

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony of Ronette M. Kawakami
To the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs**

April 19, 2011

Testimony Regarding GM 748: For consideration and confirmation, Gubernatorial Nominee JOYCE MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO, Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

My testimony is in full and enthusiastic support of the appointment of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a Commissioner for the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have known Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo since 1986, when she was a Deputy Public Defender at the State Office of the Public Defender. We worked together at the Public Defenders from 1987 until she struck out on her own a few years ago. During the time that we worked together, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo exhibited vast legal knowledge, excellent work habits, and a dedication to the work at hand. She has always been exceedingly diligent and professional. She is fair-minded and has a strong sense of justice.

The majority of her career has been devoted to serving the public, both here in Hawaii, and also in the Bay Area. Her work ethic is high, as well as her unassailable integrity.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's experience in the criminal justice area makes her highly qualified to be on the Hawaii Paroling Authority. While she was a public defender for a number of years, she also served as Grand Jury counsel, where she was advising the Grand Jury as they deliberated in the charging of felonies.

Personally, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo and I have been close friends since 1986, and we are also related by her marriage. She is a good wife, mother and friend.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo would be an excellent addition to the HPA.

I regret that I cannot be present at the hearing; however, I can be reached by telephone at 221-4703 if the Committee has any questions.

Sincerely,
Ronette M. Kawakami
Deputy Public Defender