

GM 661

Submitting for consideration and
confirmation to the Correctional Industries
Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee,
ANDREI SOTO,
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

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Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 661, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF
ANDREI SOTO
TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 12, 2012; 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports the nomination of Andrei Soto to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, term expiration of June 30, 2016.

Mr. Soto has had considerable experience as an employment services specialist. Mr. Soto has also served in various capacities dealing with personnel management. Mr. Soto's contributions to Correctional Industries' efforts to employ inmates and prepare them for transition back to the community would be very valuable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Soto's nomination.

April 4, 2012

To: Senator Will Espero , Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and

Members of the Senate Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee

From: Amy Monk, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board Member

Re: GM 661 Appointment of Andrei Soto to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Hearing: Thursday, April 12, 2012, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of GM861 in support of Andrei Soto as a member of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

I have known Andrei Soto as friend and neighbor since 2005. As active Democrats in Hawaii Kai, we often worked together in committees and on projects in our community where Andrei has always exhibited solid leadership and a collegial attitude toward the task at hand. Despite the demands of family and job, he has always made time to chair or participate in the meetings where he took the lead in the unglamorous but important job of organizing.

I know Andrei as a lifelong public servant, who has recently retired from his position as Hearings Branch Chief in the Wage Standards Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations(DLIR). Like many vigorous and active retirees, Andrei is looking for a way use his career experience to give back to Hawaii. His years of experience, leadership talents and education would be an asset and contribute greatly to any number of commissions or boards, but especially to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Andrei graduated from the University of Hawaii with a B.A. in Sociology and M.Ed. in Educational Administration. Most recently at DLIR, he was responsible for conducting hearings statewide on labor laws that the Division administers and enforces. He provided statewide technical assistance to public and private sectors on federally funded job training and other employment programs. All of Andrei's career has involved labor, from his earliest position as a job developer for Indo-Chinese refugees.

Andrei also has previous work experience with the Department of Public Safety, as a Corrections Education Program Specialist, providing expertise on educational programs for adult inmates in vocational education and training. He also worked with community colleges, DOE, and other public and private providers of vocational and other programs for inmates.

I strongly support the appointment of Andrei Soto and urge his confirmation by this committee.

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military
Affairs

From: Audrey Abe, CPA
Hawaii Board of Taxation Review member

Re: GM661 Appointment of Andrei Soto to Corrections Industries Advisory
Committee

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

I am a good friend of Andrei Soto and have known him to be a devoted husband and father and have a wealth of good friendships.

Andrei has excellent qualifications to serve on the Corrections Industries Advisory Committee. He has worked as Hearing Branch Chief at the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations for the State of Hawaii. I have worked with Andre on many projects and events in the Hawaii Democratic Party including when he was Region Chair, and when I was program chair for the State Democratic Convention in 2010 and while I was serving as treasurer of the Oahu Democratic Party. He has outstanding people skills and leadership abilities, is a quick learner and demonstrates a good common sense approach to things. Andrei is a person of high moral integrity and is sincere and caring for people especially those in need.

He is also active in volleyball leagues and coaching for youth sports' programs.

I know he will be a great asset to this committee and will be dedicated and committed to serving to his best abilities. I support the appointment of Andrei Soto and his confirmation to this committee.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present my testimony for Andrei Soto.

April 11, 2012

To the Honorable Senator Will Espero and Committee member,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Mr. Andrei Soto. I've had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Soto for nearly 20 years.

I've found Mr. Soto to have a strong passion for government service and a committed community leader.

Mr. Soto has shared his expertise to many people in this district of Hawaii Kai and beyond. He has shared his expertise with those less experienced. He is the sort of individual that will go beyond the call of duty and to never let anything half done. Mr. Soto has taught me the value of community service.

I know Mr. Soto will be an active and valued committee member for the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

I am proud to say Mr. Soto is very good friend and I hope you and your committee approves his nomination.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Yabui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Yabui

Resident of the 9th Senatorial District

April 9, 2012

Senator Will Espero
Chairman Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs Committee
Senatorial District 20
Hawaii State Capital, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Michelle Kidani
Senatorial District 17
Hawaii State Capital, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Mr. Andrei Soto's Appointment to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Dear Senators,

As a 32 year retiree from the State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu governments and as a close personal friend of Mr. Andrei Soto, I humbly ask for your support of his appointment by Governor Abercrombie to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

I believe Mr. Soto is very familiar with the Corrections Division, Public Safety Department. As part of his 35 years employment with the State of Hawaii he served as Corrections Education Program Specialist for the Corrections Program Services Division, providing statewide assistance to State personnel in implementing an effective inmate vocational education program. Mr. Soto also helped establish vital interfaces between private and public service agencies to provide support for this inmate training program.

Also, from his many years with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Mr. Soto brings in depth experience in the areas of work incentive programs, job training, applicant employability, as well as job solicitation and community service employment operations.

Having had the opportunity of working with some Corrections Industry services during my own employment, I feel very confident that the Department of Public Safety will truly benefit from Mr. Soto's appointment of this advisory committee.

Very truly yours,



Robert H. Nagao

From: Andrei Soto [<mailto:mksa100@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 11:48 AM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Cc: Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Pohai Ryan; Sen. Sam Slom

Subject: Nomination to Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions regarding my nomination to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Below are the questions and my responses:

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

I wish to be a member of the Correctional Industries (CI) Advisory Committee so as to be able to provide input and assistance to the CI program in providing work related skills and experiences to qualified, able-bodied inmates. I believe such opportunities for inmates will assist them in making a successful reintegration into our community and increase their employment prospects upon their eventual release.

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

I believe that I'm qualified for the position because I am familiar with the CI program as I worked for the Department of Public Safety, first as a Personnel Management Specialist (PMS) concentrating in the area of personnel classification and then later as a Corrections Education Program Specialist (CEPS) focusing on vocational education and training. During my tenure as a CEPS, I provided statewide staff assistance to administrative and branch personnel in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating vocational education and training for adult inmates. As such, I was able to visit all the community correctional centers and correctional facilities on Oahu as well as the neighbor islands. I also interfaced with the community colleges, DOE, and other public and private sector service providers for vocational programs and program support. The knowledge and past experiences gained as a CEPS will be an asset in my decision-making ability as a member of the Committee.

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

During my term of service I hope to accomplish the goal of ensuring that qualified inmates are provided with real-world work opportunities especially in the area of "green" jobs as well as helping them develop appropriate inter-personal skills so that upon release, the inmates will be able to secure gainful employment and ultimately become successful contributing members of society.

I would also like to have the benefits of the program publicized to a wider audience which should produce more self-sustaining results.

4. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interests?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests. However, if any were to arise, depending on the alleged conflict, I would utilize the administrative and/or legal process to address the issue(s).

Thank you for your support of my nomination.

Andrei Soto