

JAMES S. TABE

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817**

July 3, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair,
Members of the Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 818 -- Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to
the Defender Council, gubernatorial nominee Stanton Oshiro

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

It is a pleasure to support the nomination of Stanton Oshiro for a second term on the Defender Council as the representative for the County of Hawai'i. Mr. Oshiro is a veteran criminal defense lawyer who is a solo practitioner in Hilo. As a member of the Defender Council, Mr. Oshiro will assist the Office of the Public Defender in fulfilling our mission of zealous and effective representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Mr. Oshiro's decades-long experience in criminal defense work has given him an extensive understanding of the criminal justice system and the Office of the Public Defender's essential role in that system. We would be privileged to have him to continue to serve on the Defender Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

Sincerely,



James S. Tabe
State Public Defender

HARRISON & MATSUOKA

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July 3, 2020

Via: Web: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Chair: Sen. Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair: Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole

DATE: July 6, 2020

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF STANTON OSHIRO

Honorable Senators: Karl Rhoads, Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to offer written testimony **in strident support for the confirmation of STANTON OSHIRO** to the Defender Council.



Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Chair: Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair: Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole
Date: July 3, 2020
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I have known Stanton Oshiro since 1986. He was an associate attorney with our law offices from 1986-1991. I worked closely with him on many matters while he was with Gima & Harrison. He always did an outstanding job representing our clients. He left our offices when he moved to Hilo to raise his family. Since that time, he has become the leader of the criminal defense bar in Hilo.

As a member of the HSBA Judicial Administration Committee I continually invite Stanton to our yearly Criminal Bench-Bar Conferences and Forums. I do so because he has been a welcome addition due to the wealth of knowledge, experience, and common sense he brings to our gatherings.

I believe his intelligence, commitment and sense of fairness would make him an excellent addition to the Defender Council.

I therefore would highly recommend that Stanton Oshiro be confirmed to the Defender Council.

If you have any further questions or need any further elaboration, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

HARRISON & MATSUOKA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Harrison", written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM A. HARRISON

GM-818

Submitted on: 7/4/2020 2:27:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LAW OFFICES OF STANTON C. OSHIRO
614 Kilauea Avenue, Suite 6
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Telephone No. 935-3348
Fax No. 935-3345

June 29, 2020

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads

Thank you for the kind words expressed in your letter of June 25, 2020.

Please find enclosed my answers to your questions below:

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Defender Council.

To oversee, guide, and assist the Office of the Public Defender in the discharge of its duty to provide the best possible legal representation for indigent citizens accused of crimes. Most recently that included specifically the selection of the new Public Defender.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Council?

As noted above the Council should provide guidance and direction with the ultimate goal of improving the ability of the Office of the Public Defender to better serve its clients and the Community.

3. Why do you wish to continue serving as a member of the Council? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Council or if you were invited to apply.

Any time I can contribute to the improvement of the Criminal Justice system I am willing to accept the challenge. Too often people are quick to level criticism but unwilling to themselves step forward and tackle the problems about which they so willingly complain. I appreciate the opportunity to attempt to address problems and issues rather than having to observe as a silent spectator. I was initially invited to apply to serve on the Council.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Council, and discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

I have been practicing Criminal Defense since 1986 and have been fortunate enough to know public Defenders both on Oahu as well as on the Big Island. As an "outsider" I have what I think is a unique perspective in that I can dispassionately and without bias recognize both the strengths of the Office as well as some of its problems.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your second term as a member of the Council?

To continue to assist the new Public Defender in his quest to improve the Office. He has many goals and issues to confront and address and I hope that the Council can continue to help in providing solutions.

6. What issues do you believe that the Council has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Council should address in the future?

I believe we did an excellent job in selecting the new Public Defender basing our decision on a wide variety of factors and insuring that the selection was based on merit, and our perception of what was needed to improve the office both from a client perspective as well as from the employees who serve within the Office.

The Council should stand ready to assist the Public Defender confront issues which arise whether within the Office, or whether as the result of external forces such the recent COVID-19 issue.

7. Have you had to address any possible conflicts of interest during your first term? Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your future service on the Council? How did you or would you overcome any possible conflicts?

No conflicts of interest have occurred nor do I expect any to arise. I believe because I have never been a Public Defender most potential conflicts simply don't exist. If any should arise full disclosure as well as abstention from any decision making regarding the issue giving rise to the potential conflict is appropriate.

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

I have enjoyed the appointment thus far and am proud of the Council's accomplishments thus far. I hope that as a member my efforts have had a positive impact and brought a different perspective to the Council.

9. Is there anything in your background that might be deemed as negative or controversial by the Senate?

No

Your kind attention to these matters is most appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you and remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanton C. Oshiro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stanton C. Oshiro

senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
j.faige@capitol.hawaii.gov.