founding member of the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle and King County.

"Over the years, Sue's tireless work has lead to 100's of units of affordable housing, "said Tim Otani, WaMu's first vice president of corporate and employee giving. "She is a wonderful asset to the Seattle-area housing community."

The Housing Finance Commission received more than 20 nominations for the *Friend of Housing* awards from people working in the public, private and independent sectors of the affordable housing industry. Honorees are selected for their leadership and exceptional contribution to creating or supporting affordable housing, implementing housing-related programs, creating innovative financing mechanisms for housing, supporting homebuyer education or technical training efforts within the housing community and helping to solve housing problems.

Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.

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