

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

March 28, 2017

GM 624: Nomination of Stanton Oshiro to the Defender Council

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is a pleasure to support the nomination of Stanton Oshiro to be the Hawaii Island representative on the Defender Council. Mr. Oshiro is a veteran criminal defense lawyer who is a solo practitioner in Hilo. As a member of the Defender Council, Mr. Oshiro will assist the Office of the Public Defender in fulfilling our mission of zealous and effective representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Mr. Oshiro's decades-long experience in criminal defense work has given him an extensive understanding of the criminal justice system and the Public Defender's essential role in that system. We would be privileged to have him serve on the Defender Council.

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