

GM 15

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, DAVID MATTOS, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

From: [Kawika Riley](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: [Bhanot, Pankaj](#); [Korenaga, Katherine](#); [Taum-Deenik, Malia](#)
Subject: Testimony for August 29 Fatherhood Commission Hearing
Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:37:26 AM

**Testimony for the Hawai‘i State Senate Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 2:45 pm. Hearing on nominees for the State Commission on
Fatherhood (GM 15 & GM 36)**

Aloha Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Kawika Riley, and I am a sitting member of the Hawai‘i State Commission on Fatherhood (Commission). It is my pleasure to testify in **support** of both of the individuals being considered by the committee today. In my testimony below I will briefly outline my reasons for support of each individual, in the order in which the committee has listed their GMs. The Commission on Fatherhood was established by the Hawai‘i State Legislature, and is codified in H.R.S. 577E. Through Act 190 (Session Laws 2007) it has been a permanent state commission since 2007. Its purpose is to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children, with an emphasis on helping the state support and uplift the role of fatherhood in our communities.

David Mattos is being considered for the Commission’s Maui seat, which he currently holds as an interim appointee. David agreed to serve in this position when the previous Maui Commissioner had to relocate in order to care for family on the U.S. Continent. The former Maui Commissioner recommended Mr. Mattos based on the nominee’s professional qualifications and interest in helping the state improve its policies and practices towards fathers and families. Since his interim appointment I have found him eager to do the work of the Commission. Day-to-day Mr. Mattos is the Program Supervisor and Facilitator for Kane Connections, within Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Commissioners with on the ground experience such as his are important to our Commission, and I hope that the Committee will approve of his nomination, so we may continue to benefit from his passion and experience. Caleb Milliken is being considered for the Commission’s Hawai‘i Island seat, which is currently vacant. Like the previously mentioned nominee, Mr. Milliken has on the ground experience supporting fathers and families, and currently serves as the Director of the West Hawai‘i -based Fatherhood Initiative at Family Support Hawai‘i. Previously, Mr. Milliken was the Executive Director for Boys to Men Hawai‘i, a nonprofit that provides mentorship and support for teenage boys to help them develop healthy habits, self-esteem, and the resilience needed to transition into adulthood. While I have not worked with Mr. Milliken, we have had several conversations, and I believe he will be a great addition to the Commission. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that these men are interested in volunteer service on the Commission, especially given the wealth of practical experience they bring to the table. I ask the Committee to approve their nominations in a timely fashion, to allow for Senate approval during this special session. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

Strengthening Children and Families in Maui County for over 35 Years!

August 27, 2017

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Edeluisa Baguio-Larena



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The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Interim of 2017
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM15, Status and Testimony for Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 2:45 PM

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

My name is Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Chief Executive Officer of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. (MFSS), a 501 c(3) non-profit organization that has been providing continuous services to families and children in Maui County for over 36 years. Thank you for the opportunity to offer a letter in strong support of Governor's Message No. 15 in favor of nominee Mr. David Mattos to the Commission on Fatherhood for a term that expires on 6-30-2020.

MFSS has provided father involvement services since 2005 to not only work with fathers but also other men who need support in nurturing their relationships, especially with their spouse or partner and their children. Mr. Mattos joined MFSS in September 2015 as a Facilitator for our fatherhood program. Mr. Mattos brought to MFSS his extensive leadership and management skills, as well as his passion to serve people. In June 2016, he was promoted as the Program Supervisor for our fatherhood program which we call Kāne Connections. Since then, Mr. Mattos has increased the participation of fathers and other men from our community and build partnerships with private and public agencies including Child Welfare Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Office of the Judiciary-Drug Court, Casey Family Programs, Aloha House, and other agencies that are serving men and their families.

With his positive partnerships and reputation in our community, Mr. Mattos has distinguished himself in his profession and is highly qualified to serve on the Commission on Fatherhood.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration of Mr. Mattos' nomination to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Sincerely,

Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer



www.mfss.org



August 26, 2017

RE: GM 15 - David "Kawika" Mattos

Dear Senator Green,

It is my great pleasure to write a Letter of Support for Mr. David "Kawika" Mattos to serve as a Fatherhood Commissioner from Maui County. I have worked with Kawika for two years at Maui Family Support Services (MFSS), and have always been impressed by his professionalism, kindness, and dedication to the families, and particularly the fathers, of our county.

Kawika administers the KANE CONNECTIONS program at MFSS and in this role he trains men to work with fathers providing the evidence-based 24/7 Dads program. Kawika also provides direct services to fathers, and for the past two years has organized the Celebration of Fathers annual event on Maui with hundreds of men and their families in attendance. Prior to his work at MFSS, Kawika was, for many years, responsible for the daily activities of the Boys and Girls Clubs here on Maui. He is currently serving as an interim commissioner on the Board.

I can give Kawika my highest recommendation for the position of Fatherhood Commissioner for Maui County. He is well known, well liked, and well respected in Maui County. He will be an excellent addition to the Board. Kawika will continue to promote the important role fathers play in the well being of their children. As an excellent family man and father himself, Kawika serves an outstanding role model.

I hope you will give him every consideration for this important position. Should you require any further information on Kawika, please feel free to call me at 808-218-5396.

Sincerely,
Vicki Draeger, Ph.D.
Maui Family Support Services
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Support Services