

GM 475

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,
ALBERT TUFONO, for a term to
Expire 6-30-2012.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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

CLAYTON A. FRANK
DIRECTOR

DAVID F. FESTERLING
Deputy Director
Administration

TOMMY JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Corrections

JAMES L. PROPOTNICK
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senators Espero and Bunda:


It is my pleasure and honor to submit written testimony on behalf of Mr. Albert Tufono nominee for the Chairmanship of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have known Mr. Tufono for the past ten years where he has worked at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, as a member and presently as the Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Mr. Tufono's understanding of the challenges at the paroling authority has served him well.

As the present Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Mr. Tufono has kept a keen eye on the interests of victims, their families, the re-entry plans the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is engaged in, as well as in the prescriptive assessments and plans of offenders that come before the board seeking release on parole. He goes about his business with little fanfare or recognition, and has shown consistency and fairness in the decisions that have been rendered by the Parole Board. Mr. Tufono is faithful to his duties as Chair of the HPA, and continues to strive in cooperating and promoting better relations with all other agencies and groups in matters of mutual obligation and interest.

It is for these reasons, I respectfully request your confirmation of Mr. Albert Tufono to continue to serve as the Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Mahalo,


Clayton A. Frank
Director

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 475
Consideration and Confirmation of Albert Tufono
as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

By

Tommy Johnson, Deputy Director for Corrections
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009; 1:15PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Senator Espero, Senator Bunda, and Members of the Committee:

I **support** the nomination of Mr. Albert Tufono to remain as the Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Tufono possesses the education, extensive experience to remain as Chairman of the HPA.

Mr. Tufono has been the Chairman of the HPA for over five years now, and during that time, he and the other board members have rendered decisions on thousands of minimum term, parole release, parole revocation, and requests for reductions of minimum terms of imprisonment. In addition, he and the board members have made recommendations to the Governor on hundreds of applications for pardons.

He has gained the respect and admiration of the other board members and the staff of the HPA. Mr. Tufono has a reputation for fairness and compassion, when dealing with offenders, yet he holds offenders accountable for their actions.

Finally, I support Mr. Tufono's nomination and respectfully request that you advise and consent on this capable public servant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Tufono's nomination.

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY,
ALBERT TUFONO**

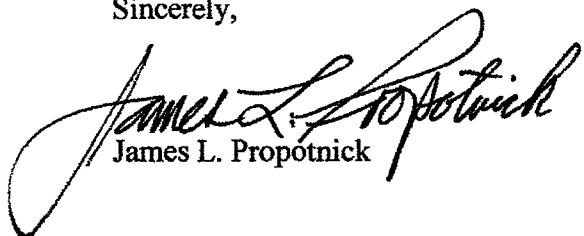
Dear Chair Espero and Vice Chair Bunda:

I am in strong support of Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have worked with Mr. Tufono throughout his current tenure as Chairman of the Paroling Authority, and have been impressed by his commitment to his responsibilities, his commitment to openness and fairness to all sides of the myriad arguments made to his office by legislators, law enforcement and prosecutors, and most importantly, the incarcerated individuals and defense attorneys that come before the Paroling Authority to present their cases. It is a responsibility that few people are mentally and emotionally equipped to handle. It is a position that has to, by its very nature, remain above the fray of competing cases presented by the aforementioned people, and make the decisions that must be made, decisions that affect individuals, families, and the general public, in very real and immediate ways. Mr. Tufono has proved to be more than capable of handling this position, and the state of Hawaii and the general public will be well served to see him remain in this position.

It is for these reasons that I totally support the confirmation of Mr. Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Sincerely,


James L. Propotnick



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ALBERT TUFONO
CHAIR

DANE K. ODA
MEMBER

ROY W. REEBER
MEMBER

MAX OTANI
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON CONFIRMATION FOR
NAMINEE ALBERT TUFONO

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Max Otani, Parole Administrator

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
State Capital, Conference Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Committee Members:

This testimony is being submitted in support of confirmation of Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). As division administrator of the HPA, I have had the opportunity to work with Chairman Tufono on various issues over the past two years. He has been receptive to new ideas in working with the offender population and continues to lead this agency while keeping abreast of current trends in the criminal justice field.

Chairman Tufono is very knowledgeable of the criminal justice population and has this ability to get his message across to the offender. I have worked with five different Chairpersons during my employment with the HPA and it is my opinion that Chairman Tufono is one of the best, if not the best I have seen, in having offenders understand the expectations of parole and the consequences of violating terms and conditions of parole.

This ability to communicate is also extended to the parole staff. Under current leadership, clearer directives for supervision standards were introduced to parole officers and the use of evidence based practice reinforced.

Under Chairman Tufono's leadership, the HPA has seen a reduction in recidivism in the parole population. While there could be numerous factors contributing to this reduction, sound parole and revocation decisions by the parole board should receive some credit for this outcome. The ability to assess an inmate, while balancing rehabilitation and public safety, is not an easy task and requires an individual that can immediately determine if an offender is sincere of succeeding on parole or just looking for an early out from prison.

On behalf of the management team at the HPA, I ask that you reconfirm Albert Tufono as HPA Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 30, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY,
ALBERT TUFONO**

Dear Chair Espero and Vice Chair Bunda:

I am in strong support of Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have come to know Mr. Tufono throughout his current tenure as Chairman of the Paroling Authority while working in the Correctional Facilities. His commitment to being fair and open with the offenders and defense attorneys that come before the Paroling Authority to present their cases is notable.

This is a responsibility that few people are mentally and emotionally equipped to handle, however, Mr. Tufono has proved to be more than capable of handling this position.

Thank you,



May Andrade

TESTIMONY ON GM 475
CONFIRMATION OF ALBERT TUFONO
TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

by
Thomas L. Read

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Senator Espero, Senator Bunda, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to express my strong support for Albert Tufono to be confirmed to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA). I have known Mr. Tufono for a number of years and have worked with him in the State of Hawaii criminal justice system for almost five years. During this time, I have found Mr. Tufono to be a very competent and professional administrator. He has a wealth of experience, as well as a solid administrative background in this difficult and complex profession. Mr. Tufono also possesses the ethical and moral standards that are requisite with this position.

Mr. Tufono has demonstrated his ability to successfully guide HPA during difficult economic and operational times. Mr. Tufono understands the operation of the criminal justice system and the role of HPA within this system.

Based on the foregoing, I strongly recommend Albert Tufono to be confirmed to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Testimony of John M. Tonaki, State Public Defender
to the Senate Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs

April 2, 2009

RE: GM 475 Nomination of Albert Tufono to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

This is in support of Albert Tufono to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. When Mr. Tufono took the helm as chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority ["HPA"], he took over an agency that was in extreme disarray. There were numerous allegations of impropriety against the chair and individual authority members. Many of the attorneys who appeared before the HPA complained of unprofessional and even verbally abusive conduct by HPA members during hearings.

Upon taking the chairmanship of the HPA, Mr. Tufono addressed and eliminated all of the aforementioned problems that plagued that body. Today, the HPA is operating as an efficient entity within the criminal justice system. The professional reputations of Mr. Tufono and the two part-time HPA members are beyond reproach and attorneys and inmates alike are treated with respect and dignity during the hearing process. Prosecutors, crime victims and other affected parties are also given fair opportunities to be heard by the HPA.

Mr. Tufono has restored public trust and esteem to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I support his nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

April 1, 2009
Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Honorable Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Via Email: PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**Re: GM 475: Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee ALBERT TUFONO for
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Hearing 4/2/09 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Chairman Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Committee Members,

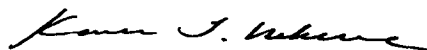
I write in support of confirmation of Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA). In my 13 years of service as a Deputy Public Defender, I have appeared before three different Chairmen of HPA, with current Chairman Tufono being the most recent. The Appeals Division of the Public Defender (PD) which I am currently assigned to, handles approximately 50 percent of all HPA matters. In this capacity, I have handled hundreds of matters before the HPA, mostly before Chairman Tufono. Based on all of my dealings with Chairman Tufono, which have on occasion been very contentious, I strongly support his confirmation for a second term.

In the most vigorous battles I have waged before (and occasionally against) the HPA, I have always come away with respect for Chairman Tufono's pragmatism, professionalism, and his willingness to hear both sides of an issue. Given the high volume of matters the HPA handles, Chairman Tufono's ability to quickly hone in on, and grasp the significance of some of the weighty and thorny issues that arise in these hearings, is a great asset to HPA. I have also noticed that, over the years, he has become very adept at distilling the character and sincerity of the individuals appearing before him. This is probably the most important skill an HPA member should have, and Chairman Tufono definitely has it.

While the HPA, under Chairman Tufono's leadership, has trended toward longer prison terms, HPA's decisionmaking under Chairman Tufono's tenure has been consistent, and always respectful of the roles of all parties involved, including the role of a defense counsel such as myself. He deserves confirmation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Karen T. Nakasone, Esq.
Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY
RELATING TO CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I PAROLING AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dane K. Oda, Board Member
Hawai'i Paroling Authority

January 23, 2008

Senate Judiciary Committee

To the Chair of the Judiciary Committee and Member of the Committee:

I strongly support the re-confirmation of Mr. Albert Tufono for a full 4-year term to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. As you know, the Hawai'i Paroling Authority has an extremely difficult and complex role within the criminal justice system. The decisions rendered by the Authority not only affect the lives of the offenders, the lives of the victim/s, and families on both sides, but also the public's perception of the criminal justice system as a whole.

Since his initial appointment on August 6, 2003, to complete a previous Parole Board member's unfinished term, Mr. Tufono has consistently and conscientiously rendered decisions with the other Parole Board members that are fair, firm, and consistent with the welfare of the public and promote respect for the law. He displays mature judgment, keen insight, and awareness of complex issues that you want in a Parole Board member and, especially, the Chairman of the Board.

With the addition of Mr. Roy W. Reeber to the Parole Board on August 22, 2005, the Parole Board has become a better-rounded quasi-judicial body whose decisions are fair, firm, and consistent. Mr. Tufono's presence on the Parole Board adds a third perspective to the discussions and decision-making process. Mr. Tufono's life experiences, wealth of knowledge, and acute sense of justice are key attributes that enhance the Parole Board's effectiveness. His integrity is beyond reproach and he should remain an integral part of the Parole Board. He clearly possesses the integrity, skills, wisdom, and mature judgment that the position of Chairman of the Parole Board requires.

As a board member, I have worked closely with Mr. Tufono and I can state without reservation that the decisions rendered were fair, firm, consistent, and in the best interest of public safety. Mr. Tufono, as the Board's Chair, has led the change in restoring integrity, justice and fairness to the decision-making process of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this excellent public servant.

Dane K. Oda

Roy W. Reeber, Ph.D.
Member – Parole Board
State of Hawaii

January 13, 2008

To: Senate Judiciary Committee, Hawaii State Legislature

APPLICANT: Mr. Albert Tufono

Mr. Tufono is applying another term as Chairman – Hawaii Parole Authority.

Since joining the Parole Board in August 2005 I have had the good fortune of working very closely with Mr. Tufono in the daily operations and activities of the Hawaii Parole Board. Mr. Tufono assumes his responsibilities as the Chairman of the Parole Board in a very dedicated manner. He is also responsible for managing the affairs of the Hawaii Parole Authority.

I continue to be impressed with the leadership Mr. Tufono has displayed in the creation and attainment of the goals of both of these important entities. When situations arise which need alterations of current policies and procedures, Mr. Tufono seeks the advice and counsel of those affected by the changes and then proceeds to make appropriate improvements.

Through leadership by example, Mr. Tufono exemplifies parole hearings which are efficiently managed and fairly conducted at all times. All participants are afforded appropriate opportunities to communicate their intentions. Mr. Tufono encourages both members of the Parole Board to express their thoughts prior to arriving at a group consensus on each parole decision. Additionally, Mr. Tufono is very decisive in maintaining adherence to daily hearings schedules so that all participants are not kept waiting unnecessarily. I believe that prosecutors, public defenders and private attorneys appreciate the effort expended towards timely schedule adherence.

I am very confident in stating that for such a young man, Mr. Tufono has an exceptional ability to offer sound judgment in Parole Board hearings. In difficult and challenging situations, Mr. Tufono continues to provide insight to inmates incarcerated for violating the law. Some situations require more firmness than others. Some situations require more personal crafting of individual solutions than others. Mr. Tufono always determines fair decisions and meaningful courses of action to assist inmates to more effectively return to society.

Because of his work ethic, high standards of personal excellence, and fair-minded treatment of others I am ultimately confident that Mr. Tufono should be retained for another full term as a Chairman of the Hawaii Parole Authority.

If additional information is needed, I may be contacted at 423-1884 here in Honolulu.

Roy W. Reeber

November 29, 2007

To: The honorable Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawaii

From: HaneefBilal Abdul-Shafiq

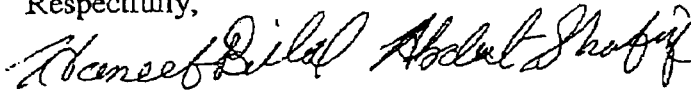
Dear Governor Lingle:

This letter is regarding the outstanding job Mr. Albert Tufono is doing as the Chair of Hawaii Paroling Authority. His respectful mannerism, fair decisions, and appropriate advice have enhanced HPA's credibility among staff, offenders, and the community. Mr. Tufono has a wealth of experience and knowledge regarding needs of offenders. He respectfully explains his decisions, recommendation, and advice to staff and offenders. Mr. Tufono has the community interests in mind when he renders decisions. I have observed him many times exhibit respect to offenders when addressing their concerns, as well as staff. He encourages offenders to improve their life and recommends appropriate referrals and recommendations. Mr. Tufono is very knowledgeable regarding the detrimental affects of substance abuse in our community and how substance abuse is related to criminality, and the need for substance abuse programming. I'm really impressed with his genuine concern about offenders receiving appropriate programming and opportunities to enhance their success in the community.

Mr. Tufono is the best candidate for leading HPA; he is committed to protecting the community, and assisting offenders with appropriate programming while incarcerated and upon their return to the community. Mr. Tufono is a compassionate and caring person.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter. If more information is needed please contact me at the following numbers: 808-266-9884 or 808=722-4678.

Respectfully,



HaneefBilal Abdul-Shafiq
Substance Abuse Counselor/Case Manager
Women's Prison

REGINALD P. MINN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
841 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2116
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 526-9343
FAX (808) 599-1645

November 26, 2007

The Honorable Will Espero
20th Senate District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 207
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

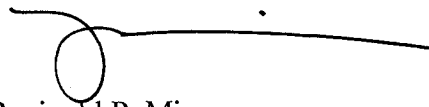
I am forwarding this correspondence on behalf of Albert Tufono, the Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, who I understand will appear before your Committee regarding his retention of the latter position.

I have been a licensed attorney concentrating in the area of criminal litigation for over 25 years, and I have had frequent contact with the Hawaii Paroling Authority since in or around 1982. Since that date, the Board has undergone numerous changes in personnel. I believe that Mr. Tufono has distinguished himself during his term as Chairman.

During his tenure, the Board has established itself as an agency where fairness and due process can be expected. The proceedings are orderly and the dialog between participants is meaningful. I believe the decisions of the Board as a whole have been consistent with a policy of returning inmates back to the community without compromising public safety. This is always a difficult calculation, but I believe Mr. Tufono and the present Board have done an excellent job in attempting to strike the appropriate balance.

I hope your Committee will give Albert Tufono a favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a loop at the end, positioned above the printed name.

Reginald P. Minn



MYLES S. BREINER

841 Bishop Street, Suite 2115
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 526-3426
Fax: (808) 521-7680
e-mail: mbreiner@hawaii.rr.com

December 11, 2007

Albert Tufono
Chairman
Hawaii Paroling Authority
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Tufono:

On behalf of the Hawaii Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (HACDL), I want to thank and endorse your reappointment as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I believe you have been fair and impartial and have conducted yourself in a highly professional manner with regards to all defendants and counsel appearing before the Board. I support your reappointment and urge all attorneys who appear before you to similarly endorse your reappointment.

Very truly yours,



MYLES S. BREINER



Law Offices of Michael Jay Green, *Attorney at Law*

345 Queen Street
Second Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel 808.521.3336
Fax 808.566.0347

December 5, 2007

Senator Espero, Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Albert Tufono

Dear Sir,

I have been practicing law since 1968, and have been honored to have been admitted to practice in Hawaii since 1987. A substantial part of my practice requires appearing before the Hawaii Paroling Authority on behalf of my clients. Chairman Tufono's Board is the third parole Board I have appeared before.

This Parole Board is without question, the hardest working and most akamai Board that I've had the pleasure of appearing before. Chairman Tufono is a "street wise", no nonsense individual that has the ability to fashion decisions that are compassionate when it is appropriate, and severe when it is necessary.

I have had a client given a 25 year mandatory minimum (sex abuse case), as well as clients who were released after demonstrating an acceptance of responsibility and compliance with prison programs that best enable them to have a chance not to re-offend.

I wholly endorse the retention of Mr. Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Jay Green, Esq.

David F. Klein
Attorney at Law

Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street, Suite 2116
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Tel: (808) 523-7774
Fax: (808) 599-1645
E-Mail: dfklein@gmail.com

November 27, 2007

The Honorable Will Espero
20th Senate District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 207
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Reappointment of Albert Tufono to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Dear Senator Espero:


This is in support of Mr. Albert Tufono for reappointment to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I am an attorney concentrating in the area of criminal defense. As a result, I have had an opportunity to appear before Mr. Tufono and the other members of the Hawaii Parole Board.

Mr. Tufono has always demonstrated himself to be professional, knowledgeable, and prepared. The hearings are conducted in a fair and orderly process.

As a result, I recommend that Mr. Tufono is reappointed to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Sincerely yours,


David Klein

PAVEY HOKE & WATSON, LLC

A Limited Liability Law Company

JUDITH ANN PAVEY
RICHARD L. HOKE, JR.
KALI WATSON

FLORENCE F. PAJARDO
Paralegal

October 30, 2007

Senator Will Espero
Chairman
Public Safety Committee
Room 207 Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

RE: Albert Tufono

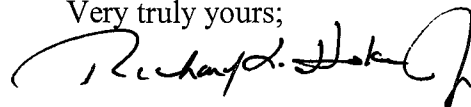
Dear Senator Espero:

My name is Richard Hoke and I am an attorney who has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1979. I am a member in good standing in the Hawaii State Bar Association and over the past 25 years I have developed an extensive criminal defense practice.

During this period, I have appeared before many different parole boards and chairpersons while representing prisoners and parolees at Hawaii Paroling Authority minimum term, parole, and parole revocation hearings. In comparing all of these administrations, I evaluate Albert Tufono's board and chairmanship as the best. I am particularly impressed with their professionalism. They are always well prepared and informed. They ask relevant and pointed questions. They are dignified and have not badgered, argued, harassed, chastised or demeaned my clients or me. They listen and consider our concerns. They give us fair opportunity to state our case.

It is my considered opinion that Chairman Tufono has demonstrated objectivity and competence at a high level in the discharge of his duties as chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. His chairmanship has brought integrity to the parole process. For the foregoing reasons, I strongly support the reappointment of Albert Tufono as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Very truly yours;



Richard L. Hoke, Jr.

RLH:Mwp

THE LAW OFFICES OF GEORGE A. BURKE
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW CORPORATION

345 QUEEN STREET
SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE No.: (808) 521-3336
FACSIMILE No.: (808) 566-0347
E-MAIL: GABURKE@HAWAII.RR.COM

December 5, 2007

Senator Espero, Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Albert Tufono

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to endorse Mr. Albert Tufono for retention as the Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

In the years that I have appeared before Chairman Tufono, he has always demonstrated a professional demeanor towards myself and my clients. I always know that my clients and I will receive a courteous, fair and thoughtful consideration of our requests before the Board.

Chairman Tufono has the unique ability to relate to people from all walks of life in a sincere and thoughtful manner. Whether discussing the "streets" or the penal system, he is equally effective in communicating to inmates and attorneys alike. He is tough when necessary and compassionate when warranted. Above all, Chairman Tufono is a fair person who genuinely cares about the people of Hawaii.

In sum, I wholly endorse Chairman Tufono for retention as Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G.A. Burke".

George A. Burke, Esq.

Law Offices of Thomas M. Otake

345 Queen Street · Suite 200 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 521-3336 · Facsimile (808) 566-0347
Email: otakelaw@hawaii.rr.com

December 5, 2007

Senator Espero
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*Re: Mr. Albert Tufono
Chairman of the Hawaii Parole Board*

To Senator Espero and Members of the Committee on Public safety,

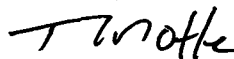
This letter is sent to you today in support of Mr. Albert Tufono, Chairman of the Hawaii Parole Board. As a criminal defense attorney I have appeared before Mr. Tufono and the Parole Board on numerous occasions.

In my opinion, Mr. Tufono has performed his duties as Chairman of the Parole Board admirably. He shows respect to all parties who come before the Parole Board, and manages what is a heavily filled calendar with efficiency and common sense. His people skills are outstanding and he relates well with attorneys, prisoners, and fellow board members.

The Parole Board obviously is a very powerful entity that makes tremendously important decisions on a daily basis. Mr. Tufono has the unique ability to balance all of the competing factors and craft decisions that make sense. Although he values rehabilitation and fairness, he always puts the safety of the public first. I believe his record and the decisions he has made during his tenure reflect that.

It is fortunate for Hawaii that someone with Mr. Tufono's abilities and qualifications would be willing to serve the community as Chairman of the Parole Board. Please consider extending his appointment for another term. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Otake, Esq.



ISLAND FAMILY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3375 Salt Lake Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96818 • Tel: 808-422-7811 Fax: 808-422-8788

March 29, 2009

Senator Will Espero, Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero,

I am writing on behalf of Albert Tufono who is being considered for a position with the Parole Board for the state of Hawaii. Mr. Tufono is a member in good standing of Island Family Christian Church where I serve as Senior Pastor. Along with the three men who serve as elders with Mr. Tufono, I am writing to highly recommend him as a man of great integrity, commitment, and devotion to God, to his family, and to his country.

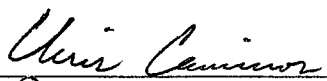
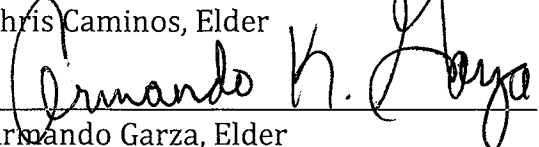
It has been my privilege to work closely with Albert Tufono who serves here as an elder, which in our church is a position of trust into which a man is selected by a vote of the congregation. There was a period in 2007-2008 during which our congregation was without a Pastor. Albert was one of the men who stepped up and demonstrated strong leadership to hold the congregation together until a Pastor was found. The wisdom, the strength of faith and character, and the decisiveness he demonstrated during this interim period was instrumental in maintaining a strong church ministry.

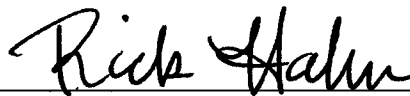
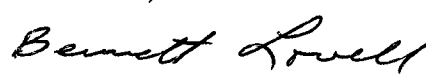
Since my coming to Island Family Christian Church in February, 2008, Albert has continued to serve faithfully as an elder, as the Leadership Link for both our Missions Committee and Levite ministry, and as a leader in our Ohana fellowships.

Albert Tufono is also a strong family man. His devotion to his wife and four children is above reproach. He has demonstrated as a husband and father the same faithfulness and commitment that he has in his work with our church.

Because of his strength of character, high moral standards, and devotion to the things that are good and right, we highly recommend Mr. Albert Tufono as a man who can be trusted with a high office in the Parole Board for the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,


Chris Caminos, Elder

Armando Garza, Elder


Rick Hahn, Pastor

Bennett Lovell, Elder

Our Passion

LOVING Christ... LOVING the Body of Christ... LOVING the World for whom Christ died

Hepatitis Support Network of Hawai'i
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April 2, 2009

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Robert Bunda, Vice-chair

Thursday April 2, 2009

1:15 p.m.

Conference room 229

GM 475

SUPPORT

I support the confirmation of Albert Tufono to the Paroling Authority. Mr. Tufono has the experience necessary to continue as Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and I believe that he is an open-minded person, which is essential to the position that he is being considered for.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.

Andy Botts, Director
Prisoner reintegration program

National Association of Reformed Criminals
Franklin Jackson
950 Luehu St. Apt#403
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
April 2, 2009

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Robert Bunda, Vice-chair

Thursday April 2, 2009

1:15 p.m.

Conference room 229

GM 475

SUPPORT

My name is Franklin Jackson, President of the National Association of Reformed Criminals (NARC). I support the confirmation of Albert Tufono to the Paroling Authority, primarily because he has the ability to recognize when an individual has changed, and to give them a chance to demonstrate their desire to lead a productive life.

Mahalo for the opportunity to be heard.

Franklin Jackson, President
National Association of Reformed Criminals
(NARC)

TESTIMONY ON GM 475
SENATE CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE ALBERT S. TUFONO

Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

April 2, 2009
State Capitol, Conference room #229

Senator Espero, Senator Bunda, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Since July 1, 2004 I began my first full-term as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. My term expired on June 30, 2008 and I am a holdover appointee by Governor Lingle as of July 1, 2008. I am seeking another opportunity to serve our State as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I was born and raised in Hawaii. As a child I grew up in Kalihi and when my father retired from the army, my family moved out to Ewa Beach. I attended and graduated from Iolani School and attended the University of Washington at Seattle on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree. During the course of my 20 years of experience working in the justice system here in Hawaii and on the mainland, I have successfully worked with juveniles and adult inmates. I have worked with inner-city youth gangs in Seattle, juvenile's delinquents at HYCF in Kailua and with adult inmates in the correctional facilities in Hawaii as Chairman of the Parole Board. My professional experiences and personal background has prepared me to serve as a Parole board member and Chairman.

As board member and Chairman, I have been given opportunities to work on an extraordinary range of issues that have major impact on our communities. Prison overcrowding, combating the drug epidemic and limiting the revolving door syndrome are just some of the issues that Parole is facing today. Since 2004 I have worked together with my fellow board members, colleagues and staff of the Paroling Authority to tackle these complex issues and if confirmed, we will do our best to continue to move Parole forward.

When we first took over as members of the Parole Board there was an urgency to restore the credibility and integrity of this board. As Chairman I believe along with my fellow board members, Mr. Dane Oda and Dr. Roy Reeber that we have worked hard to accomplish this goal. It is very important to me that Parole is above reproach so that our community can have confidence and assurance that the decisions are fair, honest and just to all who come before us.

I welcome the challenges ahead. My personality, background, education and experience give me the tools to succeed. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Thank you.

Albert S. Tufono
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March 29, 2009

Senator Will Espero
Chairman, Senate committee on Public Safety and Military

Senate Committee Confirmation questions:

- A. Since August, 2003 I have been serving as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority fulfilling a partial term of a previous member who resigned and completing my first full-term as Chairman and Board member on June 30, 2008.

I want to continue to serve as a member because I believe I have done a good job serving our community. As chairman I have presided over thousands of hearings and I understand the magnitude and importance of every decision we make and how it will affect the judiciary process, the victim impacted by the crime, the convicted felon and most of all our community. I am a lifetime resident of our state and as a kid growing up in our communities of Kalihi and Ewa Beach, I've always wanted to impact my community through good works and service.

I have noticed many changes in the attitude of community members related to the safety and security of our state. As a board member I will have a direct affect on our community through the decisions we make and I can assure you that this will continue to be my priority.

- B. The role of a parole board member is to serve as part of the judiciary process to make critical decisions that affect the (1) victim or victims of a crime, (2) the convicted felon, (3) the supervision staff of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and (4) our community and state.

A parole board member contributes to decisions affecting (1) the release of incarcerated inmates on parole, (2) the minimum sentences for inmates convicted of recent crimes, and (3) the consequences for related prisoners on parole who violate the terms of their parole.

- C. As chairman and board member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority for the last 5 years I have the experience, knowledge and relationships with people to make fair, consistent and just decisions that affects our community. I have been

involved in 7 to 10 thousand critical decisions in the last 5 years and my relationships with attorneys, prosecutors, prison program staff and administrators gives me the ability to communicate directly with these people to make good decisions that are fair and consistent.

As a program administrator and cognitive therapy trainer at HYCF for 4 years, I had the opportunity to develop programs and services for youth offenders that centered on a cognitive approach to change. As one of the states cognitive trainers I would meet with youth offenders and work with them on understanding how their behavior begins with cognitive thinking. This approach is something that I bring as a member of the parole board. Cognitive therapy is an approach that has been reviewed and considered by national experts on prison programs as the approach that works. My knowledge and skill as a trainer helps in my decision making process as I can access an inmates level of change through their knowledge and abilities to use the cognitive tools their learned. This approach to change is important for an inmate returning to our community and I have the ability to measure what they have learned.

I also have experience in developing rehabilitation and vocational programs when I worked as a program administrator at HYCF. My understanding of programs that work in prison helps me with recommending to inmates the appropriate programs and services (i.e. substance abuse treatment, anger management, etc) they need to complete before they can return to our communities.

- D. As Chairman I've had the opportunity to work with some good people at the Hawaii Paroling Authority that are committed and focused on doing their best everyday they come to work. I want to continue to provide leadership that the Hawaii Paroling Authority staff will have confidence in following and I want to continue to reduce the number of parolees returning back to prison. Since I have been on the board we have had success in this area because of the hard work of our parole supervision staff. They are providing excellent services to all inmates who are released on parole. I want to build up the skill level of our supervision staff through training opportunities so as the parole population grows the supervision will get better in turn keeping our community safe. The parole recidivism rate has decline 18% since I've been on the parole board and my goal is to continue to work hard keeping parolees out of prison and being successful in our communities.
- E. The 3 qualities that best describe me are FAIR, FIRM and CONSISTENT. I believe that it is very important that a board member have these qualities to make decisions that are in the welfare of the public and to promote respect for the law. As the Chairman I have been fair in my dealings with attorneys, inmates, staff and others to ensure that the parole proceedings are held to the highest standard of conduct. I have also been firm and consistent in my decision-making to ensure

the credibility of the parole board. These are qualities that I live by and I believe they are qualities that are needed to the job right as parole board member.

- F. Since I've been on the Board I have had many experience with inmates that are memorable. Early in my term there is one experience that stands out. It was a hearing with an adult inmate who as juvenile was in my cognitive training class at HYCF. I was disappointed that he ended up in the adult prison but what he told me at that hearing made what I do each day, worth it. He told me that if it wasn't for what he learned in my cognitive training class he would have committed more crimes and might have killed someone and he stated that he finally understands what I was talking about and is beginning to make the connections to his thinking and his behavior. For me to hear that was satisfying because if these guys and gals can understand this concept there is a sense of HOPE that they will succeed. This young man was eventually paroled and is doing well in our community. He recently wrote a letter to thank me for giving him a second chance and he stated that he uses the cognitive thinking tools everyday to help him make the right decisions. This kind of story motivates me each day to be a board member because I know there are men and women in our correctional facilities that are willing to the make a real change in their lives.
- G. Conflict of interest; In the past five years I've had times where I had to recues myself from the hearings because I may have known the inmate, the victim, victims family, an attorney that may have represented a family member in an ongoing trial or similar situation. I believe because we live in an island state it is easy to encounter people I have known as a kid growing up in Kalihi or know a victim or victims of a crime. These are some of the examples of removing myself from the hearings to ensure the parole process is fair to all people involved. I believe I've been above reproach in this area and I will continue to review each case closely to avoid any form of conflict of interest.

The parole board must always be above reproach and if there is a possible conflict of interest, I will always recues myself because the integrity and honesty of the parole board and parole process must always be held to the highest standard.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questions. I appreciate you and the committee hearing my confirmation testimony and if you have any questions or concerns please call on me any time. Thank you for your consideration.

Albert Tufono
Chairman, Hawaii Paroling Authority