

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 584,  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO  
THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CLIFTON CHOY.

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

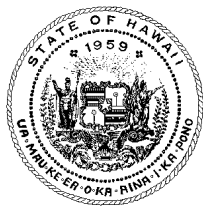
Thursday, March 28, 2019; 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety supports the nomination of Clifton Choy to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. Mr. Choy has enjoyed a long career working with various social service organizations and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, most extensively, in the area of victim services. He is firmly committed to assisting crime victims and would be an asset to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION**

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**MARI MCCAIG**  
Chair

**MARTHA ROSS**  
Commissioner

**SANDRA JOY EASTLACK**  
Commissioner

**PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY**  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 584  
Consideration and Confirmation of Clifton Choy  
To the Crime Victim Compensation Commission  
by  
Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director  
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

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 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs,

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission ("Commission") with the opportunity to testify before you today. The Commission strongly supports the appointment of Clifton Choy to serve as a Commissioner, for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

Mr. Choy has twenty-eight (28) years of experience working with victims and their families as a Victim Witness Advocate and Supervisor at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu.

The Commission is a quasi-judicial body that assists victims of violent crime by providing compensation for crime-related expenses. The Commission also administers a Restitution Recovery Project, under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, to collect restitution from inmates and parolees and to disburse the collected funds to crime victims. Commissioners hear appeals from administrative decisions ordering or denying compensation and set policy for the determination of claims submitted to the Commission. Special areas of concern in the past have been the treatment of sexual assault and domestic violence victims and enhancing the delivery of compensation services to underserved victim populations. An ongoing concern for the Commissioners is the sustainable fiscal self-sufficiency of the Commission. The Commission's core mission is solely funded through special funds and federal matching Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds.

Commissioners must be knowledgeable about the impact of violent crime on individuals and be sensitive and compassionate in dealing with these individuals.

Mr. Choy started as a Victim Witness Advocate and worked his way up to become a Victim Advocate Supervisor in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. As a Victim Witness Advocate and Victim Advocate Supervisor, Mr. Choy assisted victims and guided them as their cases moved through the criminal justice system. Mr. Choy worked with victims in every branch of Victim Witness Kokua Services from misdemeanors to felony cases. Having worked with victims and their families through various types of cases, Mr. Choy is very much aware of the impact of violent crime on victims and would be able to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect as a Commissioner.

Ms. Choy's background, and experience will be invaluable to the Commission's efforts to provide equitable and efficient services to Hawaii's violent crime victims. The Commission looks forward to having Mr. Choy's guidance as a Commissioner.

The Commission strongly urges you to confirm Mr. Choy's appointment for a term as a Commissioner to the Commission.

**GM-584**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 3:24:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/28/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paul lacuesta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SANDRA JOY EASTLACK MSCP. NCC. LMHC

DATE: Thursday, March 28, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai and Honorable members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Sandra Joy Eastlack MSCP. NCC, LMHC

RE: GM 584

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**I am testifying in strong support of Clifton Choy for confirmation of Commissioner for the Crime Victim Compensation Commission.**

Mr. Choy has extensive experience working for the Honolulu City & County Prosecuting Attorney as a victim advocate in the Victim Witness Division.

With his experience he is well qualified in understanding the system and can provide additional ideas on how the Commission can continue to provide additional ways to assist victims. Additionally, in appeal cases he will understand how to make victims feel comfortable and how to ask the right questions.

Please confirm Mr. Choy.