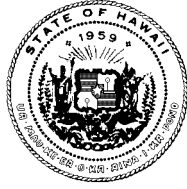


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

May 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Russel E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM712 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL KIPPEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

Hearing: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Human Services committee, on behalf of the Department of Human Services, I support the nomination of Samuel L. Kippen to serve as a commissioner to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Mr. Kippen is a 2007 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, Kapalama, and earned a bachelor's degree from New York University in 2011, with a double major in History and Film graduating with honors. Since 2017, he has worked as a community and government relations specialist with the Kamehameha Schools, and has served as a board member of the McCully-Moiilili Neighborhood Board since 2019.

Prior to returning to Hawaii, Mr. Kippen was involved in various organizing initiatives in the San Francisco area that addressed issues of homelessness, patient-advocacy, and registering first time voters amongst other things.

As a father of a young child, his experience and knowledge of government and community processes, and his understanding of the relationship between a child's family

environment and success in school and life, Mr. Kippen will bring added capacity and expertise to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.



May 12, 2020

Committee on Human Services  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate

Re: Support for GM 712 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL KIPPEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

Aloha:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Mr. Samuel Kippen to be confirmed to the state Commission on Fatherhood. PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and the professional fields of enterprise. Mr. Kippen is a member of good standing with our organization. He is qualified to serve on the board, having demonstrated sound business judgement, good moral character, open-mindedness, and critical analytical thinking skills in his dealings with our organization.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood (COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families. We believe that Mr. Kippen's grassroots experience, personal experience with fatherhood, and work with youth and young adults will be an asset to the commission.

Our organization has come to know Mr. Kippen as a man of personal integrity as he has worked alongside us as a core member in our advocacy efforts. We believe that Mr. Kippen will make good recommendations to the benefit of all of Hawaii's families. He would be an excellent addition to the Commission on Fatherhood, and we support his confirmation.

Ke Aloha 'āina,

Anthony Makana Paris  
Pelekikena

**GM-712**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 7:08:20 AM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support the confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL KIPPEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2023. His background on advocacy for ending family homelessness and more recently for lowering the voter age for young adults reflects that Mr. Kippen is a proactive, problem solver person.

**GM-712**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:01:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-712**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:36:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tim Streitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Samuel Kippen to the Commission on Fatherhood. In my capacity as Chair of the McCully-Moilili Neighborhood Board, I have served with Sam and can attest to his leadership, dedication, and motivation for making the community a better place. He has displayed genuine interest in matters regarding youth and seeing that the younger generations have an opportunity to develop into leaders and be productive members of society. I have no doubt that he and his experiences, including those of fatherhood, will be an asset to the Commission. I ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination and look forward to seeing him serving the community in this new role.

**GM-712**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:43:05 PM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Nevitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairmain Ruderman and Vice Chair Rhoads,

I am writing in support of Samuel Kippen to be appointed to the Commision on Fatherhood. I know Samual as a participant in Hawaii Children's Action Network's Parent Leadership Training Insitutute. This is a 20 week porgam to teach parents to be more effective leaders and advocates for our keiki here in Hawaii. He will be gradutaiong from this program as soon as we can get back to classes in-person.

Beyond this program Sam has a long history of community engagemnt and is rooted in his community. He is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and currently works there in their Community and Governemt Relations division. He serves on the advocacy committee of Kanaeokana, serves on the government relations committee of the Assocaation of Hawaiian Clubs, and is an elected member of his neighborhood board (McCully-Mo'ili'ili)

As the father of a 2 year old son, he internally recognizes the challenges facing our Hawaii families. He understands the need to formulate polliices that will allow fathers to be present, engaged and effective parents to their keiki. I know that Samuel will be an asset to the commission.

Therefore, I strongly support and highly recommend Samuel for this position and ask that you approve his appointment.

Laura Nevitt  
Community Engagement and Training Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

**GM-712**

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 1:25:22 PM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Kobayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Deborah Kobayakawa

45-312 Koa Kahiko St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

[alohadebbk@yahoo.com](mailto:alohadebbk@yahoo.com)

May 13, 2020

SUBJECT: GM 712, Commission on Fatherhood

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Sam Kippon as a Gubernatorial Nominee for the Commission on Fatherhood. Sam is an excellent example of what a dedicated father is in today's society. He is an active and equal partner in parenting his child with his wife and together they work hard to put their family first.

I've seen Sam step up to take over caring for their young son full time during the recent global COVID-19 pandemic as his wife is an essential worker and must leave the home. This has been a challenge that Sam has fully embraced and their family is thriving during this very difficult time

Sam engages civically doing his part to be an active participant in what is happening in his own community and also locally and at the state level. He values community service and sees the need for young families like his to be involved in making their community and world a better place.

Sam can also be counted on to do his part in whatever he's committed himself to. He will attend meetings, be an involved participant and offer his input along the way in



whatever he's doing. He will stay the course, which is an important quality that any commission would benefit from.

In summary, I highly recommend Sam Kippon as a Gubernatorial Nominee for the Commission on Fatherhood, he will be an asset to this commission and provide dedicated service during his tenure. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for Sam.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kobayakawa

May 10, 2020

## **Testimony in Strong Opposition to: GM 710, 711 and 712 Governor Ige's Nominations to the Commission on Fatherhood**

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

At a time when hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents are suffering, there is no need to proceed with Governor Ige's Nominations to the Commission on Fatherhood. This is not a priority for the Senate and your consideration sends the message that you are prioritizing an ineffective and irrelevant commission over the true needs of the people.

According to their [website](#), this Commission shows no record of meeting in 2019 or 2020. Despite years of work, they have not developed any strategic plan for the public. In a review of their Minutes dating to 2013, almost no one from the public ever attends their meetings and it is standard that there are no publicly generated issues ever recorded. It is unclear if they have any private funding and appear to rely almost 100% on State funds to carry out activities like tabling at Windward Mall, printing business cards for members, as well as in/out-of-state travel. It is really unclear what they do or how they carry out their mission to promote and improve outcomes for fathers, children and families in Hawaii.

In this time of crisis for our state, nation and the world this Committee has no need to advance Governor Ige's nominations to an ineffective Commission. If you don't act on these nominations, the Commission will be unable to achieve quorum. Will anyone in the public notice? I doubt it. If their work is so valued by the public, perhaps in a future special or regular session of the Legislature, it might be more appropriate to provide your approval.

Today, is not that day. Today is the day to invest in proven strategies that will demonstrably get people the unemployment benefits they are overdue, to get people the affordable housing solutions they need to avoid homelessness and to tell Governor Ige, this failed Commission is not a priority for the Thirtieth Legislature.

Respectfully,

Eduardo Hernandez

Registered voter in State House District 26 and Senate District 12