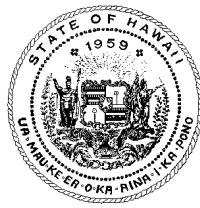


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 618,
NOMINATION OF MAX OTANI TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY.

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

Wednesday, May 13, 2020; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Governor's Message (GM) 618, nominating Max Otani to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA).

Mr. Otani's entire work experience has been centered in the areas of corrections, parole, and probation. A great deal of that experience has been as an administrator, providing him with an extensive base of knowledge to deal with cases and issues coming before the HPA.

The Department strongly endorses the nomination of Mr. Otani to the Hawaii Paroling Authority and respectfully urges the Committee to advise and consent to his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



HINAMAUKA

GM 618 Hawaii Paroling Authority Nominee: Max Otani

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

- Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
- April 13th, 2020 at 3:00 pm
- Conference Room 229

HSAC Supports Hawaii Paroling Authority Nominee Max Otani:

Aloha Chair; Vice Chair; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than 30 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

My name is Alan Johnson, CEO of Hina Mauka. We are one of the largest prevention and treatment agencies in the State, providing substance use disorder and mental health disorder treatment to almost 2,500 adults and adolescents per year as well as prevention to thousands more youth and parents.

We highly recommend Max Otani for a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA):

- As the Deputy Director of Corrections, Division Administrator of Intake Services for PSD, and Field Service Branch Manager for HI Paroling Authority, Max Otani was focused on safety first as well as promoting progressive ideas for providing community services to eligible and appropriate offenders reentering back into their communities.
- Max Otani has a reputation of sage advice, collaborative engagement, consistent integrity and a vast knowledge of corrections and parole systems.
- Often focusing on reentry, Max Otani was an advocate for rehabilitation, including substance use disorder treatment, while being mindful that community safety is the priority.
- Max has spent his entire career to develop systemic improvements in processes for corrections and parole. His extensive experience will enable him to make good choices for HPA.
- Because he is committed to systems improvements, Max can bring leadership qualities to HPA that will help our community to be safer as well as help individuals and their families to recover from substance use and/or mental health disorders. He will properly address criminogenic factors to improve outcomes by reducing recidivism and minimizing re-offending while stimulating recovery.

We fully support Max Otani's nomination and believe he will be a valuable member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 3:13:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for considering Mr. Max Otani. I attended several community meetings when he was with the Dept of Public Safety. His candidness and transparency was very refreshing. He is an honest servant just doing his job.

We are very fortunate he is willing to serve in this capacity.

JAMES S. TABE

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair,
the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 618 -- Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to
the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Max Otani

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

It is a pleasure to support the nomination of Max Otani to the Hawaii Paroling Authority ("HPA"). In the time that Mr. Otani has served as the interim member of the HPA, the deputy public defenders have found him to be very fair in his adjudication of cases. The HPA is tasked with making very difficult decisions in terms of the assigning of minimum terms of incarceration as well as the granting or denying of parole requests. Mr. Otani has demonstrated an ability to balance the competing interests of public safety and compassion for the individuals facing the HPA in rendering fair and just decisions. Mr. Otani has the temperament, character and sensitivity to be a successful HPA member. He listens and considers carefully the arguments presented by the attorneys. He treats the individuals who appear before the parole board with dignity, patience, and respect.

On a personal note, I first met Mr. Otani in 1993 when I began my career with the Office of the Public Defender. I always appreciated that Mr. Otani, who was a parole supervisor with the HPA, took the time to help me understand the Hawaii parole system. From 1993 to 2011 (when he left the HPA), whenever I had a question or concern regarding HPA procedure, Mr. Otani was always available to assist me. I fully support his return to the HPA. He has been and will again be an asset to the HPA.

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

Sincerely,



James S. Tabe
State Public Defender

GM-618

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 5:20:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: