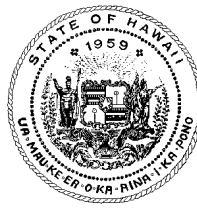


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 567 AND 568,
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE REENTRY COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE NORIKO NAMIKI.

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

Thursday, March 28, 2019; 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety supports the nomination of Noriko Namiki to the Reentry Commission. Ms. Namiki's broad experience as a former social worker, in communications in Hawaii and abroad, and as CEO of one of Hawaii's oldest and highly-respected nonprofit organizations, the YWCA of Oahu, make her ideally suited for service as a member of the Reentry Commission.

While serving as commissioner on an interim basis, Ms. Namiki has not only demonstrated a keen awareness of the social issues facing exiting offenders, she has showed interest, compassion, and an energetic commitment in assisting and guiding the fledgling Reentry Office in its efforts to provide effective and innovative programs to aid offenders returning to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



GM567/GM568

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE REENTRY
COMMISSION, NORIKO NAMIKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

March 28, 2019

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM567 and GM568, confirming Noriko Namiki to the Reentry Commission.

As the chief executive officer of the O‘ahu YWCA, Ms. Namiki oversees the administration of the very successful Fernhurst residential program for reentering female pa‘ahao at the YWCA. She would accordingly bring to the Reentry Commission relevant and invaluable experience with programming proven to help women – especially Native Hawaiian women who are disproportionately represented among the inmate population – develop the skills and find the resources they need to successfully reintegrate with their families, secure jobs and housing, and confidently succeed in life outside of prison.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM587 and GM568 to confirm Noriko Namiki to the Reentry Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Testimony in support of GM 567 and GM 568, Noriko Namiki's appointment to the Reentry Commission

1:15PM, Conference Room 229
March 28, 2019

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Namiki's nomination to the Reentry Commission. I have worked with Ms. Namiki on several reentry initiatives and believe Ms. Namiki's knowledge and experience will assist the Commission in meeting their goals and purpose. Additionally, her drive and passion will ensure plans turn into actions. I respectfully request your support for her nomination to the Reentry Commission.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire

ROBERT K. MERCER, ESQ.

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March 27, 2019

TO: Committee on Intergovernmental
RE: GM 567 and 568
HEARING DATE: Thursday March 28 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
CONF. ROOM: 229
POSITION: **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

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

I strongly support the nomination of Noriko Namiki to the Reentry Commission.

I have known Ms. Namiki professionally for several years. She is the Chief Executive Officer of the O'ahu YWCA, and is widely regarded as one of Hawaii's most respected and dynamic women leaders. Under her direction the Ka Hale Ho'āla Hou No Nā Wāhine women's furlough program at the Fernhurst YWCA has become one of the most successful programs in Hawaii's correctional system. It is exceptionally well run and helps women prepare for reentry into the community by teaching them how to write a resume, dress for a job interview, and conduct themselves at the interview. It supports furloughed women as they go to work on a daily basis, and it helps them refocus their lives and relationships to become successful, law abiding, members of the community.

With her knowledge, skill, and experience, Ms. Namiki will be a tremendous asset to the Reentry Commission and I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Ms. Namiki's nomination.