



GOV. MSG. NO. 679

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Commission on Fatherhood**:

COMMISSION ON  
FATHERHOOD

TERM TO EXPIRE

REMARKS

Walter Yoshimitsu

6/30/2015

House

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Abercrombie".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2012

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 679 – Gubernatorial Nomination of Walter Yoshimitsu to the  
State Fatherhood Commission**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Mr. Walter Yoshimitsu to the State Commission on Fatherhood.

Mr. Yoshimitsu is seeking an appointment to fill a vacant position in the Commission. Mr. Yoshimitsu brings to the Commission an extensive background as a businessman, administrator and a lay religious person (Deacon in the Catholic Church). Mr. Yoshimitsu serves on the board of many non-profit organizations and is actively involved in solving the crisis of homelessness and affordable housing in Hawaii. His housing background includes employment with Blackfield Hawaii as a Project Manager for Development and the Estate of James Campbell in various capacities. He is currently the Director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference, the legislative arm of the

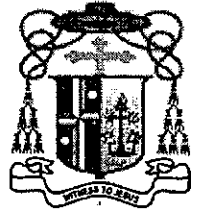
Catholic Diocese of Hawaii. Mr. Yoshimitsu's extensive background in housing, social services and counseling will be of great benefit to the State Fatherhood Commission.

Mr. Yoshimitsu will provide representation to the Commission as the State House's representative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.

# Diocese of Honolulu

Chancery Office • 1184 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2859 • Phone (808) 585-3300 • Fax: (808) 537-1860



Office of the Bishop

February 27, 2012

Attention: Governor's Commission on Fatherhood

Subject: Recommendation of Walter Yoshimitsu as member

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

Aloha!

Please accept my hearty endorsement of WALTER YOSHIMITSU for the Governor's Commission on Fatherhood. Mr. Yoshimitsu is a married man, a father, and a grandfather. He serves as a Deacon of the Diocese of Honolulu, as the Chancellor of the Diocese, as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference, as the Coordinator of Prison Ministry, and in many other capacities. Mr. Yoshimitsu is outstanding in his commitment to others, in being a good role model himself, and in seeing that those in need of a father figure have one in him or in others with whom he collaborates. He is a man of vision, self-confident and articulate; and a man whose faith makes him very resilient and positive in his approach to a wide variety of people. Having been born and raised in Hawaii and having spent most of his life here, he is quite familiar with the local culture and its needs, especially its need for stronger fathering in families.

Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide you. Thank you for considering this wonderful man to be a member of the Governor's Commission on Fatherhood.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva  
Bishop of Honolulu

c: Dcn. Walter Yoshimitsu



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 679: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALTER YOSHIMITSU, for a term to expire 6/30/15.**

**TO:** Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair,  
and  
Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

**Hearing:** Tuesday, 2/28/12, 1:00 pm, CR 16

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of GM 679, which would confirm Walter Yoshimitsu to the Commission on Fatherhood. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii. We strongly support the appointment of Mr. Yoshimitsu to this Commission.

Catholic Charities Hawaii has worked with Mr. Yoshimitsu for many years on family life issues. He listens and wants to work together with others in the community to find solutions. He is compassionate and willing to give his time, energy, and experience to help make Hawaii a place where children can live in a safe, loving and growth filled environment. The role of fathers is critical to raising children. Mr. Yoshimitsu understands the issues that need to be addressed. He is a father of 5 children and was actively involved in their many sports and as a scout leader. He was the president of the Parent Teachers Guild at St. John Vianney School. He has also been active in a marriage enrichment program, called Marriage Encounter, and now helps couples who are getting married. He is on the boards of Kamaaina Kids and Pacific Health Ministry. He also visits the women in prison on a regular basis as well as the men who are incarcerated and knows their struggles. Mr Yoshimitsu can bring his personal experience as well as many years advocating for children and families to this Commission.

We feel that the State and the Commission on Fatherhood would truly benefit from an appointment of Mr. Yoshimitsu to this Commission. We support his confirmation to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the very positive qualities that he can bring to the Commission on Fatherhood.



# hawaii family forum

Email to: HMStestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Hearing on: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room #016

**DATE:** February 23, 2012

**TO:** Senate Committee on Human Services  
Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

**FROM:** Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

**RE:** Support GM 679, Walter Yoshimitsu to the Commission on Housing

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I am Allen Cardines, **representing the Hawaii Family Forum**. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations. We strongly support passage of this bill.

We are pleased to support the nomination of Walter Yoshimitsu to the **Commission on Fatherhood**. Mr. Yoshimitsu's education, experience, common sense, intellect and professionalism make him an exemplary choice to serve on this commission.

As you already know, Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 indicates that "the role of fathers in raising of children and in the health and well-being of families is often unintentionally overlooked and established the State Commission on Fatherhood to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children." Mr. Yoshimitsu is a perfect candidate to fulfill that role as he has well over 20 years of experience in working with families in Hawaii.

Mr. Yoshimitsu participates in fatherhood-related programs within the Diocese of Honolulu and encourages public awareness of the central role father's play. As Executive Director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference (HCC), he often encourages fathers to engage more in their children's lives. He strongly believes that fathers who are actively involved in their children's lives, positively affect their growth and maturity.

In his capacity as Executive Director of the HCC, I have worked directly with Walter on a number of issues, including the protection of the family. I have found him to be highly professional, knowledgeable, practical and compassionate in his approach to public policy. Please support his nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:27 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** hawaiidads@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM679 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM679

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Greg Farstrup  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [hawaiidads@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiidads@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:  
I support the confirmation of Walter Yoshimitsu.

**TESTIMONY OF  
WALTER YOSHIMITSU**

**TO:** Senate Committee on Human Services

**HEARING:** February 28, 2012

**RE:** GM 679: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission on Fatherhood, Walter Yoshimitsu, for a term to expire on June 30, 2015

Chair Chun-Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I truly appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today. I thank Speaker Calvin Say for submitting my name for consideration, and Governor Abercrombie for selecting me for possible confirmation. In addition, I am grateful to all the people in the community who took the time to submit testimony on my behalf.

Let me begin by saying that I am a proud father of five children. I believe that the school of "hard knocks" makes me qualified to serve on this commission. The experience of raising my children will help me to contribute to furthering the importance of fatherhood. Educating the public on the importance of family life, and specifically what it means to be a father, means a great deal to me.

In the community, I use this passion in the duties I perform as an assistant chaplain at the Halawa Correctional Facility. It doesn't stop there as I also volunteer my time at the women's facility. In that capacity, I see firsthand the hardship caused by broken families. I see father and son in the same facility, children being brought up in single parent households or foster care, and many youth and young adults looking for guidance and support. Studies show that individuals raised in this volatile atmosphere are more likely to stray.

Over the years, I have seen that a father that bonds with his children in a positive way has a tremendous impact on their upbringing. This strong belief gives me the ability to empathize with fathers and in their decision making.

An important part of the work of this commission is in educating the public. Time and time again I hear people say that they think that it is the mothers job to raise children and in that manner down play the integral role of the father. Having workshops with fathers telling their "success story" is an important method for educating the public – and thereby dispelling that myth.

Even before a couple is married, the education begins. I help in the preparation of marriage to let the couple know the importance of permanency in their marriage. With the divorce rate as high as it is, it is very important that we try to reduce the number of broken families in our community. Children from broken relationships have a challenge to overcome. In the preparation process, we present issues of finances, in laws, difference on issues and how to possibly deal with them.

On a personal note, the commission will find that I am a good listener and most of the time I can relate to the couple because I have "been there, done that." I know that I can be a contributing member of this commission and would love the opportunity to do so. I thank this committee for the work that you do for the state and affording me the opportunity to be here. I ask for your support in confirming my nomination.