



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

Testimony to the Twenty-Fifth State Legislature, Regular Session of 2010 Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Thursday, February 25, 2010, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

by

Glennard H. B. Fong
Chief Court Administrator
First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 299, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENNIS M. DUNN, for a term to expire 6-30-2010.

Purpose: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dennis Dunn, for a term to expire on 6/30/2010.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Dennis Dunn for a four-year term as the victim representative for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. Mr. Dunn has vast experience working with victims beginning in 1979 and for almost 25 years has been the director of the Victim Witness Assistance Division of the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. He is a member of the National Organization for Victim Assistance, National District Attorney's Association and National Center for Victims of Crime. He has also been on various boards/commissions such as the Domestic Violence Task Force, Domestic Violence Working Group, Hawaii Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, etc.



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The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision was enacted on June 19, 2002 and is a national governing body with rule making authority which has the effect of the law. Currently, all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are members. It provides the day-to-day oversight of the compact between states. Besides promulgating rules to achieve the goals of the Compact, the Commission ensures an opportunity for input and timely notice to victims; provides access to information to heads of state councils, state executive, judicial and legislative branches and criminal justice administrators; and monitors and enforces compliance with the rules governing appointment of the Interstate Commission. It also establishes a state-level council, known as the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, with representation from all branches of government and victim groups to heighten awareness of the Compact's activities.

Mr. Dunn's role is very important as he will represent victims in interstate matters and be their voice on the State Council. Currently, the compact provides for victim notification and ensures that the sending and receiving states comply with their own victim notification laws and/or policies. Also, victims have a right to be heard and to comment on the proposed transfer of an offender from one state to another. Mr. Dunn has the skills, knowledge and experience to represent victims and be a contributing member to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

Dennis M. Dunn
547 Iliaina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

February 25, 2010

**TO: SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**RE: GM 299 & GM 300, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE COUNCIL FOR INTERSTATE ADULT
OFFENDER SUPERVISION**

HEARING: FERUARY 25, 2010, 1:15 P.M., Conference Room 229

Good afternoon Chair Espero and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee. I am testifying today in support of my nomination to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

First of all let me thank the Governor and any others responsible for the honor of being nominated to this important body. I see this appointment as a unique opportunity to expand my career as a public servant and in particular to further my long held belief that the rights and interests of crime victims should be incorporated into every aspect of our criminal justices system.

Many of you are familiar with my role as the Director for the Victim Witness Kokua Services at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, a position I have privileged to hold since 1985. I previously served as a victim advocate in that same office since 1979 providing support services for victims of a wide variety of crimes. I also was a volunteer victim advocate for People Against Rape from 1977 to 1978. In each of these roles I have testified numerous times before the Legislature on behalf of crime victims' rights and services. What many of you may not be aware of is that I began my career in the criminal justice field as a probation officer in Michigan more than forty years ago. I was also one of the founding members of the Youth for Peace, Freedom, and Justice in Royal Oak, Michigan in 1968 and was active in People against Racism and a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. I have also had a long and somewhat colorful career journey as a steelworker, a landscaper, a sprinkler installer, and an organic farmer before coming to Hawaii to be with my family following the death of my mother 1976. I am also a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I majored in Human Development and Women's Studies. I am also a founding Board member for the Hawaii State coalition Against Domestic Violence (since 1980) and have served on Boards for the Friends of Missing Child Center Hawaii, Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the Hawaii Figure Skating Club. I have also been on advisory Boards for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. I served several terms as Commissioner and Chair for the Hawaii Commission for National and Community

Services. I am currently a proud member of the Human Trafficking Task Force and the Hawaii Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

What I bring to the Council in human qualities are compassion, patience, a dedication to collaboration, and a willingness to listen to all points of view. I am a firm believer that offender accountability and victim restoration are core goals of our criminal justice system. I hope to actively pursue those goals if confirmed to the Council. I am equally concerned about offenders and the important role that sound policies can play in their successful transition into productive citizens. The policies that we establish must be fair, understandable, and practical. No matter how lofty its philosophy, a policy that will not work in the real world is not worth much. I have been associated with many of the current members of the council for many years and have the greatest respect for them and the experience and talents that they bring to the table. I am optimistic about the prospects of effectively serving on the Council and look forward this wonderful opportunity.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify before you regarding my nomination to the Council. I would greatly appreciate your support.