

GM750

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL A. TOWN, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. (Term amended to 6-30-2015 by GM778)

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 750, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
MICHAEL A. TOWN
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 Judge Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority as a part-time board member. Judge Town is well known in the community due to his long service on the bench and his wide-ranging community activities.

During his tenure as both a District and Circuit Court judge, Judge Town developed a reputation as a respected jurist who continuously sought ways to improve Hawaii's civil and criminal justice systems. He championed the unified family court system (first introduced in Hawaii) as a way to practice preventative, therapeutic and restorative justice for America's families. He served on the Hawaii Restorative Justice Committee and the Committee on Jury innovations, among others. In the national arena, Judge Town was an active participant with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, serving among other things as an Advisory Board

member and Chair of the Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence Committee. He has been invited to speak at numerous national forums on a wide variety of judicial issues and authored many publications on subjects such as Judge as Coach, Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma in Court, Restorative Justice, and Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews.

A tireless community volunteer and former Peace Corps member, Judge Town currently serves on many boards including the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund, Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii, and Positive Coaching Alliance. He also is a coach/trainer with the ocean awareness program for children Na Kama Kai and global mentor with youth as first responders through the Go-First Foundation.

We urge your favorable consideration of Judge Town'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 750: Nomination of Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Retired Judge Town served for decades in the Family and Circuit Courts of the First Circuit. Throughout his career, Judge Town was well-respected by both his colleagues and the attorneys who appeared before him. He was always willing to take the time to listen to the parties who had business in his courtroom. He is honorable and compassionate and his decisions were always just and insightful. Even though you may have disagreed with one of his rulings, you were always aware of the reason for the decision and respected it.

Judge Town, with his wealth of experience and legal wisdom, will be an excellent addition to the HPA. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

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 MICHAEL TOWN HAWAI'I PAROLE BOARD NOMINATION

Please vote in favor of Michael Town's nomination to the Hawai'i Parole Board. I believe retired Judge Town has the experience offender rehabilitation would make an important difference for our community in assisting parolees be 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

I have known Michael Town professionally since 1994 when I began representing indigent youth and adults, and was a public health master's degree student learning about rehabilitation, and he was senior judge for the Family Court. Formerly, I was a deputy attorney general who did some prosecution work and represented the state and agencies including the department of public safety.

Michael Town's vision and leadership skills have been instrumental in working to decrease criminal recidivism. He has promoted both restorative and therapeutic justice (what drug & other specialty courts are based on), which are two foremost rehabilitation strategies today in criminal justice.

Judge Town has been one of Hawai'i's biggest supporters of rehabilitation for people involved with the justice system. He has enthusiastically supported the *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 about the program, two by the United States Courts. A book on the process is in press. Research shows that this simple and inexpensive process brings healing to traumatized families and promise to decrease criminal recidivism.

Retired Judge Town would provide rehabilitation innovation for our parole board. Clearly we need people with expertise on rehabilitation to serve our parole board.

Please see my website www.lorennwalker.com for a description of my background and experience in criminal justice interventions for agencies including courts, police, and prisons.

Please call me if you have any questions concerning my strongest recommendation for Michael Town and thank you for your efforts to serve our community including selecting effective parole board members.

1. 12/10/73

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1368&dat=19731210&id=ds0wAAAAI1BAI&sjid=dx6EAAAAI1BAI&pg=5830,2059328>
5. Hawai'i Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions report & <http://hawaiihouseblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/psd-briefs-lawmakers-on-offender.html>

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

GM 750

In Support of the Confirmation of Michael A. Town
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 312

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair, and Members of the Committee

My name is Mark D. Hunsaker, President of Bowen Hunsaker Hirai, Certified Public Accountants, P.C. and a Deputy Sheriff with the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office. I am submitting testimony in support of the confirmation of Michael A. Town to serve as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I have known Michael for over 30 years, both personally and professionally. In both these capacities, Michael has always exhibited the highest ideals in both character and integrity. I believe him to be well respected in the law enforcement and legal community and also among those friends who we have in common.

I believe Michael would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and I wholeheartedly support his confirmation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
BOWEN HUNSAKER HIRAI, CPAs, P.C.



MARK D. HUNSAKER
Certified Public Accountant
Accredited in Business Valuation
Certified in Financial Forensics
Certified Business Appraiser
Deputy Sheriff

From: SUSAN TOWN SHEA [sheacanj@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:24 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Judge Michael Anthony Town

Testimony for Michael Anthony Town,

My brother, Michael A. Town, has always been my hero. Eight years older than I, he was my protector, and often my advocate as I grew up. Mike has been the best at whatever he attempted. Throughout his career he has maintained an ethical stance for each thing that challenged his core. There is no doubt Mike would be the exact, correct choice for the position you are considering him. His love for Hawaii, the People of Hawaii, his family and a exquisite, magnificent sense of fairness with each situation he presides over. I applaud your chance to select such a strong and valuable citizen.

Respectfully, Susan Town Shea

From: Elwin Ahu [elwinahu@enewhope.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2011 9:40 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Mike Town
Subject: Confirmation of Michael Town

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

Aloha Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs:

I am writing this letter in full support of Michael Town's nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have had the privilege of serving alongside Mr. Town in various capacities, first as a law clerk with the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, then as an attorney practicing before his court upon his appointment to the Circuit Court bench and as a former colleague on the bench upon my appointment as a Circuit Court judge in 1998. And although we are both retired, we are still engaged in public service through various channels serving the people of Hawaii. In each and every instance of our relationship, both professionally and socially, I have come to highly respect Michael's honesty and integrity and for being a person with the highest moral character. I have witnessed his involvement on numerous occasions to help and assist in projects for the needy and has placed the concern and care for others above his own. It is in his willingness to serve others before himself that I find it so easy to respect a person like Michael Town.

Through the process of volunteering on several committees with him, I can personally attest to Michael's keen insight and ability to apply critical thinking to solve difficult problems, especially with regard to issues that affect people's lives and their welfare. In every situation that we've experienced together, it was clear to me that Michael has such a deep compassion for people and deep respect for fairness and justice that this nomination is an opportunity for him to serve in an even greater capacity helping a wider community.

Michael has a proven track record of leadership and I have also witnessed his willingness and excitement of being a team player, quickly winning the respect and confidence of his teammates. I am confident that Michael Town will far exceed everyone's expectations and will help to move Hawaii's criminal justice system forward into the 21st century.

It is for the above reasons that I would highly recommend Michael Town's nomination and respectfully request his confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 842-4242.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwin P. Ahu,
Executive Pastor,
New Hope Christian Fellowship

14 April 2011

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

Aloha Senator Espero and Members of the Committee:

As Judge Michael A. Kaho'okelewa'a Town (retired) has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, I respectfully submit the following as you consider his confirmation.

When Judge Mike retired in October of last year, I hoped he would relax into a well deserved life of travel and leisure. Instead he took a 200 mile walking pilgrimage in Spain, started a consulting company, traveled the islands to train 1000 Pony Baseball coaches to be positive coaches. "Not retired—I'm re-inspired," he tells me. May I take this time to tell you where he serves in leadership positions and on the toughest of front lines:

I am a Pastor at New Hope Diamond Head. The nominee serves on our church council, He is a frequent teacher at Men's Fraternity where we "reject passivity, accept responsibility, lead courageously, and expect a greater reward." There are a number of former inmates in this fraternity and in our community. Mike is a coach for the church canoe club know as Imua One Blade. In his canoe, it's always safety first, and I trust that will be so in the Hawaii Paroling Authority canoe too.

Coach Mike is a trainer for the Positive Coaching Alliance, a Stanford based non-profit that seeks to "transform youth through sports." He serves on the Executive Board for PCA Hawaii, and he is the Lead Trainer for the Hawaii Region. I have often heard Coach Mike say, "Let's keep kids on the basketball court, they will stay out of his circuit court." He authored "Judge as Coach, Positive Coacing in the Courtroom." (<http://www.cuttingedge.law.com/content/judge-coach-positive-coaching-courtroom>)

Camp Agape is an annual church camp for hundreds of children whose parent(s) are presently incarcerated. Camp Agape and New Hope Prison Ministry was started by a former inmate and now pastor, Roy Yamamoto. 13 years ago, Judge Mike released Roy from a 20-40 year prison term discerning that Roy was ready to be a healthy community member. Someday someone will make of movie of this. I was present when Pastor Roy baptized Judge Mike, and now Mike presently serves under Roy as they care for hurting children and mentor former inmates. This is the essence of

restorative justice.

(<http://archives.starbulletin.com/1999/04/16/news/story3.html>)

(<http://www.enehope.org/news/000605/>)

I have seen Mike under extreme pressure, and in each situation whether in the ocean where his canoe flipped in the impact zone, or facing leadership backlash in a community, I find Mike to be an excellent listener, decisive, compassionate, able to set strong boundaries, unconditional in love, aware of the big picture yet shares specific wisdom that cuts to the core. Recently, I sat in his courtroom where he asked every defendant to turn around and point out people in the courtroom there to support them. Judge Mike included himself saying I consider you innocent until proven guilty. He has the entire courtroom in tears as he encourages an inmate to persevere. Then he took me in his chambers and asked me to give him a critique, "where can I be better."

I do not know a stronger candidate for this position. I agree with the Governor, please confirm Mike for this position. If you need any further information, please contact me at (808) 561-5967 or email me at Kihā@aol.com.

Me ke Akua pū,



Kahu Kihā Pimental
New Hope Diamond Head
Trainer, Positive Coaching Alliance

BRYANT & REMIGIO

JOHN C. BRYANT, JR.
CATHERINE H. REMIGIO

LYNNE YOUMANS
(Of Counsel)

ALTI 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 Judge Michael Town (ret.)
GM No. 750, 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 Judge Michael Town (ret.) to be a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I first appeared before Judge Town in 2000, as a Deputy Public Defender recently promoted to the felony division. I conducted both bench and jury trials before him, and had the honor of his mentoring these past 11 years. I know I am not alone in saying that Judge Town is an exceptional teacher, an experienced jurist, and an enthusiastic person. He is also generous with his time, freely sharing his extensive knowledge of the law, human nature, and the betterment of society as a whole. On a personal level, he is wise, caring, disciplined, and informed.

As part of my duties as a Deputy Public Defender, I had many occasions to appear before Judge Town on sentencing matters, an area in which I believe he excels. Judge Town was deliberate and conscientious about his sentencing methodology. And even when his decision conflicted with my client's position, I was satisfied that that he had carefully considered all of the evidence in a fair and even-handed manner.

The HPA would be privileged to have a person with Judge Town's knowledge, experience, and personality as a board member. He is a wonderful, well-rounded person, honorable and well-liked. He not

April 18, 2011
Senator Will Espero
Page 2

BRYANT & REMIGIO

only works well with others, he thrives in that environment. He is also grounded and even-tempered. His addition to the HPA would be a great asset to the community as a whole.

I urge the Committee to confirm Judge Michael Town (ret.) 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 Judge Town.

Very truly yours,


CATHERINE M. REMIGIO

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM750

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David B. Wexler

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: davidbwexler@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

I am Distinguished Research Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Arizona and serve currently as Professor of Law and Director of the International Network on Therapeutic Jurisprudence at the University of Puerto Rico.

I first explicated and named the therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ) perspective in a 1987 paper, and, with my late colleague Professor Bruce Winick, developed the field, which is now an international, interdisciplinary perspective influential in practice as well as in theory. See: <http://www.therapeuticjurisprudence.org> and www.facebook.com/TherapeuticJurisprudence

I came to know Judge Michael Town through this own work closely related to therapeutic jurisprudence, and he has contributed greatly to that field through his judicial work as well as through his writings and presentations at conferences in Hawai'i, nationally, and internationally.

Judge Town is known in all those circles as a first-rate intellect who is broadly knowledgeable, fair, and compassionate. He has worked professionally in family law and criminal law, among other areas, and has engaged in important public service work.

Judge Town is concerned about—and has vast knowledge in—the justice system, rehabilitation, and successful offender re-entry and reintegration into society.

In my opinion, he would be an ideal candidate for service on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, and I would strongly urge you to vote in favor of his confirmation. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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

Re: Nomination of Honorable Michael Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

Aloha Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs:

I write as an individual on behalf of Michael Town's nomination for the Hawaii Paroling Authority. For over ten years I worked with Judge Town as a colleague and thereby witnessed a master at judicial decisionmaking. Michael Town is a giant in his attainments as an informed, empathetic, innovative and collegial judge. His greatest talent is his ability to accurately judge the stage of "cognition" in an offender and tailor the supervision and accountability needed to maximize public safety and the possibility of rehabilitation.

However, his highest calling is as a father. I have been privileged to be in the midst of his four children and wife for many years. His love, wisdom and humor is a blessing to all those brave enough to follow along with the Town family.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of Judge Town's nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional help in any way.

Aloha,

Michael Wilson
228-1250

From: Ronald Hochuli [rhochuli@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:13 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Subject: Support for Mike Town's appointment to Paroling Authority

Aloha.

I have know Mike for more than 20 years both professionally and personally. I know Mike to be a person of character. He has demonstrated a desire to find the truth and not to be satisfied until he has understood the issues and come to a decision he can justify in his own conscience. Mike listens. Mike has tremendous experience and is committed to service of his community. We citizens will be well served with Mike Town on the Paroling Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Hochuli

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:07 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: maukalani78@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM750 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM750

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.

*William F. Anonsen
1240 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 330
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814*

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 F. ANONSEN
IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 750**

My name is William Anonsen, I'm pleased to offer my personal support for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, the Honorable Michael Town, retired State of Hawaii Circuit Judge, to the Hawaii Paroling Authority for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Regrettably my schedule does not permit me to personally testify before the committee this afternoon.

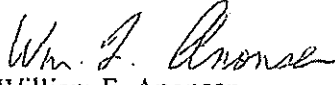
We are fortunate that he is interested and willing to continue to serve our island communities as member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I'm confident that Judge Town will serve the people of Hawaii with the same dedication and fairness he demonstrated on the bench. He is held in high esteem by his peers, a man with a high degree of integrity, putting his values into action whenever he is called upon to make sound decisions.

He will be a valuable asset as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and will make a positive contribution to the critical work of the authority. He has the professional credentials and characteristics necessary to make him an outstanding member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority rendering decisions that are fair, firm and consistent with the law and public welfare.

I personally feel that Judge Town is an individual who has displayed mature judgment, keen insight and an awareness of the complex issues which as a member of the paroling authority, he will be required to deal with and rule on. He has my personal vote of confidence in this appointed position.

Mahalo for your consideration for this nomination.

Sincerely,


William F. Anonsen

From: William C Rol [William.Rol@centralpacificbank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 9:12 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: willy
Subject: Mike Town- Parole commissioner

Aloha, ,

I like to highly recommend we approve Mike in his nomination for Parole commissioner. I've know Mike over 4 years and have had the opportunity to get to know him as a brother in Christ. He is well balanced w/ family, work and recreation/canoeing. He graciously invited me and my daughter, Shaina, who's at Mid Pac Institute and aspires to be a lawyer, to his chambers for a briefing before and after observing Mike in the court room proceedings. He has helped with numerous mentoring, including the New Hope Angel Tree kids camp. With Mike's extensive experience and knowledge in the judicial system, I'd vote yes!

God bless,

William Rol
Asst Vice President & Business Banking Officer
Central Pacific Bank, Kapahulu Branch
830 Kapahulu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Ph: (808) 544-5242 or (808) 778-9592
Customer service line: (808) 544-0500

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From: Mike Town [mailto:towno@lava.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:40 PM
To: PGM Testimony; Sen. Will Espero
Subject: GM750. Nomination of Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

4/14/11

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Hawaii State Senate

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and Military Affairs:

This letter and email are in response to the Chair's letter to me of April 12, 2011 requesting a written statement on my nomination. I also spoke today by telephone with Marlene Uesugi of the Chair's office and let her know that I would be out of the State on a long planned vacation with my wife who recently retired from St. Andrew's Priory as a teacher. Thank you all for understanding. Please accept my apologies that I cannot attend the Committee hearing. I know my daughter, Mia Town, and son, Gaylord Town, and other family members and supporters will be present and possibly submitting testimony.

First, it is a distinct honor to be nominated and considered for confirmation. I do want to thank Governor Abercrombie and his staff for their collegial and professional work in support of this nomination. Also I want to thank Public Safety Director, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata for her support and that of her staff. Also my heartfelt thanks to my new nominee-colleagues, Bert Matsuoka and Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo for their warm reception and collegiality.

To answer the Chair's request for a statement addressing four questions:

1. Why do I wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?

The short answer is I have regarded public service as a lifelong calling and interest. I guess it is embedded somehow in my DNA. After 31 years as a trial judge in Hawai'i and other forms of public service before that (Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and the United States Peace Corps), this position was one where I felt that my interest, my skill set and this season in my life were congruent. I attach

my CV/resume. I have spent much of my professional life working with "the least, the lost and the left out" and find that with my public school background, life journey, love for Hawai'i's people and culture, coaching for over 40 years, being a father of four, grandfather of four, mentor to law clerks and young people over the years, those opportunities continue to engage me. As a Parole commissioner, it would be a continuation of this service.

2. How do I perceive the role and responsibilities as a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?

First and foremost, these responsibilities are comprehensively and clearly laid out in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 353-62. They set forth a daunting set of challenges, one I willingly accept. The responsibilities would also entail following the Department of Public Safety's rules and regulations as well as continuing the hard work and traditions of prior commissioners and staff. I want to emphasize that I regard myself as a "team player" and any transition and changes should be after careful consultation and represent consensus if possible.

3. Why do I believe I might be qualified for the position?

In my view serving as a Family Court Judge, Senior Judge of the Family Court and Circuit Court Judge uniquely qualify me to serve as a Parole Commissioner. To me it is essential to look at each case individually and in light of the reports, social studies, information presented and the interview process and make a reasoned decision that reflects Restorative Justice. To me Restorative Justice blends in community safety, accountability and being receptive to services so an offender can be law abiding, self-sufficient and a contributing member of our community. I attach an article I wrote on that for the Honolulu Advertiser some years ago entitled, "Restorative Justice Makes the Victim Whole Again": (<http://www.courts.state.hi.us/images/attachments/RestorativeJustice.gif>.) I can also tell you that sitting in judgment of a fellow human being never gets old nor boring and in fact inspiring at what motivated people can achieve! It is a "thin place in life" as my Celtic ancestors might say.

4. What do I hope to accomplish during my term of service?

This is a tall order. I would want to listen, listen, listen to my colleagues, staff, the attorneys, the community groups and national trendsetters about what has worked well, what will work in the future and consult with others in the know. I have already been in contact with Peggy Burke, Principal at the National Parole Resource Center, a group acclaimed nationally and internationally who specialize in helping transition and train new parole boards and vision cast for the future.

Here is their web link. <http://nationalparoleresourcecenter.org/>. The bottom line there is nothing like hard work, respect for one's colleagues and co-workers and love for the mission. I pledge to bring all that to the table. Having a "growth mindset" and "teachable spirit" should be essential not only for offenders wishing to mend their ways, but those of us who should model and exemplify those qualities who sit in judgment.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer the questions presented. I will be back in Hawai'i on May 2, 2010 and available then to answer further questions at that time. I will be available by email during my absence.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Town

Circuit Court Judge (Retired)

Telephone 808.285.2408

Email: (towno@lava.net)