

GM747

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Correctional
Industries Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee,
THEODORE SAKAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director
Administration

JOE W. BOOKER, JR.
Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GM 747, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
THEODORE SAKAI
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) is pleased to support the nomination of its former director Ted Sakai to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Correctional Industries provides a unique opportunity for inmates to learn marketable skills while working in the equivalent of a free-world business environment. At one point during his three decades in corrections, Mr. Sakai he was the administrator for the PSD division that oversees Correctional Industries. Under his tutelage, the program was modernized and services expanded in a manner that did not create an unfair advantage over private businesses that offer similar services.

Since his retirement from the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Sakai continues to be active in the field, most notably as a consultant to the Big Island's Going Home Consortium. He thoroughly understands the Correctional Industries program and its

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importance in preparing inmates for re-entry. We are confident he will be a great asset to the Committee and provide an informed point of view.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Sakai's nomination.

LORENN WALKER, J.D., M.P.H.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Other Honorable Committee Members

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
1:15 PM
Room 312

STRONG SUPPORT FOR TED SAKAI CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOMINATION

Please vote in favor of Ted Sakai's nomination to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. I believe Ted Sakai possesses invaluable experience in offender rehabilitation and understands the importance of correctional industries, which will make an important difference for our community in assisting incarcerated people become law abiding.

Hawai'i's recidivism rate has exploded from the country's lowest at 5% in 1973¹ to one of the nation's highest at 54.6% in 2009.² Having meaningful employment is one of the most vital variables for reducing recidivism. Being able to get a good job depends on obtaining marketable job skills which can be learned in prison.

I have known Mr. Sakai professionally since 1996 when I began using my new public health education to find effective ways to rehabilitate incarcerated people and help crime victims heal. Formerly, I was a Family Court appointed defense counsel for indigent youth and adults, and before that a deputy attorney general who did some prosecution work, and represented state employees and agencies including the department of public safety.

Ted Sakai was instrumental in developing and introducing *Huikahi Restorative Circles*, a reentry planning process for individual incarcerated people and their loved ones, which has gained national as well as international attention. At least eight articles have been published and a book is in press about the program. He co-authored one article on the Circle program and also co-authored another article on an innovative rehabilitation intervention piloted at Waiawa prison, which has now been provided to over 100 incarcerated people. Research indicates both interventions show promise for reducing recidivism. I continually receive regular inquires from people all over the world about this innovative work and this year have been invited to speak and train about it in New York (where the program is being replicated), Singapore, Dubai, and Finland.

Ted Saki would make an ideal member of this committee who could influence positive changes for reducing recidivism.

Please call me if you have any questions concerning my strongest recommendation for Ted Sakai, and mahalo for all your public service work for our community.

1. 12/10/73

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1368&dat=19731210&id=ds0wAAAAIBAI&sjid=dxEEAAAIBAI&pg=5830,2059328>
5. Hawai'i Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions report & <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/psd-briefs-lawmakers-on-offender.html>

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From: Deanna.L.Espinas@hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 3:23 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: GM 747- Ted Sakai, April 19, 2011, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 312

Testimony in support of; GM 747 Ted Sakai
Hawaii Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Ted Sakai is a former Director of Public Safety. Although retired, he remains an active community participant and provides continued support for inmates who are incarcerated as well as those who have transitioned back to their families and communities. Ted is passionate about helping inmates make positive choices and decisions. He knows how difficult it can be working in the Department of Public Safety, but he always encouraged us to set goals for ourselves and to advocate for programs which help not only inmates but the entire community. We are honored to have Mr. Sakai share his knowledge, correctional memory, and expertise to help Correctional Industries successfully expand its business partnerships with other agencies throughout the State.

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April 17, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Dear Senator Espero:

This is in response to your letter of April 12, 2011, regarding my nomination to serve as a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. It is a great honor for me to be nominated to serve in this capacity, and I humbly seek your support, and that of your entire Committee for this nomination. I deeply regret that I was not able to meet personally with you, the members of the Committee, and all other members of the Senate to discuss this important program. However, I was only notified of the nomination last week, a few days prior to an already scheduled trip to the mainland. Moreover, I apologize for not being able to attend the confirmation hearing on April 19. However, on that date, I will be on the East Coast to fulfill a commitment I had made almost two months ago.

Please accept the following as my responses to your questions.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee?

I have a deep interest and passion for corrections. For almost all of my working life, I have been a corrections professional. I "retired" after working for 26 years in various positions in the Department of Public Safety. Prior to that I worked for a year as a probation officer and eight years in several positions – including Executive Director- with a private non-profit agency committed to offender rehabilitation. With the Department of Public Safety, I held the positions of Director, Warden, and administrator of the Corrections Programs Division (CPS). As the head of CPS, I was asked to revitalize the then moribund Correctional Industries program. I administered the program and helped to reorganize it as an independent division.

Since I left the employment of the Department of Public Safety, I have retained a keen interest in corrections in Hawaii. Among other things, I have served as a consultant to the Big Island's Going Home Consortium, a successful collaboration of state and community agencies focused on the successful re-entry of offenders into the Big Island Community. Going Home started as an effort to help offenders obtain meaningful jobs after they were released from incarceration. Consortium members quickly learned two important lessons. First jobs alone are not enough. After a term of imprisonment, most offenders lacked the experience and the soft skills needed to secure good jobs, and to hold on to whatever jobs they were able to get. Second, employment is an important

factor in successful reentry, but not the only one. Offenders also need support in such areas as treatment, family reunification, and housing.

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These insights convinced Going Home that the preparation for reentry must commence long before the offender reaches the reentry point. A significant example pertains to job training. We cannot wait until reentry to start to prepare the inmate for employment. Successful employment in the outside world requires a set of skills, habits and attitudes that takes years to shape. This must begin long before the inmate qualifies for reentry programming. Correctional Industries provides a wonderful opportunity for this to occur. As such, it behooves us to develop as strong a Correctional Industries program as is feasible.

As I member of the Advisory Board, I will be able to utilize the knowledge I have accumulated to make a real contribution to the system and to the community. For this reason, I am interested in serving on this committee.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee?

The Hawaii Revised Statutes describes the role of the Committee as providing advice to the Department of Public Safety "of the feasibility of establishing venture agreements with public sector businesses to utilize the services of qualified, able-bodied inmates pursuant to section 354D-13." I take this role seriously. The authority to enter into venture agreements greatly expands the programs potential opportunities. However, it must be effected carefully. On the one hand, we must be careful that private businesses are not given an unfair advantage through the use of a relatively inexpensive workforce. On the other hand, we must ensure that inmates are provided access to a wide range of meaningful work training opportunities. The Committee provides the community a voice to ensure that this balance is kept.

While the HRS speaks of no other role for the Committee, I will be ready and willing to assist the Department on any issues relating to Correctional Industries, if they believe that my assistance would be warranted. In so doing, I would be mindful that the Committee's role is advisory, and that the Department is responsible for governance of the program.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

My qualifications for this position include three my knowledge, experience and understanding in three areas: correctional systems; leadership and governance of government and non-profit agencies; and work with leaders and leadership teams.

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- As indicated above, I am an experienced correctional professional. I have an understanding of correctional management, programming, facility operations, and reentry processes. Since I left the Department, I have retained an ongoing interest in the field. I am an active member of the American Correctional Association and of the Association of State Correctional Administrators.
- I am also keenly interested in organizational and leadership development. Since my term as Director ended in 2002, I have earned certifications in Executive Coaching, Strategic Operations Planning, Emotional Intelligence and Meeting Facilitation.
- I am also an active volunteer in our community. I currently serve on the Boards of Directors of five non-profit organizations. I am the President of two of them. This service has given me a deeper understanding of the role and responsibilities of issues relating to the governance of agencies.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would like to see Correctional Industries become an integral part of the reentry process for offenders who are in the care and custody of the Department of Public Safety. This will occur if CI can:

- Develop industries that are of value to its defined customer base - State and County government agencies, non-profit agencies, and customers of private venture partners. This is essential, as CI needs to operate from a solid financial foundation. Develop programs that give inmates meaningful jobs that will help them develop skills that they will need when they enter the workforce in the community.
- Coordinate their activities with that of other program centers in our correctional facilities. Work is a critical part of our lives, but it is not the only part. Likewise, CI must be part of a balanced effort within our prison system to prepare qualified offenders for their eventual life in the community.
- Effect partnerships with other government and community agencies to improve the level and quality of training that are afforded inmates in the CI program. For example, CI needs to coordinate and articulate its efforts with the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Labor, the Community Colleges, the Community Schools of the DOE.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present my views on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or e-mail if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Ted Sakai