

# **GM 551**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawaii Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOYCE  
MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**TED SAKAI**  
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney  
Deputy Director  
Administration

Max Otani  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

Shawn Tsuha  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 551  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF JOYCE MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO  
AS A MEMBER OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

by  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Roselyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 6, 2014, 2:45p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

This testimony is being submitted in **strong support** of the confirmation of Ms. Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA).

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has served as a member of the HPA for the past three years, and is considered a senior member of the HPA's parole board. As a member of the HPA, she has demonstrated her ability to make sound and fair decisions. Members of the parole board thoroughly review cases that appear before them and decisions are made by applying guidelines to the merits of each case. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's professional training as an attorney and work experience as a deputy public defender gives her the knowledge and background to address this population. We ask for your support in confirming Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the HPA.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA  
CHAIR  
  
MICHAEL A. TOWN  
JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO  
ANNELLE C. AMARAL  
FITUINA F. TUA  
MEMBERS  
  
TOMMY JOHNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 551  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF JOYCE MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO  
AS A MEMBER OF THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

BY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY  
Bert Y. Matsuoka, Chairman

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Roselyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 6, 2014 – 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

This testimony is submitted in support of the confirmation of Ms. Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA).

As Chairman of the HPA, I've had the pleasure of working with Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo for nearly three years as a colleague on the Parole Board. Without question, the value of her presence on the Board is unsurpassed. As an attorney whose experience is directly related to the kinds of cases the Board hears, makes her a superbly qualified contributing member.

Additionally, Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo's professional demeanor adds quality to the Board's make up. She has demonstrated excellence in rendering fair, firm and consistent decisions that are in the best interest of the safety of the community and of the offender.

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has been and will continue to be an outstanding member of the HPA.

I ask that you confirm Ms. Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA  
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIGO  
MICHAEL A. TOWN  
ANNELLE C. AMARAL  
FITUINA F. TUA  
MEMBERS

TOMMY JOHNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 551  
Consideration and Confirmation of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshigo  
to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

BY

HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY  
Tommy Johnson, Paroles and Pardons Administrator

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Roselyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 6, 2014; 2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

I am providing testimony in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshigo as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA).

Ms. Matsumori-Hoshigo is currently completing the unexpired term of a previous board member and is now being nominated for a full 4-year term. Her knowledge, experience, and adept skills at getting to the core issues facing the board during the various types of hearings are unique. Her calm demeanor, keen legal insight, and thoughtful approach to decision-making are tremendous assets to the HPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this highly qualified and dedicated nominee.

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

March 6, 2014

GM 551:      Nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling  
                 Authority

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo is a veteran attorney who spent much of her legal career with the Office of the Public Defender. She specializes in appellate work and has a very thorough knowledge of the Hawaii criminal sentencing laws as well as the court procedures.

She is currently a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and has served commendably throughout her current term. She is a hardworking member who thoroughly prepares for all the hearings and demonstrates compassion both for the offender as well as the victims of crime. She is able, through her exchanges with the offenders, to instill a sense of hope and optimism for their futures while, at the same time, protecting the public from those who pose a current danger.

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

March 4, 2014

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair and Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Annelle Amaral, Member, Hawaii Parole Board

Re: Confirmation of Joyce Matsumori Hoshijo, Board Member, Hawaii Parole Board

Aloha and mahalo for allowing me to send this testimony, in writing, in support of the confirmation of Ms. Joyce Matsumori Hoshijo, Esq. to the Hawaii Parole Board. Ms. Matsumori Hoshijo is a wonderful asset to our Board and our deliberations. She is a respected criminal defense attorney and is able to weigh all sides of the issues before us with calm intelligence. She often provides us with a deeper understanding of the legal issues before us and assures that the decisions made have a strong legal foundation. In addition, she has a deep, abiding respect for the culture of Hawaii's peoples, and supports the need for sensitivity to special values.

I believe that it is important to continue to have a balanced view of crime and punishment and have two women on the board helps to assure this view is articulated and considered in our deliberations. Actually, we have a wonderfully diverse board in terms of race, gender, as well as professional backgrounds....and Joyce enhances this diversity.

Ms. Matsumori Hoshijo is a wonderful, smart, adept member of the Parole Board. I believe that we are all very fortunate to have her skills and talents on this board and it is my hope that you will continue to allow her to serve the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify today, in writing. I apologize for not being present, but Joyce, Bert, and I are in a Parole Hearing on the island of Hawaii. I know that you agree that this hearing is important and provides a worthy reason for our absence. I trust that you will all make the right decision and re-confirm Joyce Matsumori Hoshijo for another term on the Hawaii Parole Board. Mahalo.

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**From:** Michael Town <towno@lava.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 02, 2014 8:44 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee. I write to strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo as a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo and I have been colleagues for the past 2+ years hearing cases regularly. We travel to 8 different facilities monthly and visit Saguaro via video. In each situation Ms, Matsumori-Hoshijo demonstrates the highest qualities of a neutral and fair quasi-judicial commissioner. I appreciate the respect shown the staff, inmates, counsel and others attending. She is punctual, exceeding well prepared, collegial and independent. Given her legal training I believe the hearings are respected for their objective and principled decision making. She is also willing to tailor the decisions to fit the facts of the situation so each hearing is individualized. I look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo in the coming years. Respectfully,  
Judge Michael A. Town (retired).

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**From:** Mike Town <towno@lava.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014 11:05 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Subject:** Hearing on confirmation of Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo to Hawai'i Paroling Authority

To the Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety

This is a strong letter of support on behalf of my colleague, Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo, for confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I have been serving with the nominee since 2011 hearing many cases monthly in the 8 different correctional facilities across this state and by video to Arizona. We average about 300-400 hearings per month. The caseload is large and the decisions critical both in terms of the inmates, their families, the victims and families and the community. Fairness, objectivity, knowledge of the laws and procedures and community safety are key values for a commissioner. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has demonstrated the finest level of preparation, knowledge of the inmate files, punctuality, professionalism and due process for all concerned. In every instance she has provided insights and perspectives to her fellow commissioners, the inmates, PSD staff and counsel. She is well spoken, commands respect and is well regarded.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Suffice it to say that Ms. Matusmori-Hoshijo will continue to represent the best of what a neutral and object quasi-judicial commissioner should be and is.

Sincerely,

Judge Michael A. Town (Retired Circuit Court Judge)

Commissioner, Hawai'i Paroling Authority (2011-2015)



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Mike Town  
([judgemiketown.com](http://judgemiketown.com))



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014 11:07 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** towno@lava.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM551 on Mar 6, 2014 14:45PM

**GM551**

Submitted on: 3/4/2014

Testimony for PSM on Mar 6, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Town	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To the Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety This is a strong letter of support on behalf of my colleague, Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo, for confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I have been serving with the nominee since 2011 hearing many cases monthly in the 8 different correctional facilities across this state and by video to Arizona. We average about 300-400 hearings per month. The caseload is large and the decisions critical both in terms of the inmates, their families, the victims and families and the community. Fairness, objectivity, knowledge of the laws and procedures and community safety are key values for a commissioner. Ms. Matsumori-Hoshijo has demonstrated the finest level of preparation, knowledge of the inmate files, punctuality, professionalism and due process for all concerned. In every instance she has provided insights and perspectives to her fellow commissioners, the inmates, PSD staff and counsel. She is well spoken, commands respect and is well regarded. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Suffice it to say that Ms. Matusmori-Hoshijo will continue to represent the best of what a neutral and object quasi-judicial commissioner should be and is. Sincerely, Judge Michael A. Town (Retired Circuit Court Judge) Commissioner, Hawai'i Paroling Authority (2011-2015)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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**From:** Fituina Tua <tapa2b@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:28 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Subject:** Governor MN 551 - Support For Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo for Hawaii Parolying Authority/Parole Board

My name is Fituina F. Tua and I support Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo ("Joyce") for reconfirmation to the Hawaii Parolying Authority / Parole Board. I have known Joyce for 1-year working along side her as a member of the Hi. Parole Board. Having retired from federal employment with the U.S. Probation Office, U.S. District Court in Hawaii and having over 30 years in the criminal justice field, I can only best describe Joyce as a person who is well "qualified and more" to be on the Board. She brings years of experience as a former defense lawyer for the public defender's office and private practice, where she has worked with the offender population on their legal and rehabilitation issues. She has a good working knowledge in understanding the offenders, the victims, and the community. She brings a fair assessment and perspective on the issue of crime and punishment as well as the importance of rehabilitation. She understands the state of Hawaii's indeterminate sentencing laws, the Department of Public Safety's Correctional policies, and the vital role that the parole board plays in this process. Although public safety is an intregal part of the concerns of the Board, Joyce has repeatedly made sound assessments of risk and decisions in approving and/or denying parole. Joyce has a good understanding of treatment issues and relies on the treatment professionals (case workers in prison, probation officers, parole offices, therapists) as well as information from police and victims to weigh her decisions. As a lawyer, she understands the Hawaii Parolying Authority sentencing guidelines, case laws and other authorities to guide her decisions. Her demeanor and style in hearings is very professional respecting the attornies, victims, witnessess and offenders. Joyce is an asset to the Hawaii Parole Board and to the credibility of criminal justice system in Hawaii. Joyce is very fair but stern when it calls for.

**Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo**  
4 Waterfront Plaza  
500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 480  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

March 2, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero  
Senator  
State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Governor's Message No. 551—Nomination of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo  
to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, March 6, 2014 @ 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero, Senator Baker and Members of the PSM Committee:

I am very honored to be nominated to a second term as a part-time member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority ("HPA"). I wish to thank Governor Abercrombie for his consideration and confidence.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present written testimony to the members of the Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee. My sincere apologies for being unable to attend my confirmation hearing on March 6, 2014. I am required to be at HPA hearings in Hilo on that day to participate in decision-making for cases which were carried over from our February hearings.

I began my first term with the HPA in May of 2011. From the beginning, I was very motivated to work with other HPA members to bring a high level of professionalism and competence to the parole decision-making process. As a criminal defense attorney for over twenty years, I represented many clients before the HPA and had extensive discussions with former HPA members and staff about HPA practice and procedure. I served for two years as Grand Jury Counsel, providing legal guidance to Oahu Grand Jury panels and interacting regularly with deputies from the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney and the Department of the Attorney General concerning criminal law issues relevant to their Grand Jury cases. I served as a member of the Penal Code Reform Committee, composed of representatives from all areas of the criminal justice system. This Committee was tasked with preparing a report to the State Legislature identifying needed revisions to the Hawai'i Penal Code. These work experiences gave me a strong foundation to take on the responsibilities of an HPA member.

The best training, however, was to become immersed in the decision-making process itself. Although I understood generally the functions of the HPA, the day-to-day work was very challenging. It requires a great deal of physical and mental stamina

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March 2, 2014

to adjudicate an average of twenty cases per day and remain focused through each of the presentations. It requires emotional strength and objectivity to listen to the testimonies of victims and families in cases involving serious bodily harm and loss of life.

The HPA decides nearly four hundred minimum term, parole, and parole violation cases each month. The recent addition of two new part-time HPA members in 2013 has helped tremendously in distributing the workload.

Through the high volume of cases, our discussions during decision-making, and research done on the applicable statutes and case law, I have developed an in-depth understanding of the entire parole process during the past two and a half years. I recognize the enormous responsibility the HPA members have in deciding the length of time an inmate must serve in prison and whether an inmate is ready to be released on parole supervision.

While the HPA does have considerable discretion in decision-making, the boundaries of our discretion are set by the applicable law. Our task is to follow the law while balancing relevant factors on a case-by-case basis. I do believe that during the tenure of the current Board, we have made best efforts to ensure that every decision comports with our HPA Guidelines, administrative rules, statutes and case law.

When first appointed to this position in 2011, I felt that the role of an HPA member was to make fair and legally sound decisions in order to protect the community and reintegrate the inmate into the community. I firmly believe that community safety is of paramount importance. Key to reintegration is for the inmate to complete institutional programming which provides for the highest chance of success in the community.

A valuable aspect of our work is collaborative effort. Each HPA member comes from a different sector of the criminal justice system. Together, we balance our common and divergent perspectives and strive to reach consensus in every case. We sometimes have animated discussion and debate but remain respectful of each other's viewpoints. I feel very fortunate to work with an outstanding group of individuals who have the highest ethical standards. I have learned a great deal from their knowledge and life experience. I look forward to continuing our work in the years ahead.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Should you wish to contact me, I can be reached at (808) 591-9597 (work) and by email at [jkmhlaw@aol.com](mailto:jkmhlaw@aol.com).

Sincerely,

/s/ Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo