

GM748

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i
Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOYCE K.
MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

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 748, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**

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 stand in support of Ms. Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo's nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority as a part-time board member.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is a well-respected member of Hawaii's legal community, having served as a Deputy Public Defender, Grand Jury Counsel for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and in private practice. Given her experience as a staff attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is well acquainted with the role of the Hawaii Parole Board in setting minimums, determining release and considering parole revocations. She understands the importance of treatment and employment programs offered to in our correctional facilities to assist inmates in making a successful transition to the community and encouraged clients to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them.

She also served as a member of the 2005-2006 Penal Code Reform Committee that was convened to make recommendations to the Hawaii State Legislature on proposed revisions to the penal code. In this capacity, she participated with members from every stage of the criminal justice system and came away with a broad understanding of diverse viewpoints of the Committee's members.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's community work is impressive, especially her dedication to Na Loio which provides pro bono immigration legal services, community education and advocacy for those least familiar with the American legal system. She also coached the first place winners, Sacred Heart Academy, in the 2008 Statewide Moot Court Competition.

We urge your favorable consideration of Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee Public Safety,
Government Operations, and Military Affairs**

April 19, 2011

GM 748: Nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling
 Authority

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is a veteran attorney who spent much of her legal career with the Office of the Public Defender. She specializes in appellate work and has a very thorough knowledge of the Hawaii criminal sentencing laws as well as the court procedures. She will truly be an asset to the Hawaii Paroling Authority in the consideration of their cases. Moreover, she is a compassionate person who will listen to those who come before the HPA and render fair and just decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government
Operations, and Military Affairs

FROM: Catherine A. Chun-Hoon, Esq.

MEASURE NO.: GM 748
Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The
Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Joyce K.
Matsumori-Hoshijo, For A Term To Expire 6-30-2015.

HEARING
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 1:15 p.m.

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 748

SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE (586-6659)

My name is Catherine Chun-Hoon. I am a government attorney, but I am writing in my personal capacity in strong support of GM 748, the nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo since the mid-1980s when we served together on the Board of Directors of Na Loio No Na Kanaka, a public interest law organization. Our association and friendship have continued in our support of Na Loio's successor agency, the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. As a Na Loio Board member, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo upheld the organization's goal to provide legal services to immigrants with mindful purpose and energy reflective of her staunch commitment to Hawaii's disenfranchised populations. She was an active, well-prepared, and decisive Board member, qualities that will enhance the functions of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

As a long-time Public Defender, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has developed exceptional expertise in the criminal justice system, as a litigator and appellate advocate. She has five years of trial experience and fifteen years of appellate advocacy with the Office of the Public Defender. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo also has spent six years in civil and criminal private practice, two recent years as Grand Jury Counsel, a year on the Penal Reform Committee, six years as an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Advocacy at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and a year clerking with the Honorable Edwin H. Honda. Such distinguished and well-rounded experience will enable Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo to serve the Hawaii Paroling Authority with distinction.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has extensive knowledge of the relevant law and vast legal experience concerning minimum term hearings, parole hearings, and parole revocation hearings over which the Hawaii Paroling Authority presides. Given her familiarity with these procedures and responsibilities, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo surely will be an asset to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Lastly, in my decades of personal experience with Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo, she has always been even-tempered, collegial, and hard-working. I believe that these personal qualities will make her a fair, impartial, and effective adjudicator.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 748.

BRYANT & REMIGIO

JOHN C. BRYANT, JR.
CATHERINE H. REMIGIO

LYNNE YOUMANS
(Of Counsel)

ALI'I PLACE, SUITE 2110
1099 ALAKEA STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 356-2840
FAX: (808) 791-0161

A LIMITED LIABILITY
LAW COMPANY

April 18, 2011

Honorable Will Espero
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: Letter of Support for Nominee Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo
GM No. 748, Hearing date April 19, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero and members of the Committee:

This letter is in strong support for the appointment of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to be a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for the past 17 years. I met her in 1993 when we were both Deputy Public Defenders on Oahu. I was assigned to appeals and Joyce was a senior appellate attorney. All appellate attorneys also represent defendants at the Hawai'i Paroling Authority ("HPA") hearings. This includes the setting of minimum terms, parole hearings, and revocation hearings. Joyce is not only an exceptional appellate attorney, but she is also very knowledgeable and experienced in conducting hearings before the HPA.

Throughout my 8+ years with the Public Defenders Office, Joyce consistently provided guidance and support to myself, and many other junior Deputy Public Defenders. Her advice has always been well thought out, balanced, legally based, and considerate. Even after I left the Public Defender's Office, I continued to seek her legal advice and I was never disappointed.

Joyce and I also served as Grand Jury Counsel in 2007. Her ability to explain the law in simple, understandable terms, and her down to earth demeanor, put the Grand Jury members immediately at ease. She has great knowledge, but does not wield it like a hammer. She is a wonderful mentor, with a sincere desire to inform and educate. She also

has the innate ability to listen, to understand varying viewpoints, and to address the issue before her in a calm and competent manner – taking into consideration all sides – as well as the applicable law.

Joyce would be an excellent addition to the HPA. Her experience with defendants, legal acumen, and fair mindedness are all essential qualities for any HPA board member. She also has the demeanor necessary to make the difficult decisions called upon by the HPA. Even in the most straining of circumstances, I have never seen Joyce exhibit any anger or temper at all. In fact, she has a good sense of humor and does not take herself too seriously. She is well liked and respected in the legal community, and works well with others.

I urge the Committee to confirm Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to be a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Joyce.

Very truly yours,


CATHERINE H. REMIGIO

HOYT H. ZIA
2909 Alphonse Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
Cell 808.232.3206
Email hoytzia@yahoo.com

April 18, 2011

Hon. Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo
Governor's Message #748
Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

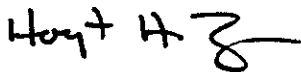
I recently learned that Ms. Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for appointment to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). I write to express my strong support for her and to urge that you consider her nomination favorably.

I have known Joyce for several years and found her to be of impeccable and unimpeachable character as an attorney and warm and wonderful as a person. She would bring outstanding credentials to the HPA based upon her experience as a lawyer and more particularly as a former public defender and legal counsel to the First Circuit Court of Hawaii's Grand Jury. She clearly possesses more than the requisite knowledge of the law for the HPA and can make sound and well-reasoned decisions that are compatible with the welfare of the community and of individual offenders.

In addition to her experience as a public defender and with the Grand Jury, her volunteer community work with organizations such as Na Loio and the Penal Code Reform Committee gives her the ideal background and unique to appraise offenders and the circumstances under which offenses were committed. Above all else, she unquestionably is fair and even-tempered and a highly ethical person who works well with others.

Finally, I would add that I have always known and respected Joyce as a person of great integrity. In a time when confidence in government is low, having people like Joyce who possess impeccable qualifications, intelligence, and integrity serving on our most important boards and commissions will go a long way toward restoring the public's faith in government. I urge you and your committee to appoint her to the Paroling Authority.

Aloha,



Hoyt H. Zia



CARRIE ANN SHIROTA, J.D.
Soros Justice Fellow '09
1839 Wells Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Phone: 808-260-3868

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:15pm
Conference Room 312

Support: HPA Gubernatorial Nominee Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

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

I am writing to give you my wholehearted support of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo for confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. Joyce has a brilliant legal mind, a great work ethic, dedication to community service, and an unwavering commitment for a fair and balanced justice system.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Joyce for over ten years. In 1999, I was assigned to work with Joyce as a teaching assistant for her appellate advocacy course at the William S. Richardson School of Law. A few years later, I worked with Joyce at the Office of the Public Defenders in the Appeals Division. In both positions, Joyce served as an outstanding mentor to me. Joyce always took the time to share advocacy tips, as well as insights about our criminal justice system. She provided invaluable feedback on my draft appellate briefs, and graciously invited me to "shadow" her at parole and involuntary commitment hearings. In my observations, Joyce zealously advocated for her clients, while consistently interacting with co-workers, clients, opposing counsel and decision-makers with respect and courtesy.

Beyond her professional work, I admire the way that Joyce lives a well-balanced life. As reflected in her resume, Joyce believes in giving back to our community. She has served as a Board member of Na Loio, a non-profit legal organization for over a decade, and as a member of State penal code reform committees. In addition, Joyce has practiced kung-fu and karate for many years. She lives her life in harmony with others, and would bring that temperament and ability to work with others to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

In summary, Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo has the knowledge, experience, temperament, and integrity to make balanced decisions for the welfare of our community. I strongly support her nomination to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

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

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Sen. Will Espero, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Hearing: Tuesday, April 19, 2011
Time: 1:15 pm
Place: Capitol Room 312**

**TESTIMONY OF LOWELL CHUN-HOON RE: GM 748,
RE: CONFIRMATION OF JOYCE K. MATSUMORI HOSHIJO
TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
(Testimony Supporting Confirmation)**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding GM 748. My name is Lowell Chun-Hoon, and I have been a practicing lawyer in this jurisdiction for thirty-three years. I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for approximately twenty-five years and have sat with her on the Board of Directors of Na Loio: Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Law Center, now known as Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. In addition to serving on that Board with her for several years, I have occasionally sought her advice on criminal law matters and referred clients to her for representation.

In my direct dealings with the nominee as a fellow board member, I have uniformly found her to be collegial, thoughtful, and constructive. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo listens patiently, solicits different points of view, respects the opinions of others, and is not driven by ego, impulse, or pre-conceived notions. She analyzes problems dispassionately and objectively, carefully gathering information, and raising pertinent questions before reaching conclusions or making judgments. The nominee also possesses a lively sense of humor, which has made working with her pleasant and lessened the weight of difficulties our board encountered. All of these factors lead over time to efficient board dynamics and sound decision making, and I have enjoyed problem-solving with her precisely because of this style and her personal attributes as described.

When I have referred clients to Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo they have always been pleased with her representation and advice. They report that she has been empathetic and understanding, informative and clear in her advice, and sensible in guiding them through the resolution of their cases. As a practicing union-side labor lawyer with occasional need for criminal law advice and simply as an acquaintance,

I also have had glimpses of Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's work, even though we have not formally served as co-counsel on the same matter. The nominee has shown in our interactions that she is rigorous in her thinking, cautious, committed, and methodical. Without having any absolute statistics, I would venture to say she has more appellate litigation experience in criminal law because of her long tenure with the Public Defender and her private practice than 95% or more of criminal law practitioners in this State, making her extremely knowledgeable about substantive and procedural criminal law.

In passing, let me also relate one other experience that I think is noteworthy. In 2008, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo coached the Sacred Hearts Academy Debate Team in the Loyola Law School and Dr. Edison H Miyawaki Statewide Moot Court Competition. She enlisted my wife and I to judge one of the practice rounds, and so we witnessed her ability to engage, inspire and educate directly. Although she had never before coached a high school or college debate team, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's team placed first in the annual competition in the entire state. That she was able in a few short months to lead her youthful charges to a statewide forensics championship over a host of other private and public schools is quite remarkable, and a testament not only to her students but a wonderful validation of her ability as both a teacher and lawyer to infuse her students with her knowledge, energy, and competence.

The sum total of the experience and qualities enumerated above convince me that there are very few persons who are likely to be better suited to hold a position on the Hawaii Paroling Authority than Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo. Like all our institutions in a time of financial distress, our system of parole is now challenged in unprecedented ways. The Hawaii Paroling Authority must not only continue to protect the public from the risk of continued criminal behavior through scrutiny of individual parole applications, but it must also weigh the effects of its actions on the use of our existing correctional resources and the cost of managing our overall prison population. This vital task requires intelligence, discipline, objectivity, and imagination.

These are qualities the nominee possesses in abundance, and I therefore respectfully urge her confirmation. Thank you.

April 18, 2011

Senate Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee

GM 748: Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 312

Strong Support for GM 748

Dear Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

I am writing in very strong support of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo's confirmation recommendation, by this committee, to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Given Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's extensive experience in representing clients in criminal matters and representing them in front of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, she will be an invaluable asset to the HPA and our community.

I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for 20 years. I was also a deputy public defender from 1990-1997 and worked with her in the O'ahu office. I have had the great opportunity to learn from her both professionally and personally. She is completely committed to community service and empowerment and has spent her professional career devoted to both.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is completely qualified for this appointment and will be able to effectively and efficiently make decisions that are compatible with the welfare of the community and of the individual offenders. Her extensive background lays her foundation and ability to consider and appraise individual offenders and the circumstances under which the offenses were committed.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has a keen intellectual mind, an awareness and an acute ability to decipher the nuances of the legal system in order to carry out justice, is extremely well reasoned and sound in her judgment, fair in all aspects of her life and legal practice, her integrity is beyond reproach, her ability to work well with others is evidenced throughout her career, and she is simply outstanding in focus, effort, resiliency, wisdom, and heart.

I urge this committee to recommend, to the full Senate, the confirmation of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. She is a gifted and experienced attorney who has represented hundreds of defendants before the HPA and is aptly ready and fully committed to serve our community.

Sincerely,


Jill Lellani Nuno-kawa, Esq.

Karen T. Nakasone, Esq.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
(808) 227-7264
karentnakasone@hotmail.com

April 18, 2011

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

Via Email: PGMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 748: Confirmation of JOYCE MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO,
For Hawai'i Paroling Authority, IN SUPPORT
Hearing 4/19/11 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero, Senator Kidani and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Nakasone, and I write today in strong support of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo's appointment to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA). I have been an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender for 14 years, and was a colleague of Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for nine years out of her 20-year tenure serving as a Deputy Public Defender. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo was one of my mentors as I progressed through the ranks of our Office.

Currently, I am assigned to the Appeals Division of the Public Defender. In addition to appellate litigation, our unit handles approximately 50 percent of all HPA matters, including parole consideration hearings, parole revocation hearings, and minimum-term setting hearings. In this capacity, I have handled hundreds of matters before the HPA, from 2004 to the present. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo did this same kind of work, for the 15 years she served in our Appeals Division. Having litigated thousands of matters before the HPA herself, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has a wealth of firsthand knowledge of HPA hearings procedure, and decades-long direct experience working with inmates and parole officers, all of which make her exceptionally qualified for this position.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is also one of the strongest appellate attorneys to ever come out of the Office of the Public Defender. She has litigated many seminal, published Hawai'i Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals decisions, including presenting oral argument before both appellate courts. The high intelligence she exhibited in her appellate legal work, combined with her ability to quickly hone in on the heart of any legal problem, will be an asset to HPA, a quasi-judicial body.

April 18, 2011

Page 2

Appellate legal work also cultivates a rigorous sensitivity for process – ensuring that process is fair, and that constitutional due process requirements are met, through all phases of a criminal case. In all the years that I have known her, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has always displayed that respect for fairness -- in her personal dealings with others, and striving for fairness in the legal matters she handled.

A final quality that is essential for an HPA member, is the ability to “read” people, i.e. to distill the character and sincerity of the individual appearing before the board. This is probably the most important skill an HPA member should have, and Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo, having assisted thousands of incarcerated individuals before the HPA, definitely has it.

In addition to the strong qualifications described above, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo possesses all the basic, necessary qualities for this position: she is professional, diligent, even-tempered, and always works well with others. I recommend her highly and without reservation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Karen T. Nakasone, Esq.

CARL M. VARADY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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April 18, 2011

TO: Sen. Espero, Chair & Members of the Senate Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of Appointment of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo, Esq., to Hawai'i Paroling Authority

HRG: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. -- Governor's Message (GM) No. 748.

Senator Espero and members of the Committee, I am honored submit this testimony in support of the Governor's nomination of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo to become a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for more than 20 years both professionally and personally. I can say without equivocation that she is a person of great intellect, moral character, dedication to work and compassion. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is precisely the type of person suited for service with the Paroling Authority based, not only on these characteristics, but her work experience and training.

As the Committee is aware, H.R.S. §§ 353-61 and 353-63, require that applicants must be able to make decisions that will be compatible with the welfare of the community and of individual offenders, including their background and ability for appraisal of offenders and the circumstances under which offenses were committed. These requirements mandate that any nominee be able to make sound and well-reasoned decisions, be fair and even-tempered, have the requisite knowledge of the law and experience for the position, be an ethical person and be able to work well with others. I can assure the Committee that Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo possesses these characteristics and the requisite experience to use them in service of the Authority.

In her work as an attorney she is extremely knowledgeable. She has been counsel of record in numerous civil and criminal appeals, served as Grand Jury Counsel, First Circuit Court advising the O'ahu Grand Jury panels regarding criminal law issues. Prior to that time from 1985 to 1990 she litigated numerous felony and

Testimony in Support of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo, Esq.
April 18, 2011

misdemeanor trials in state circuit and district courts as a member of the Hawai'i Public Defender's office.

As an attorney in the Appellate Division from 1990-2005, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo researched and drafted appellate briefs and writs of certiorari, argued cases before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has had numerous published opinions that are both noteworthy and address novel or unsettled issues of law that were important to the Hawai'i Court's and our community. She has made a significant contribution to advancing issues of constitutional and legal importance in Hawai'i.

Directly relevant to the nomination, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo represented clients in administrative hearings before the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. She has served in this capacity with effectively and with integrity.

Other relevant experience includes her work as an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Advocacy from 1998-2004 (excluding 2003), at the Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, sharing her vast experience as an appellate practitioner and teaching law students how to prepare appellate briefs and oral argument. Anyone who has studied legal writing with Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has had the benefit of studying someone who writes with clarity, precision and persuasiveness.

Through her work with the Paroling Authority, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has become expert in both the substantive and procedural facets of a very complex body of law. She will not require the type of training others with less experience might need. And she will bring not only her experience to bear on this difficult job, but a highly refined work ethic. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is a very dedicated and hard working attorney, who has maintained a high level of professional work throughout her career.

I believe the State of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Paroling Authority would benefit directly from Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's participation and a member of the Paroling Authority. I cannot recommend her highly enough. I urge the Committee to approve her nomination and thank the Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of such a highly competent and dedicated nominee.

With Aloha,

Carl M. Varady



Moiliili Hongwanji Mission

902 University Avenue / Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 / Phone (808) 949-1659

April 19, 2011

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations,
and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Rm. 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message #749
Confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka
Chairperson, Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka as Chairperson of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Matsuoka over the past thirteen years as members of the Moiliili Hongwanji Mission. We have served together on the Temple Board of Directors for many years and I have always been impressed by his outstanding leadership ability, professionalism and character.

Mr. Matsuoka has extensive experience in state government and in criminal justice and is immensely qualified to serve as the Chairperson of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. His outstanding professional experience is complemented by a deep commitment toward making our community a better place to live. I am confident he will serve the public with distinction.

I respectfully request that Bert Y. Matsuoka be confirmed as Chairperson of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blayne M. Higa".

Blayne M. Higa
President
Moiliili Hongwanji Mission

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 8:37 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: VKapp@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony for GM748 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM748

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vickie Kapp
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: VKapp@honolulu.gov
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:05 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM748 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM748

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: E. Funakoshi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

The three candidates I believe have well-rounded backgrounds to interact well with each other and the inmates who come before them.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 6:11 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: wmdomingo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM748 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM748

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William M. Domingo
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wmdomingo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

State Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee;
Governor's Message No. 748

Linda C.R. Jameson; Ph.: 358-9874

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 @ 1:15 pm

Support for Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

My name is Linda C.R. Jameson and I have been employed as an attorney for the past 28 years. I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo as a personal friend and professional colleague for over 25 years. We were both employed by the Office of the Public Defender at the same time.

In my opinion, I believe that Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is highly qualified to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. As a Deputy Public Defender in the appellate division, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo worked closely with the Hawaii Paroling Authority representing clients in minimum sentence hearings, parole hearings, and parole revocation hearings. She has written numerous appellate briefs dealing with various issues involving criminal law while at the Public Defender's Office, as well as in private practice. She has also argued a number of cases before the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawaii Supreme Court. Some of the issues she dealt with were extremely complex. Yet her briefs were well-reasoned and judicious. Using this experience, she taught Appellate Advocacy at the University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law. Further, she has litigated felony and misdemeanor trials in state circuit and district courts. In addition to her overwhelming experience in criminal law, I believe she is also qualified to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority because of her personality. She is fair-minded, even-tempered, ethical, and so very easy to work with.

Given her extensive experience, knowledge of criminal law, and personality, I believe she would be a great addition to the paroling authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo.

State Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee;
Governor's Message No. 748

William H. Jameson, Jr.
Ph.: 358-9875

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 @ 1:15 pm

Support for Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

My name is William H. Jameson, Jr. and I am an attorney in private practice specializing in criminal law. I met Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo over twenty years ago at the Office of the Public Defender and consider her a personal friend, as well as a professional colleague.

In her position at the Public Defender's Office, she has repeatedly represented clients before the paroling authority and is therefore experienced and knowledgeable in the workings of the authority. As an appellate attorney in both the Public Defender's Office, as well as in private practice, she has dealt with a myriad of complex issues involving criminal law. She has argued numerous cases before the Hawaii appellate courts. She would therefore bring to the authority a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of criminal law. She would also bring to the authority a well-balanced demeanor. She is very even-tempered, well-grounded and extremely easy to work with.

I highly recommend Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for the position as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I believe that due to her extensive legal experience and her demeanor, her opinions as to the decisions imposed on defendants will be sound and well-reasoned.

Law Offices of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

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April 17, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero
Senator
State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

Thank you very much for your request for a written response to questions concerning the Hawai'i Paroling Authority ("HPA").

I am very honored to have been nominated as a member of the HPA. I want to thank Governor Abercrombie for his consideration and confidence.

I submit the following answers to the questions presented:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority?

I am very enthusiastic about returning to public service. In my legal career, I have been dedicated to providing legal assistance to indigent individuals. During and after law school, I worked at the Asian Law Caucus in Oakland, California, a nonprofit legal organization representing clients in civil cases. From 1985 to 2005, I worked as a staff attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, representing clients in criminal cases. This experience has given me an understanding and appreciation of the important role of HPA members. I feel I can step into this role and make an immediate contribution.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority?

The role of an HPA member is to make sound decisions regarding the setting of minimum terms of imprisonment and parole-related matters in order to protect the community and reintegrate the offender into the community. The HPA acts as a quasi-judicial body. It is the only legal

authority which stands between the community and inmates serving sentences for felony convictions. HPA members are required to follow the applicable statutes and rules when evaluating each case.

These laws establish the criteria for the decision-making process and provide due process fairness to the inmate. In our criminal justice and public safety systems, most offenders will eventually be released. The HPA works to ensure that offenders complete all required programming so that they will have the best chance of success upon returning to the community. It benefits society as a whole when these individuals become productive, working members within their families and communities.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, 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 Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I am very familiar with the duties and functions of the members of the HPA. From 1985 to 2005, I worked as a state Deputy Public Defender. During this time, I represented hundreds of defendants before the HPA in each of the three major case categories: minimum term hearings, parole hearings, and parole revocation hearings.

From this experience, I learned the relevant law pertaining to the decision-making process for HPA members in each of these case categories. I have had extensive discussions with HPA members during the past twenty years concerning the HPA Guidelines and how the members applied specific criteria to each case. I have spoken with state parole officers and administrators about their enforcement policies.

A substantial part of my legal work has been to counsel my clients to improve themselves through education and work while in prison and ultimately, within the community. I am familiar with the types of treatment and employment programs necessary to an inmate's successful transition into the community and positive performance on parole.

While in private practice, I served as Grand Jury Counsel for the State in 2006 and 2009. My duties were to provide legal guidance to each of the six Oahu Grand Jury panels and to conduct the annual orientation sessions for these panels. I interacted regularly with deputies from the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and Department of the Attorney General concerning criminal law issues relevant to their presentation of cases before the Grand Jury. From 2005-2006, I was a member of the Penal Code Reform Committee, composed of judges, prosecutors and

defense attorneys, probation and parole officers and law enforcement personnel. This Committee met regularly to identify revisions needed within the Hawai'i Penal Code and to compile a report of the proposed revisions for consideration by the State Legislature. Working with individuals from every area of the criminal justice system has broadened my understanding of diverse viewpoints immeasurably.

Through observation, discussion and study over the past two decades, I understand what it takes to be a member of the HPA. It is an enormous responsibility to determine the length of an inmate's prison term or to decide whether the inmate should be released on parole. HPA members are required to carefully weigh and evaluate a myriad of factors in order to reach a fair decision and one which comports with the statutory and rule guidelines. Sound and fair HPA proceedings, heard by members with a respectful demeanor, even when rendering tough decisions, are the basis of respect for the criminal justice and public safety systems in our State.

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

I hope to work collaboratively with the other members of the HPA and the staff of the HPA and DPS to maintain a high level of professionalism and competence in carrying out our decision-making duties, examine the statutes and rules relevant to the HPA decision-making process and suggest revisions to the Administration and Legislature where necessary, and evaluate the current programs for offenders and propose additional/alternative programming where feasible.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to answer these questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo