

GM749

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i
Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BERT Y. MATSUOKA,
for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

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 749, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
BERT Y. MATSUOKA
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) strongly supports the nomination of Bert Y. Matsuoka as Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Mr. Matsuoka's background and experiences speak well of his ability to represent diverse members of the community.

As this Committee is aware, Governor Neil Abercrombie is in strong support of returning home Hawaii inmates placed out-of-state. The Department is working on a two-prong approach to achieve this: 1) develop and implement a comprehensive re-entry plan that will expand and improve in-facility and community-based programs to prepare inmates for successful reintegration into the community; and 2) expand in-state capacity. The Hawaii Paroling Authority is an integral part of the re-entry process and Mr. Matsuoka is very willing to participate in developing a system that

promotes public safety through effective and evidenced-based programs for transitioning inmates.

Beginning his career as a metropolitan police officer with the Honolulu Police Department, Mr. Matsuoka moved to state service in 1980 as an investigator with the Department of Human Services (DHS) welfare division and was quickly promoted to manage the Restitution Control Section where he coordinated and conducted criminal and administrative investigations. In 1992, Mr. Matsuoka took advantage of an opportunity to administer the DHS Volunteer Services Office where he was active in many community events that introduced him to volunteers from all walks of life. In 1993, he joined the Office of Youth Services as the Youth Gang Project Coordinator and in January 1995 was appointed the OYS Executive Director by then Governor Ben Cayatano. As Executive Director, Mr. Matsuoka worked intimately with over 50 community-based organizations that provided services to children and youth. He was respected for his collaborative endeavors with the community, including advocating for and initiating new opportunities for Hawaii's opio.

As a Hawaii Department of Defense civil defense planner, during emergency events and activities Mr. Matsuoka was responsible for planning and coordinating with the myriad of agencies, both public and private, which are first responders. Again, this required he draw on his ability to effectively collaborate with others and ensure protection of the public during civil defense emergencies.

Mr. Matsuoka is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and a board member of the Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, in addition to participating in community services projects in East Honolulu.

GM 749
April 19, 2011
Page 3

We urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Matsuoka's nomination to the
Hawaii Paroling Authority.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 ALAKEA STREET, GROUND FLOOR
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA
ACTING CHAIR

ROY W. REEBER
MEMBER

GAIL MURANAKA
MEMBER

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 749
Consideration and Confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka
as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Tommy Johnson, Administrator

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

Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am providing testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Bert Y. Matsuoka as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA).

As the Paroles and Pardons Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, I have worked very closely with Mr. Matsuoka on a number of issues such as recent court decisions that affect the parole board's decision making process when fixing minimum terms of imprisonment, parole consideration and parole revocations, and policies and procedures. We have also discussed ways to improve the operational efficiency of the HPA and utilize existing funding that would allow the Department of Public Safety to return a number of inmates incarcerated on the mainland for parole consideration without jeopardizing public safety.

In all matters, I have found Mr. Matsuoka very willing to listen, learn, and take the appropriate course of action on issues affecting not only the parole board, but the staff and operations of the HPA as well. In the short period of time that he has been temporarily appointed as the Acting Chairman, he has demonstrated the required

Governor's Message 749 - Consideration and Confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka as
Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

April 19, 2011
Page 2

skills to render, fair, firm, and consistent decisions that are in the best interest of the offender and the community, while simultaneously promoting respect for the law. When issues of concern were raised regarding HPA decisions, he has reviewed the case materials, and when appropriate, moved to effectively address the issues.

Mr. Matsuoka has displayed unwavering integrity, diligence, and the willingness to learn the many facets of parole board operations. I believe he is committed to ensuring all decisions rendered by the parole board are well thought-out, reasoned, and fair. He possesses the ability, professional experience, and vision necessary to serve as Chairman.

I strongly recommend the nomination of this qualified and dedicated public servant as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Mr. Matsuoka's nomination.

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

April 19, 2011

GM 749: Nomination of Bert Y. Matsuoka to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Bert Y. Matsuoka to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. In the time that Mr. Matsuoka has served as the interim chair of the Hawaii Paroling ("HPA"), we have found him to be very fair in his adjudication of cases. The HPA has very difficult decisions to make in terms of the assigning of minimum terms of incarceration as well as the granting or denying of parole requests. Mr. Matsuoka has demonstrated an ability to balance the competing interests of compassion for the individuals facing the HPA and public safety in rendering fair and just decisions.

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

April 17, 2011

Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Members, Senate Public Safety, Government Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: GM749, Testimony in Support
Confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka as Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Dear Chairman Espero and Committee Members:

This is an unsolicited letter in support of the confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka as Chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have known Bert for more than 18 years. We first met in 1993 when he joined the Office of Youth Services as the State Youth Gang Prevention Coordinator. In 1995, Bert was appointed as Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services when Wayne Matsuo retired. In 1996, I was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Statewide Advisory Council that was administered by OYS. Over the years that Bert was Executive Director, we worked well together and have since become close personal friends with many mutual passions and philosophies.

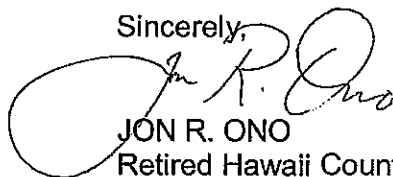
Bert is a skilled administrator and manager. His past experiences as an executive director of a statewide agency will be a valuable asset in his capacity as chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. In addition, his experiences as a former Honolulu police officer, work in the juvenile justice field and with a private security agency after retirement are a good combination to make good, balanced decisions on the Board.

During the years that I have known Bert, I have been impressed with his integrity and honesty. Bert is a thinker and a doer, which is a rare combination to find in most individuals. He remains motivated to serve the public and to make the State of Hawaii be a better place to live.

I have no hesitancy or reservation in supporting his appointment and confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

If you should have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Sincerely,



JON R. ONO
Retired Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney
Hilo, Hawaii
Telephone (808) 961-0694 (work)

Craig K. Nakamoto
5258 Alahee Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
Phone: 228-3556

April 18, 2011

Chairperson Will Espero
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM 749 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BERT Y. MATSUOKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012

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

This letter is written in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Bert Y. Matsuoka to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Mr. Matsuoka possesses the personal traits necessary to carry out his duties. I have known Mr. Matsuoka personally for over ten years. During that time, I have come to know him as a person with integrity and honesty. He is also hardworking and diligent.

His professional background also makes him qualified for the position. He has worked in the areas of law enforcement and corrections (with the Office of Youth Services).

Your favorable consideration of Mr. Matsuoka is respectfully requested.

Yours very truly,

Craig K. Nakamoto

April 18, 2011

Senate Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee

GM 748: Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Bert Y. Matsuoka.

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

Location: Conference Room 312

Strong Support for GM 749

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

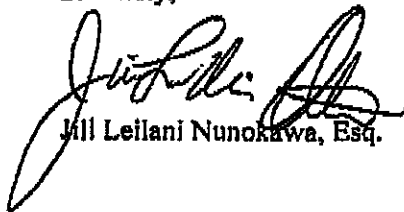
I am writing in strong support of Bert Y. Matsuoka's confirmation recommendation, by this committee, to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I served on the Commission for Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council while Mr. Matsuoka was the Executive Director of the State Office of Youth Services. My interactions with him were always positive and in the best interest of juvenile justice in Hawaii. Mr. Matsuoka is completely committed to fairness and he is very competent and capable to make effective and efficient decisions that are compatible with the welfare of the community and of the individual offenders. He has extensive background the judicial system and possesses the ability to appraise individual offenders and the circumstances by which the offenses were committed.

Mr. Matsuoka is thoughtful in his decision-making process and takes the necessary time to prepare and incorporates different approaches and resolutions to various problems and challenges. He is very well reasoned and sound in his judgment, is open-minded and takes into consideration all points of view before making decisions, he has a profound sense of integrity, he definitely works well with others, and he is committed to serving the community in order to make the community a better place.

I urge this committee to recommend, to the full Senate, the confirmation of Bert Y. Matsuoka to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. He is an exceptionally talented, dedicated, and compassionate man who gives tirelessly to our community through service and possesses an outstanding vision for the future.

Sincerely,



Jill Leilani Nunokawa, Esq.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:06 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM749 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM749

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: Pauline Pavao [pauline.pavao@usw.salvationarmy.org]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 9:12 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Governor's Message 749 - Re: Hawaii Paroling Authority/Bert Matsuoka

The Salvation Army - Family Intervention Services, serves youth on the Big Island of Hawaii to provide youth with skills for a healthy life, and instill purpose, hope and vision to youth and their families. We are quite elated that Mr. Bert Matsuoka has been selected by the Governor as his appointment for Executive Director of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

We humbly ask your consideration and support in the appointment of Mr. Bert Matsuoka as Executive Director of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. In our past work with Mr. Matsuoka we know with his professionalism and expertise he will serve as an asset in his appointment as well as to our communities and State of Hawaii and the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for your positive consideration - as we look to a new day in Hawaii!

Pauline Pavao, Administrator
Roxanne Costa, Director of Operations - Residential Services
Michael Chung, Administrative Services Director

The Salvation Army - FAMILY INTERVENTION SERVICES
P.O. Box 5085
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-1085
Ph: (808) 959-5855 ext 28 Fax: (808) 959-2301
Pauline.Pavao@usw.salvationarmy.org



April 19, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Chair, Sen. Will Espero; Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Committee Members
Public Hearing, April 19, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 312, State Capitol

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM ANONSEN,
MANAGING PARTNER/ PRINCIPAL OF
THE MARITIME GROUP
IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 749

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group, and serve on various law enforcement organizations and non-profit organizations. I would like to express my personal support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Bert Matsuoka to the Hawaii Paroling Authority for a term to expire June 30, 2012. Regrettably my schedule does not permit me to personally testify before the committee this afternoon.

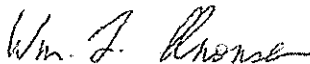
Through my professional and personal association for the past 10 years, I have found Bert Matsuoka to be a dedicated individual who performs his professional and civic responsibilities with a sense of commitment, pride and duty. He has the professional credentials and many characteristics necessary to make him an outstanding member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Bert is a leader in the community and a team player who works well with all people and is an excellent facilitator. While at State Civil Defense I witnessed first-hand on several occasions his strong analytical ability, and his ability to remain committed to his principals, always with the highest degree of ethics and diplomacy in times of heated conflicting opposition. I have found him to carefully consider difficult issues, and through a structured investigative process and mindset, he develops calculated decisions that address and resolve an issue. Most important, he stands by his principals, strongly defending them skillfully and with respectful tact.

As previously demonstrated during his tenure with the Honolulu Police Department, the State Office of Youth Service and at State Civil Defense, I believe Bert is well qualified, and that by confirming his appointment, it will lend a sense of professional expertise on the authority. He is an individual of unquestionable integrity and fairness, and has my personal vote of confidence in this appointed position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this gubernatorial nominee.

Sincerely,


William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal

1240 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 330 Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814
Tel: (808) 589-1223 www.The-Maritime-Group.com

Craig K. Nakamoto
5258 Alahee Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
Phone: 228-3556

April 18, 2011

Chairperson Will Espero
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
Conference Room 312
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM 749 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BERT Y. MATSUOKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012

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

This letter is written in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Bert Y. Matsuoka to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Mr. Matsuoka possesses the personal traits necessary to carry out his duties. I have known Mr. Matsuoka personally for over ten years. During that time, I have come to know him as a person with integrity and honesty. He is also hardworking and diligent.

His professional background also makes him qualified for the position. He has worked in the areas of law enforcement and corrections (with the Office of Youth Services).

Your favorable consideration of Mr. Matsuoka is respectfully requested.

Yours very truly,

Craig K. Nakamoto

April 16, 2011

Honorable Senator Will Espero
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Governor's Message 749

Dear Senator Espero:

This is in response to your letter dated April 12, 2011 requesting information regarding my nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) by Governor Neil Abercrombie.

I would like to preface my response by expressing my appreciation to Governor Abercrombie and the selection panel for their confidence and support in my nomination for this position.

I also want to thank Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Director of the Department of Public Safety for her support in the nomination process and fellow nominees Judge Michael Town and Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo for their good wishes.

The following are my responses your questions:

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

I have over 30 years of public service; many of those years were spent either in criminal justice or juvenile justice related positions. Those are the two areas that I have a lot of personal commitment and interest in. The HPA plays a critical role in our community's well-being, and with my experience, I believe I can further contribute by making sound parole decisions and also help guide the HPA to become an even more effective and efficient agency.

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

The HPA deals with a very small segment of the State's total population. However, the population that comes into contact with the HPA is made up of individuals who possess a high impact status within our community. These individuals have committed serious law violations and have been committed to incarceration for their crimes.

The HPA is tasked to determine if and when these individuals are allowed to transition back into the community without posing a risk to public safety or to the individuals themselves. HPA board members need to take a careful, objective view of each individual and determine whether he/she is prepared to be afforded an opportunity to be allowed back into the community.

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?

I feel that my experience and character allows me to view situations in an objective manner. With regard to the specific situations facing the Parole Board, I think I can bring a balanced approach in determining decisions. I believe my law enforcement experience coupled with my social services background will allow me to view a situation with minimum bias. I will place emphasis on the collected research, data, and history of the individual, and seek the input from the professionals who actually work with and are familiar with the individual.

I also believe that I won't be intimidated by either the inmate or the establishment in making decisions. I feel that when decisions are based on accurate information, established "best practices," and clear objective views, you will have the most appropriate and responsible outcomes possible.

However, I need to note that when attempting to predict human behavior, especially those who have had a troubled past, this process is far from being an exact science.

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

Having been the interim Chairperson now for almost two months, I have observed the good work done by the HPA. These are very dedicated and committed professionals who strive to maintain the high standards required of the HPA.

If afforded the opportunity, I want to help the HPA to positively move forward. I will work collaboratively with all segments of the staff and look at where we can strengthen and improve the agency. I believe this can be accomplished with good communication and networking, not just within the HPA, but reaching out to other entities that have a part in the whole parole process.

The whole "process of parole" needs to be recognized as complex and multi-faceted. I believe improvement in the parole process cannot occur with just the HPA operating alone. Positive strides will occur when there are more working partnerships with the Department of Public Safety, other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups all contributing and sharing in this endeavor.

With the assistance of the other Board members, and the staff of the HPA, I believe that we can begin the movement in this direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questions.

Sincerely,

Bert Y. Matsuoka