

**THE HONORABLE JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

April 15, 2011

**RE: GM 700, NOMINATION OF DENNIS DUNN TO THE HAWAII
COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Good afternoon, Chair Tokuda and members of the Education Committee, I provide the following brief testimony in support of my nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to the Governor for the honor of being nominated to serve on, what I believe, is one of the most dynamic and important of our State Commissions. I am equally appreciative of the opportunity to appear before your Committee to briefly state my reasons for wanting to serve on this distinguished body. To begin with, as you may be aware, I served from 1994 to 2005 on the Commission, and its predecessor body, which had been established by Executive Orders of Governors Waihe'e and Cayetano. My experiences during that time period, which included three terms as Chair, provided me with extensive education and enlightenment on the importance of national and community service programs to Hawaii. Furthermore, I had the pleasure of learning about the incredible potential of the AmeriCorps program, the Commission's primary responsibility, to transform our state in many valuable and exciting ways. While the establishment of a state service commission is a requirement of the federal legislation creating the AmeriCorps Program, it has proved to be a valuable vehicle for developing a wide variety of service and volunteer programs throughout our state. The Commission, at its finest serves as an important catalyst for the development of not only service opportunities, but also the promotion of service to the community, state, and country as a privilege and obligation of all citizens. It is by our mutual and voluntary support for each other that we can thrive and become a great people. One of the outstanding features of the American and Hawaiian cultures is the belief that voluntary service in support our fellow citizens is the highest ideal.

Alexis de Tocqueville (a French political thinker and historian) who visited America in the early 1800's, observed that "...through associating, the coming together of people for mutual purpose, both in public and private, Americans are able to overcome selfish desires, thus making both a self-conscious and active political society and a vibrant civil society." Nearly three centuries later we still find America's strength and vitality arising from volunteerism and community service.

The AmeriCorps Program, and this critical Commission that supports it, has two primary goals. The first is the providing of the service itself, to the benefit of those in need. The second is the development of the potential of the AmeriCorps members themselves, thus increasing their value as assets to the community. For the member this enhanced value does not end with their AmriCorps Service, but continues into the future as they assume a variety of roles and occupations throughout their lifetime. In addition, as a commissioner I came to believe that the Commission through its mission and the effective use of the AmeriCorps Program can also become a powerful force in community development and problem solving. It is my perception of the above- described importance and value of the Commission that motivates me to resume service on this Commission.

In conclusion, I request for your support my nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. Thank you for your time and consideration.

GM700

Testimony



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 15, 2011, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM700 Confirmation of **Dennis Dunn** to the
Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of Dennis Dunn to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I have appointed Dunn to serve as a Community Representative on the Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2014.

Dunn's community service is extensive. He has been a board member of many organizations, including the Domestic Violence Task Force, the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Certification of Court Interpreters, the Kailua Neighborhood Board, and the Hawaii State Commission on National and Community Service (previously serving as Chair). Dunn's extensive community service is an asset to the Commission.

Dunn has further committed his life to ensuring a better society. He started his career as a Probation Officer in Pontiac, Michigan, and then became a Victim Witness Counselor with the City & County of Honolulu's Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Dunn currently serves as the Director of the Victim Witness Assistance Division within the Prosecutor's office where he is responsible for the overall management of services for victims and witnesses of crimes. Dunn has also served as a lecturer on crime and criminal justice at Chaminade University, Hawaii Pacific University, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

I am excited that Dunn is willing to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I know that you will find Dunn qualified for the Commission and encourage you to confirm him.

Chita Stewart
Chair

Ryan Perreira
Vice Chair



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Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

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To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Isaac Watson, Executive Director
Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Date: April 15, 2011

Subject: GM 700 - Consideration and Confirmation of Dennis Dunn to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Madam Chair, my name is Isaac Watson and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I am here today to support the appointment of Mr. Dennis Dunn to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community service for the next three years.

Mr. Dunn has previously served as a member of the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service from its inception in 1994 until 2008. During his tenure with the Commission, Mr. Dunn has served as both Chair and Vice Chair on numerous occasions and has contributed tremendously to the growth and stability of the commission. As a result of his many years with the Commission, Mr. Dunn is very familiar with the federal requirements of the program and also the staff at the Corporation for National Service which oversees the Hawaii Commission and the staff of the Hawaii Commission. The Commission staff is very happy that Mr. Dunn is willing and able to serve on the Commission again, as he has always been a strong supporter of volunteerism and national service.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge your support in appointing Mr. Dennis Dunn to the Commission in order that he may continue to provide his expertise and insight in helping the Commission to fulfill the more comprehensive role envisioned for the Commission that will foster and expand an ethic of service and volunteerism throughout the state.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 15, 2011

GM 700, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENNIS DUNN, for a term to expire 6-30-2015. (Term amended to 6-30-2014 by GM779)

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Education Committee, **I am Jon Riki Karamatsu, and I am testifying in support of Dennis Dunn to be considered and confirmed for the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service**, which aims to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. Specifically, for Hawaii, the commission recognizes the state's unique Hawaiian heritage and values of many cultures and peoples.

Dennis Dunn's community involvement began at a young age. He was active in the equal rights movement as a young adult. In the past three decades, he has been a strong advocate for victims of crimes at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. I have seen Dennis in action when he testified before me when I served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Hawaii State House of Representatives. Late last year, I joined forces with Dennis when I became a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the City and County of Honolulu. Together, we have worked on legislation to protect the public from crimes, ensure mental health is provided for offenders, support rehabilitation programs for non-violent offenders, increase victims' rights, and help women victims of sexual assault to have accurate medical information. Dennis has a wealth of knowledge and has a genuine personality. He will be a great asset to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify. Aloha.