

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,  
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on  
Judiciary and Labor**

April 14, 2016

GM 536: Nomination of Alexandra Scanlan to the Defender Council

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is a pleasure to support the nomination of Alexandra Scanlan to be the Oahu representative on the Defender Council for a second term. As a member of the Defender Council, Ms. Scanlan will assist the Office of the Public Defender in fulfilling our mission of zealous and effective representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Ms. Scanlan is currently a private criminal defense lawyer practicing in Honolulu. She obtained her law degree from the University of Hawaii, Richardson School of Law. Ms. Scanlan formerly served as a Deputy Public Defender and she has a complete understanding of the criminal justice system and the Public Defender's essential role in that system. She has served one term on the Defender Council and is a valuable member of this commission. We would be privileged to have her serve a second term on the Defender Council.

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