

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Okie Amadi
to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

April 2, 2009

RE: CONFIRMATION OF ALBERT TUFONO TO THE HAWAI'I PAROLING AUTHORITY

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

I write in support of the confirmation of ALBERT TUFONO to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I have the good fortune of working with Albert Tufono both professionally and personally.

While I am not writing on behalf of the State of Hawai'i Office of the Public Defender, as John Tonaki, the Public Defender for the State of Hawai'i, has submitted testimony on behalf of the Office of the Public Defender, I can attest that during my appearances as a Deputy Public Defender before the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Albert has handled himself in the position of Chairman of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority with dignity and professionalism. In making tough decisions, Albert has done so with careful thought and consideration, after listening to the facts and evidence presented during hearings. Albert is a man with unwavering courage of conviction. He is able to make tough decisions and stand behind his decisions even when those decisions are unpopular.

On a personal level, I have known Albert for about 10 years. Albert is a man of integrity and a trusted leader. Albert serves as the Chairman of the Elders at Island Family Christian Church. As a trustee at Island Family, I have had the benefit of personally being able to witness his wisdom and patience in action when addressing the needs of our congregation.

Along with Albert's faith in God, I believe his greatest strength is his humility. Albert recognizes that as Chairman of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, he is serving our community in a position of great trust and responsibility. Albert recognizes he is serving our community in a very powerful position and as such handles himself with the grace and humility necessary to remain ethically and morally sound.

Albert has a heart for service and I know our community will continue to benefit by his continued service as Chairman of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I support Albert Tufono's confirmation and ask the same of our legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important confirmation.