

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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Corrections

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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 793
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
PAROLING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CAROL MATAYOSHI

By: Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

April 6, 2021: 1:05pm
Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety strongly supports Carol Matayoshi to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). Her work experience addressing homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, poverty, and justice-involved individuals make her an ideal candidate to serve on the Parole Board.

Given Ms. Matayoshi's educational accomplishments, experience working with criminal justice clientele, and commitment to service, I believe she would make a good choice to be a member of the HPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Ms. Matayoshi's nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

CLAYTON H.W. HEE
GENE DEMELLO, JR
MEMBERS

ANDREW MORGAN
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 793

by
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Video conference

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and Committee Members:

As Chair, and on behalf of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), I am in Strong Support of Governor Ige's nomination for Carol K. Matayoshi to serve as a board member of the HPA.

Ms. Matayoshi's educational and professional background displays a career of long commitment to service in the areas of growing concern experienced in our community today: Homelessness, Substance Abuse, Mental Health and the complexity of Co-Occurring Disorders. Noteworthy is Ms. Matayoshi's work with the Going Home project on Hawaii Island providing clean and sober living for the offender population. Going Home Hawaii now has residences on both the Hilo and Kona sides of the island. Her background in grant writing lends a keen ability to identify, assess and evaluate the worthiness and effectiveness of programs.

Ms. Matayoshi is a well experienced and seasoned veteran at various levels serving Hawaii Island and the State, appointed to the State Council on Mental Health, Contract Monitoring, transition from incarceration to clean and sober living, serving as a volunteer, supervisor and administrator in various organizations. These experiences make Ms. Matayoshi a highly sought resource and will have a significant presence at parole hearings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your Committee and your consideration of Carol K. Matayoshi. I am available for any questions by Committee Members.

April 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
From: Ted Sakai
Re: Governor's Message 793 re: Gubernatorial Nominee Carol Matayoshi, Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am offering this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Carol Matayoshi for a position on the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Carol is eminently qualified to make the difficult and consequential decisions that are required of members of this important Authority. Her education and training as a psychologist and her impressive work in community corrections will lend a valuable perspective to the Authority, whose decisions have a direct impact on individual lives and on the safety of our communities.

I first met Carol during my second term as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. At that time, she was working for Going Home Hawaii, a non-profit that coordinated community located programs for justice-involved persons on Hawaii Island. Carol impressed me with her creativity, her ability to translate innovative ideas into action, and her willingness to get hands-on to ensure that services were delivered as intended. She is perceptive, persistent, and committed to her work.

During my years with the Department for Public Safety, I became keenly aware that the Hawaii Paroling Authority has a significant impact on the lives of inmates and their loved ones, the safety of our communities, and the operation of our correctional system. With her ability to balance these different perspectives, Carol will be a valuable addition to the Authority. I urge that you recommend that she be confirmed.

TESTIMONY ON Governor's Message No. 793
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CAROL K. MATAYOSHI

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

April 6, 2021: 1:05pm
Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

It is with great honor and appreciation that I thank you for the privilege to share my testimony and be considered for a position with the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I have spent the past 24-plus years of my career in the nonprofit sector, dedicated to serving and advocating for the most vulnerable populations in my community. Most of those years were spent working with chronically homeless individuals, many of whom suffered from severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and/or substance use disorders (SUD).

I started my career as a youth counselor for a gang prevention program, working with at-risk youth from the ages of 12-17. I then spent the next 18 years working with Hawai'i County's homeless population and dealing with the issues of chronic homelessness, SPMI, SUD, justice-involved populations, and generational poverty.

Over the years, it became obvious that most of our homeless people inevitably crossed paths with the criminal justice system in one way or another, and that many became stuck in a "revolving door" at the Hawai'i Community Correctional Center (HCCC). During this time, I also developed a deep understanding of the unique challenges and barriers that these individuals faced upon returning to a community that was unsupportive and unforgiving.

In early 2016, with the realization that something needed to be done to stem the tide, I began to focus on assisting homeless offenders returning to the community from incarceration. At that time, I was contracted to help develop a new private nonprofit organization called Going Home Hawai'i (GHH). GHH assists justice-involved Hawai'i Island men, women, and youth with reintegration into community life through employment, training, and appropriate supportive services.

As a pilot project for GHH, I designed the "In-Reach and Reintegration" (IRR) program. IRR responds to the specific needs of chronically homeless individuals with SPMI and/or SUD. IRR utilizes elements from two evidence-based practices for breaking the cycle of repeated homelessness and incarceration (Just In Reach and the APIC Model), particularly for inmates with SPMI, SUD, and/or other special needs. I also incorporated best practices in my "Second Chance" program (funded by the U.S. Department of

Justice), the only comprehensive community-based adult reentry program with case management and mentoring services in the State.

At least 95% of all State prisoners will be released from prison at some point, many of whom will be released to parole supervision. It has been estimated that up to 80% of the State's inmates have an SPMI and/or SUD. I hope to be able to contribute my knowledge and expertise in reintegration practices to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

If my appointment is confirmed by the Senate, I will pledge to:

- Interact productively with offenders and their victims, and foster restorative justice;
- Build bridges with the community at large and with other agencies and professions involved with the criminal justice system;
- Embrace the need to be part of a team and engage in collaborative work, both within the board and with other stakeholders;
- Promote the use of risk assessment tools that incorporate data to analyze the likelihood of recidivism, which will give the parole board more support in its ability to assess the potential of an inmate to reoffend;
- Implement knowledge emerging from research on risk assessment and effective offender interventions;
- Play a key role in the process of assuring that an offender is as prepared as possible for reentry into the community;
- Use conditions to support successful transition by imposing specific resources, activities, and/or restrictions directly targeted to individual parolees;
- Give great consideration to the role of education in preparing a prisoner for parole;
- Protect the public by ensuring that an inmate's release does not jeopardize public safety and welfare;
- Manage the transition of offenders back into the community as successfully as possible.

Again, I thank the Committee for your time and consideration and I sincerely hope to be granted the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol K. Matayoshi

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April 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
From: Steve Brittain
Re: Governor's Message 793 re: Gubernatorial Nominee Carol Matayoshi, Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Carol Matayoshi for a position on the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Carol has the education and training necessary to make difficult decisions concerning incarcerated persons in the State of Hawaii. Her work with incarcerated persons, homeless people, individuals with substance use disorders and her understanding of the nature of their predicament gives her a unique perspective for this position.

I met Carol over 10 years ago while she was working with Hope Services as a program director, and subsequently worked with her at Hope Services, at Lokahi Substance Abuse Treatment Center, served on the Board of Directors at Going Home Hawaii where she was an officer, and currently I serve on the Hawaii Area Service Board with her, where she is chairperson. I have watched her take difficult or nearly impossible situations and evaluate and make decisions, with compassion and understanding. I have yet to see her be discouraged by a difficult situation and quite to the contrary, she rises to the occasion and takes each situation as a challenge. Her work product is outstanding and her fact gathering and research, along with her learned opinions, place her at the highest level of performance.

Carol will be an asset to the Hawaii Paroling Authority because of her background in corrections and working with individuals who have been disenfranchised in Hawaii. There are very specific and real challenges to individuals being reintegrated into society and Carol has a very clear and distinct understanding of those difficulties, especially here on the Big Island where issues of poverty, low education and substance use disorders are rampant.

I would strongly urge you to appoint her to the recommended position and can think of no one more qualified to serve on the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Very truly yours,



Steven T. Brittain, J.D.

GM-793

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 10:18:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/6/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Pavao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 5, 2021

To: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Steven Pavao, Hawaii Island Community Mental Health Centers Branch Chief

Re: Governor's Message 793 re: Gubernatorial Nominee Carol Matayoshi, Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am offering this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Carol Matayoshi for a position on the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Ms. Matayoshi is an excellent choice for this position on the Parole Board. She has extensive education, training and experience in working with individuals that have been incarcerated and reintegrating them safely into our communities.

I have known Carol for many years. Most recently I have had the opportunity to work with Carol in her role as Chair of the Hawaii Service Area Board on Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. For many years our Service Area Board has struggled to recruit volunteer members. Carol has been instrumental in recruiting new members to the Board. Today we have a robust board of committed community members and stakeholders that provide valuable insight. Carol is also the Hawaii Island representative on the State Council for Mental Health.

In closing, I would like to say that I have been impressed with Carol's commitment and tenacity to do whatever it takes, to get the needed services for some of our communities most challenged members. I know that the Hawaii Paroling Authority has a significant impact on the lives of inmates and their loved ones, the safety of our communities, and the operation of our correctional system. With her ability to balance these different perspectives, Carol will be a valuable addition to the Authority. I urge that you recommend that she be confirmed.

LATE

GM-793

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 6:40:38 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/6/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of nominee's confirmation. Mahalo.