

GM746

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, DENISE J. JOHNSTON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015 (Term amended to 6-30-2014 by GM780).

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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 GM 746, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
DENISE J. JOHNSTON
TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 19, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the nomination of Lt. Denise Johnston, to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Lt. Johnston, a member of the Committee since 2006, has been an outstanding employee/Adult Corrections Officer of the Department of Public Safety for 26 years. During that time she has participated in a number of important task forces to improve daily operations involving most facilities on Oahu, including drafting rules and regulations, establishing policies and procedures, establishing post orders, and training recruit staff. She thoroughly understands corrections programs and the restrictive environment in which Correctional Industries operates.

In her time with the Department Lt. Johnston was been involved with facility-based community reintegration programs and understands PSD's responsibility in

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preparing inmates for release. Lt. Johnston's correctional knowledge is broad and she is very adept at keeping the bigger picture in mind when considering the future direction of Correctional Industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Lt. Johnston's nomination.

From: Deanna.L.Espinas@hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 3:04 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Denise.J.Johnston@hawaii.gov
Subject: GM 746-Nomination of Denise Johnston, April 19, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 312

Testimony in support of: GM 746-Denise Johnston
Hawaii Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Denise Johnston has been employed with the Department of Public Safety for many, many years and served as a member of the Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) Advisory Committee. We are honored that Ms. Johnston is willing to serve another term on the Advisory Committee because she has the professional knowledge and experience of working with incarcerated men and women. We know that Denise supports the Department's goal of providing successful re-entry opportunities for inmates. We also believe that Ms. Johnston, along with the other members of the Advisory Committee, will play an important role in expanding HCI's business partnerships that will impact the lives of inmates as they transition back to their communities.

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Senator Will Espero
Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

Denise J. Johnston
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Tuesday, April 19, 2011

GM-746 – Nomination of Denise Johnston to Hawaii Correctional Industries Advisory Board

I am Denise Johnston and I would like to submit testimony on why I wish to be on the Governor's Advisory Board for Corrections Industries.

I have been an Adult Corrections Officer for nearly 27 years and have seen that we have very few programs that realistically address the needs of the inmates as they are on their way back into society. Of all the programs the training and labor job most realistically provide these inmates with the necessary skills to walk out of prison and gain employment. I have served two previous terms on the board and had found a lack of movement in providing services that are generated in the public. Many reasons for this stagnation were the ever changing leadership in both Corrections Industries and the Department of Public Safety. However, Deanna Espinas has been with and worked for Corrections Industries for many years and offers some stability and possibly now Corrections Industries can move forward and provide more jobs and skill building projects for the inmates.

My perceived role and responsibilities of a member of the Corrections Industries Advisory Committee is to help provide guidance and support to encourage training opportunities between Corrections Industries and the Private Sector and to provide low-cost labor to Non-profit organizations. To help build the program and ensure that it stays positive and productive.

I believe that I provide a perspective that is unusual to the average committee member. Working as a Correctional Officer I have the inside knowledge of how the facilities work and the insight into how this program benefits the inmates and public. The potential of this program to successfully provide the inmates with valuable skills that they can utilize when they reenter society and therefore avoid recidivism. I myself earlier in my career had taken worklines out into the community and saw the pride they took in doing a job well and efficiently. The appreciation of the public and the vendor that the inmates were providing a service for was rewarding. I believe having knowledge of those who failed and those who did well in this program helps me to have insight into the types of projects that might well suit Corrections Industries and the public. I believe any decisions that I make as a committee member will be well rounded.

I hope to assist Corrections Industries become more involved in projects with the public. Especially with today's economy, both private and public agencies could use skilled and trained workers at an economical price. When these inmates enter the work force, they can become productive citizens, union members and good employees.

From: Denise Johnston [<mailto:djohnston@hawaii.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: Nomination to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Senator Espero,

Thank you for the opportunity to address my wish to be a part of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

- (1) You asked why do I wish to be a member, I have been an Adult Corrections Officer for nearly 27 years and have seen that we have very few programs that realistically address the needs of the inmates as they are on their way back into society. Of all the programs the training and labor job most realistically provide these inmates with the necessary skills to walk out of prison and gain employment. I have served two previous terms on the board and had found a lack of movement in providing services that are generated in the public. Many reasons for this stagnation was the ever changing leadership in both Corrections Industries and the Department of Public Safety. However, Deanna Espinas has been with and worked for Corrections Industries for many years and offers some stability and possibly now Corrections Industries can move forward and provide more jobs and skill building projects for the inmates.
- (2) My perceived role and responsibilities of a member of the Corrections Industries Advisory Committee is to help provide guidance and support to encourage training opportunities between Corrections Industries and the Private Sector and to provide low-cost labor to Non-profit organizations. To help build the program and ensure that it stays positive and productive.
- (3) Why do I believe that I am qualified for the position as a committee member? I believe that I provide a perspective that is unusual to the average committee member. Working as a Correctional Officer I have the inside knowledge of how the facilities work and the insight into how this program benefits the inmates and public. The potential of this program to successfully provide the inmates with valuable skills that they can utilize when they reenter society and therefore avoid recidivism. I myself earlier in my career had taken worklines out into the community and saw the pride they took in doing a job well and efficiently. The appreciation of the public and the vendor that the inmates were providing a service for. I believe having knowledge of those who failed and those who did well in this program helps me to have insight into the types of projects that might well suit Corrections Industries and the public. I believe any decisions that I make as a committee member is a well rounded decision.
- (4) What do I hope to accomplish during my term as a committee member? I hope to get Corrections Industries more involved in projects with the public. Especially with today's economy, both private and public agencies could use skilled and trained workers at an economical price. When these inmates enter the work force, they can become productive citizens and good employees.

Thank you for your time,
Denise J. Johnston
Nominee for Corrections Industries Advisory Board.