

LATE TESTIMONY

March 26, 2012

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

RE: GM751 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.

As stated in my letter of support last year when he was first nominated for the position, I have known Bert for more than 19 years. We first met in 1993 when he joined the Office of Youth Services as the State Youth Gang Prevention Coordinator. In 1995, Bert succeeded Wayne Matsuo as the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services. In 1996, I was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Statewide Advisory Council that was administered by OYS. Over the years that Bert was the executive director, we worked well together and became close personal friends. We share many mutual passions and philosophies.

Bert is a highly skilled administrator and manager. He has the ability to motivate his staff and make difficult decisions. His past experiences as an executive director of a statewide agency and his year in the position as chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority make him highly qualified for confirmation. He has the ability to make balanced, common sense decisions within the bounds of the law. These are qualities that make him a good choice as chair.

During the years that I have known Bert, I have always been impressed with his integrity and honesty, especially as a state employee. He is a thinker and a doer. He remains motivated to serve the public even though he has retired once.

I have no hesitancy or reservation in supporting his 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
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Hilo, Hawaii
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