

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
Interim Chair

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

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON GM 538 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, FITUINA TUA**

By
Edmund "Fred" Hyun
Interim Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 – 1:15 P.M.
State Capitol – Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

As the Interim Chairman of the Hawaii Parole Board, it is my pleasure to announce and stand in strong support for the nomination of Fituina Tua. Although I have only known Mr. Tua for several years, I have worked very closely with him since assuming the position in August 2016. Mr. Tua is an excellent mentor and teacher with a tremendous amount of patience, especially when dealing with the inmates. I have witnessed his ability to sort out complex issues during hearings and in deliberations.

Mr. Tua is committed to the responsibilities of the position, due process and the ideals of humane treatment all the while cognizant of the victim's rights and the safety of the community. He does not let emotion or personal sentiments cloud his mission of justice for all and inspires those around him. Fituina Tua espouses the qualities of what a parole board member and governor's appointee should be; true to self, honest, principled, dedicated, disciplined and a consummate professional. It is fitting that this committee advise, consent and forward FITUINA TUA's name for Senate Confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 538.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 538
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
PAROLING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FITUINA TUA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2020.

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 11, 2017; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** Gubernatorial Nominee, Fituina Tua, as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Mr. Tua's educational background and previous professional experience make him well qualified for the position. In fact, Mr. Tua has already served for three (3) years as an active member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, making sound, unprejudiced parole recommendations for Hawaii's inmates since 2013.

The Department urges the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs to forward this nomination to the Senate for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

April 9, 2017

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FR: Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo
Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Member

RE: GM 538—Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Fituina Tua to
the Hawai'i Paroling Authority
Hearing date and time: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 @ 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Nishihara, Senator Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Fituina Tua to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA).

I have been a member of the HPA since May of 2011. The parole board conducts daily hearings for minimum term, parole, and parole revocation cases. We review and render decisions in approximately three hundred cases each month.

I have worked with Mr. Tua since 2013 when he was first appointed as a member of the HPA. He brings tremendous experience from his many years as a federal and state probation officer. His extensive knowledge about offender supervision and risk assessment has been very instructive in our decision-making.

Mr. Tua is one of the finest people I have worked with. He treats his colleagues, the corrections staff and inmates with the utmost consideration. During our board hearings, he is always respectful of the views of others and analyzes every case with reason and objectivity. Mr. Tua has a strong work ethic and comes well-prepared for every hearing.

I feel very fortunate to have worked with Mr. Tua over these past years. Our day-to-day workload is very challenging and Mr. Tua is someone I can always count on to be positive, fair, and even-tempered.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration to this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

4/7/2017

Re: GM538

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

This is a letter of the strongest support for the nomination of Fituina Tua as a Hawai'i State Parole Commissioner. Bottom line is I urge his confirmation without exception or qualification. This is a really good man with great credentials and a good heart. We have been colleagues for several years and work collaboratively even in the rare instance where we may not agree. That is a solid test of collegiality.

Mr. Tua is most knowledgeable, experienced and capable in many ways. In my view he should continue his tenure as a Commissioner. We have served together for the past several years hearing cases regularly almost every single week across the state facilities and, via video, in Arizona and elsewhere. Mr. Tua has a vast wealth of prior experience in the Federal and state systems (including Massachusetts and Hawai'i). He has keen insights into the needs and strengths of the inmates, staff, victims, counsel and others who regularly appear before us. Counsel appreciate his collegiality, as do his fellow commissioners. He is most courteous, dignified and patient with all, which is not easy given the volume and nature of the cases. Best practices and evidence-based practices, which are proven successful in other jurisdictions, are regularly being reviewed and Mr. Tua has experience with these.

In summary, as stated above, I support strongly his nomination and confirmation. We are quite fortunate to have him and I look forward to continue working with him. Should you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Judge Michael A. Town (retired) Part time Hawai'i Parole Commissioner (2011-present)