

# GM 670

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission On Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES KAWIKA RILEY, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

**Report Title:** Commission On Fatherhood

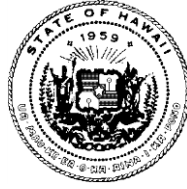
**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HMS

**Introducer(s):**



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

March 28, 2016

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

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: GM 670 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES KAWIKA RILEY, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Mr. Kawika Riley to the Commission on Fatherhood. The Commission was established by Act 156 of the 2003 Hawai'i State Legislature. It serves in an advisory capacity to State agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws related to children and families.

The Commission is comprised of public members from the four counties, a representative from the Hawaii Coalition for Dads, and leaders from the Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, Public Safety, and the Attorney General. The Commission on Fatherhood is administratively attached to the Department of Human Services (DHS), and its mission aligns with the 'Ohana Nui multigenerational approach embraced by both DHS and the Department of Health that invests early and concurrently in children and families to improve health, educational, and employment outcomes.

Mr. Riley is the Chief Advocate (Ka Pou Kihī Kū) for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, where he previously served as its Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief. Kawika also served as a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration, CEO of the Pacific Islander Access Project, which he founded, and as an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University, where he

earned his master's degree in political management. As a leader in the community and a father of two, Kawika is deeply invested in improving the lives of children and families in Hawai'i. He will bring his professional, academic, and personal experience—as well as collaborative approach and cross-cultural and –systems thinking—to the Commission on Fatherhood and the State.

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [aharris@castlefoundation.org](mailto:aharris@castlefoundation.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM670 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:28:13 AM

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**GM670**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alex harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Committee, I am extremely proud to provide testimony in strong support of Kawika Riley's nomination for the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood. I have had the distinct pleasure of forming a strong friendship with Kawika as part of the Omidyar Fellows program the past two years. He is a man of the highest integrity, has a keen intellect, and is passionate about improving the lives of others. Yet what I am most impressed by is that he does not let his many professional obligations get in the way of establishing a deep and abiding connection with his two young children. He is an equal partner to his wife and has deep rooted beliefs about the role of men in parenting, based in part upon his lived experience. His example makes those of us around him better. I have no doubt that Kawika will serve the Commission well through his wise counsel. I strongly encourage the Committee to support his nomination for this role.

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.

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Brian Kealoha  
5405 Oio Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96821

March 1, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 670 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee James Kawika Riley to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Riviere:

I strongly **support** Governor David Ige's nomination of Mr. Kawika Riley to the Commission on Fatherhood. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Mr. Riley through the Omidyar Fellows Leadership program in 2015. Mr. Riley is passionate about making a positive impact on fatherhood in Hawaii and will make an excellent member of the committee. His background and experience in Washington DC and Hawaii on Native Hawaiian issues, coupled with raising his two children, will be a great addition to the Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong **support** for the confirmation of Mr. Riley to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Sincerely,

BRIAN KEALOHA

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chair, Committee on Human Services  
Hawai`i State Senate  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for James Kawika Riley, gubernatorial nominee to the State Commission on Fatherhood.

The State Commission on Fatherhood promotes healthy family relationships between parents and children by emphasizing the important role fathers play in their children's lives. Kawika personifies the important qualities and ideals that the Commission represents in statewide policy-making and advocacy for healthy fathering and strong families.

Over the past 10 years, I have come to know Kawika's exceptional and professional abilities as a capacity builder, staunch advocate for social equality, and grass-roots organizer. Kawika understands the basic social constructs required to grow and sustain strong families and its interrelationship with cultural frameworks. He is a driven servant leader whose critical-thinking skills and passion for *'ohana* and the betterment of underrepresented minorities make him an ideal appointee for the Commission.

For this nomination, I urge the Hawai`i State Senate to confirm James Kawika Riley to the State Commission on Fatherhood.

Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (808) 281-4573 or via email at hookela@gmail.com.

Very Respectfully,

/s/

Bryce H. P. Mendez, MPH, CPH  
Former Student Member  
Hawai`i State Board of Education

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM670 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 1:34:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JAMES KAWIKA RILEY](#)

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**GM670**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Kehaulani Butts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: March 28, 2016

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: **GM 670**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **JAMES KAWIKA RILEY**, to the Commission on Fatherhood

I, Hawley Iona, am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. James Kawika Riley, for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood. I have worked professionally with Kawika since 2013 and have greatly admired his leadership style as well as his scope of knowledge and background in indigenous rights and advocacy.

Over the years, our families have become friends. Our keiki play and learn together and I have the honor of seeing him interact as a husband and father; both of which are truly amazing to experience. Kawika is open-minded and continually strives to better himself. He desires to be the best person for his family and for his community. He is a servant leader who expresses the same in his commitment to his family. Kawika places great emphasis on discipline as is evident in his educational and professional achievements to-date. As a father, his discipline translates to warm and compassionate guidance. His keiki are respectful, inquisitive, and affectionate. For these reasons and many more, Kawika would be an ideal participant to the Commission.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [joshua.stanbro@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.stanbro@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM670 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 8:44:50 PM

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**GM670**

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Josh Stanbro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the nomination of Kawika Riley to the Commission on Fatherhood. I know Kawika and believe he is an excellent role model for our youth.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM670 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:22:04 AM

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**GM670**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Coleson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, Aloha! I would like to submit testimony in favor of confirming James Kawika Riley to the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood. I have known Kawika since 2005/2006 when he came to the OHA Washington DC Bureau to serve as a student intern. I was working there as the Assistant to the Bureau Chief. I got to know Kawika quite well, and worked with him for many years. He struck me as a very passionate thoughtful and well-rounded young man even then. Getting to know him better, I discovered that was not always so, that he had actually experienced something of a troubled childhood and adolescence, partly the result of an inconsistent family life. He was not bitter; he actually had great compassion for the humanity of his parents' and siblings' circumstances. I found his willingness to forgive and his willingness accept responsibility for his own choices refreshing and admirable. Fast forward to him becoming a husband and father himself. I watched him as he met and married his soul mate, and it warmed my heart to see him discover family stability and committed happiness with Lorinda. Then came his children – another revelation! Again it has been sweet observing his parental epiphanies, which I know gave him even greater understanding of his own growing up. Kawika is a fine, honorable and upstanding man. He is a loving, compassionate, dedicated and firm-handed dad. He did not experience that same thing growing up, which is actually what I think makes him such a compelling candidate for this position. He understands the needs and priorities of individuals who are putting in the hard work of being dedicated responsible fathers, and he understands the shortcomings and disadvantages of those who are NOT doing that, and the subsequent needs that creates for their families. I highly recommend this young man be confirmed to the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood. Julie Coleson Gaithersburg, MD

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**To:** Senator Suzanne Chun Okland, Chair, Committee on Human Services  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair, Committee on Human Services

**From:** Nathan Havey and Cari Simon

**Re:** Testimony in favor of the appointment of James Kawika Riley to the Hawaii Commission on Fatherhood.

**Date:** March 28, 2016

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

James Kawika Riley is a model father. He is an incredibly thoughtful man of considerable character. Kawika takes very seriously the duty he has to raise his children well, and we offer our enthusiastic support of his appointment to the Hawaii Commission on Fatherhood.

Nathan and Kawika became friends in college and have remained close. They lived together while in undergraduate and graduate school, and attended each-others weddings. Kawika has earned a place in our lives as the finest man we know. He is trustworthy, reliable, and unwaveringly committed to his family. He has a level of personal integrity we aspire to emulate. He is a loving husband and father, who goes to great lengths to provide for his family and nurture his children.

Kawika's accomplishments in this area are particularly praise-worthy since he, like so many in Hawaii, grew up in less-than ideal circumstances. Kawika has experienced and overcome many of the problems that vex other fathers. He brings with him a broad and wise perspective that will serve the commission well.

We are expecting our first child this summer and we plan to make good use of Kawika's advice and guidance and we raise our own children in the years to come. We hope that Hawaii can benefit from it too.

Nathan Havey and Cari Simon

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**Cc:** [scott@simonlead.com](mailto:scott@simonlead.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM670 on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 8:59:10 AM

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**GM670**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for HMS on Mar 29, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
R. Scott Simon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I've had the privilege of collaborating with Kawika Riley in the area of leadership development. Kawika's outstanding professional and educational credentials speak for themselves. What I appreciate about Kawika that wouldn't show up on paper are his strong commitment and motivation to continuously learning and improving so that he can better serve others – his organizations, his colleagues, the broader community, and of course his family. Kawika is a visionary, principled husband/son/father who would make a great addition to the Commission on Fatherhood. His integrity, organizational abilities, and gifts as a caring communicator will be assets to the Commission and all its stakeholders. For these reasons, I support Kawika Riley's nomination as a Commissioner.

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March 25, 2016

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Oakland and Honorable Green,

Re: James Kawika Riley **Nomination to the State Commission on Fatherhood**

It is with privilege and honor that I submit this testimony for James Kawika Riley in support of the nomination to serve on the State Commission on Fatherhood.

I met Kawika as a colleague in the Omidyar Fellows Program through the Hawai'i Leadership Forum in October, 2014.

Kawika Riley is a committed and invaluable leader to our community. He is dedicated to the growth, development and education of our keiki. He has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Native Hawaiians both within the State of Hawai'i and at the national level.

I know Kawika to be a person of the highest moral and ethical caliber. He is thoughtful, open and willing to engage in difficult conversations. Kawika models supportive partnership in his own family as a partner and a father.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Kawika Riley for this role.

Sincerely,

Sulma Gandhi, DBA, MS  
Community Member, Hawai'i County