

JAMES S. TABE

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817**

July 3, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair,
Members of the Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 819 -- Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to
the Defender Council, Gubernatorial Nominee Setsuko Gormley

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

It is a privilege to support the nomination of Setsuko Regina Gormley to the Defender Council. As a member of the Defender Council, Ms. Gormley will assist the Office of the Public Defender in fulfilling our mission of zealous and effective representation of indigent persons charged with criminal offenses.

Ms. Gormley is a proud graduate of Aiea High School. After graduating from the University of Southern California, she obtained her law degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School of Western Michigan University. Following her graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Shackley R. Raffetto, and the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza, both of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. Ms. Gormley then joined the Office of the Public Defender. As a deputy public defender on Oahu and on Maui, Ms. Gormley has practiced at every level in the judicial system: the circuit courts, the district courts, the family courts, and the appellate courts. Since entering the private practice of law, she is specializing in criminal defense, family law and immigration.

Because of her extensive experience, Ms. Gormley understands the criminal justice system thoroughly and the Office of the Public Defender's essential role in that system. The Office of the Public Defender would be privileged to have Ms. Gormley serve on the Defender Council.

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

Sincerely,



James S. Tabe
State Public Defender



WENDY HUDSON • ATTORNEY AT LAW
44 N. MARKET STREET, WAILUKU, HI 96793
PH. 808-242-1999 • FAX 808-244-5698
WENDYHUDSONLAW@GMAIL.COM
WENDYHUDSONLAW.COM

June 30, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol, Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senator Rhoads:

I'm a defense attorney on Maui and was a Public Defender for over 18 years. I was the Supervising Attorney for 14.5 years and had the pleasure of supervising Setsuko Gina Gormley.

I'm writing to enthusiastically support Ms. Gormley's nomination to the Defender Council. She was an asset to our office while there. She is conscientious and hard working. She handled all requested tasks efficiently and effectively. She was extremely easy to work with and performed over and above my expectations.

Ms. Gormley's work ethic is sound, she's a "go-getter," a self-starter and can be relied upon to do very good and thorough work. She is also a team player and helped to improve group morale. She is honest and I trust her wholeheartedly.

Since being in private practice for the last three years, I've worked with Ms. Gormley on Co-defendant cases and have observed her in court and out of it. She's still doing excellent work. She will bring her prior experience as a PD to the Council and will have the Office's best interests at heart. She is an excellent candidate for the Council.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call me at **808-242-1999**. The best time to reach me is between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. My email is wendyHUDSONLAW@gmail.com.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy A. Hudson', written in a cursive style.

Wendy A. Hudson

Sonya Toma, Esq.
Staff Attorney, Family Law Self Help Center
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.
725 E. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89104
E-Mail: sonyatoma@gmail.com

July 2, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Sent Via Email to: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM No. 819 – Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to
the Defender Council, Gubernatorial Nominee Setsuko Regina
Gormley

Dear Senator Rhoads:

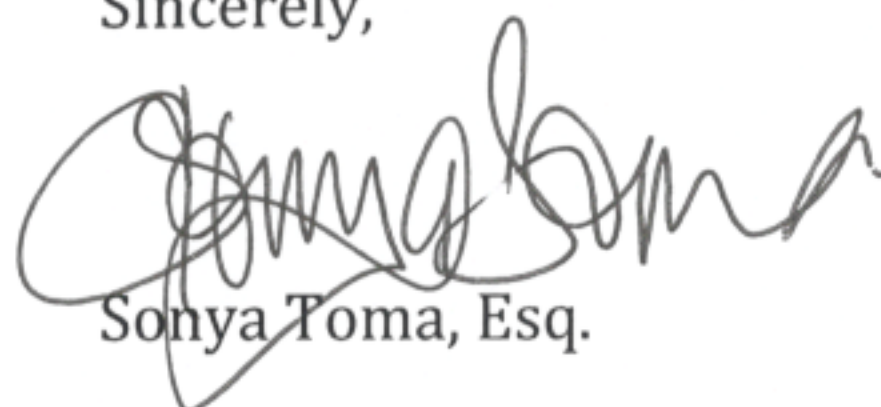
This letter is being sent in support of Setsuko Regina Gormley for confirmation to the
Defender Council.

Ms. Gormley is a close friend and colleague whom I have known for over 13 years. We
clerked at the same time for different Circuit Court judges at the Second Circuit Court and
then worked together at the Office of the Public Defender on Maui.

Ms. Gormley will be an excellent addition to the Defender Council. Having worked at the
Office of the Public Defender and continuing criminal defense work in private practice, Ms.
Gormley has extensive experience and understanding about the Office of the Public
Defender and criminal defense issues. She is passionate about social justice and has spent
her career protecting the legal rights of the accused in indigent and vulnerable populations.
She has been active the Hawaii Innocence Project and various other volunteer civic legal
organizations. I know Ms. Gormley to be a zealous, dedicated, and conscientious advocate
for her clients and the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sonya Toma, Esq.

GM-819

Submitted on: 7/2/2020 1:21:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Nagamine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of Setsuko Gormley. I feel that her knowledge and experience as an attorney and as a Public Defender will be a tremendous asset to the PD Council.

July 2, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: *GM 819 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Defender Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Setsuko Gormley, for a term to expire June 30,
2023.*

Hearing: Monday, July 6, 2020, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 016

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate:

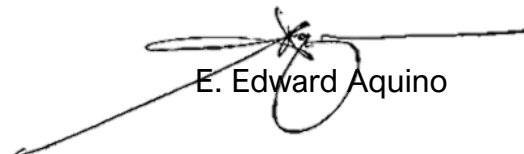
I am writing in strong support of Setsuko Gormley's nomination to serve on the Public Defender Council.

I first met Ms. Gormley in 2006 when she joined the Office of the Public Defender as a deputy at the Honolulu Office where she worked for 2 years before moving to the Maui Office where she served for 4 more years. Over the years, I have grown to respect Ms. Gormley as a professional and as person who is truly committed to public service. Beyond her current work in private practice, Ms. Gormley has volunteered as an attorney for the Hawaii Innocence Project and the Clemency Project during the Obama Administration.

Ms. Gormley have demonstrated her commitment to public defender work both as a trial attorney for the office and, now, as a supporter in private practice. She is very familiar with the workings of the office and the challenges that each of the deputies face on a day to day basis in ensuring that justice is properly served.

For these reasons, I urge you to confirm her nomination to serve on the Public Defender Council.

Sincerely,



E. Edward Aquino

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

81 North Market Street, Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793
TELEPHONE: (808) 984-5021 FACSIMILE: (808) 984-5022

Heather Wolfenbarger
Deputy Public Defender

July 2, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol, Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM No. 819-Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Setsuko Regina Gormley, to the Defender Council

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee:

I am writing in support of Setsuko Regina Gormley's nomination to the Defender Council. I've had the privilege of knowing Ms. Gormley since high school. Although we travelled in different circles at Aiea High, I was always impressed with her poise and intelligence. I was pleasantly surprised to see my fellow Na Alii practicing law here on Maui years after we graduated.

Ms. Gormley has always been very dedicated in her work. Her experience is highly relevant to the Defender Council. She has served the indigent communities of both Oahu and Maui as a Deputy Public Defender. She continues to serve Maui by providing quality representation in the areas of criminal defense, immigration and family law. She also volunteers her time to the Hawaii Innocence Project.

Ms. Gormley understands the criminal justice system, the challenges of being a Public Defender, and the mission of our office. I believe she will be an asset to the Defender Council and strongly support her confirmation to the position.

Sincerely,

Heather Wolfenbarger
Deputy Public Defender

LAWRENCE N. C. ING

BRADFORD R. ING

2145 WELLS STREET, SUITE 204
WELLS STREET PROFESSIONAL CENTER
WAILUKU, MAUI, HI 96793-2225
(808) 242-4555 • FAX (808) 244-6964
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THE ING LAW FIRM

a Limited Liability Law Company

July 6, 2020

Via Email: senrhoad@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
and Committee Members
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Support for Appointment of Setsuko Regina Gormley, Esq.
Defender Council**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

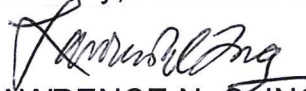
I have known Setsuko Regina Gormley both professionally and socially for over 10 years.

Gina's experience working at Maui County's Council Services, as a Deputy Public Defender and an attorney in private practice provides an insight as to representation of indigent persons and the use of resources that will prove valuable to the workings of the Council.

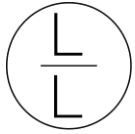
I have observed her throughout the years, and I have always been impressed with her hard work and ability to solve difficult problems. She is also honest and involved with her community. She has shown over the years that she can review facts and listen to arguments and make fair and reasonable decisions.

I respectfully request that she be appointed to the Defender Council.

Sincerely,


LAWRENCE N. C. ING

Copy: Setsuko Regina Gormley (via email)



July 1, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol, Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via Email to: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Nomination of Setsuko Regina Gormley for the Defender Council

Dear Chair Roads and Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Gormley since 2012 in three different capacities. First, as a summer legal intern for the Office of the Public Defender on Maui. Second, we briefly worked together as Legislative Attorneys for the Office of Counsel Services for the Maui County Counsel. And lastly, we are now family law colleagues, often working collaboratively, to resolve divorce and custody cases.

Ms. Gormley has always been kind and generous in sharing her knowledge and experience. She practices with absolute integrity and professionalism. I have seen her passion for criminal justice reform and believe she would be a valuable addition to the Defender Council. Her viewpoint as a woman, prior deputy public defender, member of the Hawaii Innocence Project, and volunteer for the Clemency Project make her exceptionally qualified for this important role.

Thank you for the opportunity to write on her behalf. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Erin Lowenthal

Erin Lowenthal, Esq.

LAWRENCE N. C. ING

BRADFORD R. ING

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THE ING LAW FIRM

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July 2, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to the Defender Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee **REGINA SETSUKO GORMLEY**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

It is with great honor that I submit this testimony in favor of the appointment of **REGINA SETSUKO GORMLEY** to the State of Hawaii Defender Council. I have known **MS. GORMLEY** for approximately 14 years. I have also worked with a majority of the Maui County Bar Association members in and out of the Courtroom throughout my 12 years of practicing law on Maui. **MS. GORMLEY** continues to impress me, year after year, with her passion and commitment to Justice for all in the Courtroom and especially the indigent community charged with criminal offenses.

I watched **MS. GORMLEY** begin her legal career by forming a solid foundation clerking for two of Maui's esteemed Judges, the Honorable Shackley F. Raffetto and the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza. Both of whom I have seen praise **MS. GORMLEY** on numerous occasions. Then I watched her move on to the role of Public Defender where she zealously fought for Defendants day in and day out, gaining knowledge and experience without compromising or faltering on her commitment to achieve a favorable outcome for her clients. When she joined Council Services, **MS. GORMLEY** continued to gain valuable experience while receiving high praise from her supervisors, colleagues and staff. Finally, **MS. GORMLEY** opened her own practice and I have witnessed her transform into a great advocate and a leader in this generation of lawyers. I am most impressed with **MS. GORMLEY's** work ethic and increased willingness to do time-consuming community service projects like the Hawaii Innocence Project. She is a true role model for our Bar and has become a pillar of this community. We are lucky to have her.

As an attorney, who was born and raised on Maui, I can think of no better person than **REGINA SETSUKO GORMLEY** to represent the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii, on the Hawaii Defender Council. I am confident she will work hard to ensure justice and fairness thrive in our Court Systems. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradford R. Ing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

BRADFORD R. ING, ESQ.

GM-819

Submitted on: 7/5/2020 9:38:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denis G Cordeiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have know Ms Gormley since 2016 where she has been a Pro Bono Attorney with the U.H. Law School's Innocence Project.

Her assistance and willingness to provide this service makes her an excellent candidate.

Denis G Cordeiro

GM-819

Submitted on: 7/4/2020 2:27:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

GM-819

Submitted on: 7/5/2020 9:25:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokolole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

RE: Governor's Message 819

I write in support of the nomination of Ms. Setsuko Regina Gormley, a nominee for the Defender Council.

Ms. Gormley has over twenty years of legal experience, including in criminal defense, and will make a well-rounded addition to the Council. Her breadth of work includes clerking for several judges, including Judge Cardoza at the Second Circuit Court on Maui, serving in the state Office of the Public Defender, and leading her private practice. I have full confidence that Ms. Gormley will be an asset to the Council, in the furthering of its mission for the sake of Hawaii's people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Dylan P. Armstrong, individual capacity
Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE

GM-819

Submitted on: 7/5/2020 10:11:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 7/6/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Nakata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The defender council consists of at least one member from each of the counties of the state (Honolulu, Kaua'i, Maui & Hawai'i). As a former Public Defender and Maui Prosecutor, I believe Gina Gormely is the best Maui candidate for this position and support her committment to service.

The defender council serves as the governing body of the Office of the Public Defender. One of the primary duties of the council is the appointment of the State Public Defender. I'm currently the managing attorney for a non-profit small family law firm that serves victims of domestic violence. During these unprecedented times, strong leadership is imporatant. Gina is a leader in her community and in the legal field. Gina is a graduate of the Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Insitute. Gina's practice in criminal defense and immigration are skills directly applicable to this position.

Gina's work with the Hawaii Innocence Project demonstrates a commitment to justice and equality. I strongly urge decision makers to confirm Regina Gormely, as her experience as a former public defender and hard work would be an asset to the defender council.

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Defender Council.

The role and jurisdiction of the Defender Council is to be the governing body of the Office of the Public Defender. One of the primary functions of the Defender Council is to appoint the State Public Defender. In addition to this, the Defender Council provides guidance to the Office of the Public Defender in carrying out their mission of providing zealous and effective representation of their indigent clients.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Council?

A member's role and responsibilities include carrying out the Defender Council's mission by participating in meetings, carrying out the rules of the Council, communicating with the Office of the Public Defender, providing guidance and assistance, addressing agenda items at public meetings, addressing the various issues that may come up at both public and closed executive meetings, and resolving such issues. An individual member's contribution to the Council as a whole is important because each member will bring their own insight and knowledge to the table. In addition, a quorum is required to meet and conduct business so it's essential that each member attend meetings.

3. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Council? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Council or if you were invited to apply.

I wish to serve as a member because I believe in the purpose of the Office of the Public Defender: *The purpose of the Office of the Public Defender is to safeguard individual rights in all criminal and related matters, from arrest or threat of confinement through all stages of the criminal proceedings including appeal and parole board matters, if any, consistent with applicable laws, court rules, and rules of professional responsibility.* I have been a solo-practitioner for the last six years practicing criminal defense, family law, and immigration. I was also a deputy public defender for four years on both the island of Oahu and Maui. I have been involved in every single stage of a criminal matter as described in the purpose. I still work by that purpose as a solo-practitioner. I understand the dynamics of that office, the purpose it serves, and its mission.

State Public Defender James Tabe invited me to apply.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Council, discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

In addition to my experience as a deputy public defender and criminal defense attorney, my experience as a solo-practitioner has provided me with invaluable experience. I have been running my solo-practice for the past six years and have

learned every aspect of running a business. In addition to criminal defense, I expanded my practice areas to include family law and immigration. As a solo-practitioner, I am afforded the flexibility to serve in different associations and organizations. I serve as Vice-President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. I previously served as Treasurer and New Member Liaison. I am also a volunteer attorney with the Hawaii Innocence Project. I will bring to the Defender Council all of my knowledge and expertise that I gained through my experience.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term as a member of the Council?

I hope to accomplish providing effective support for the Office of the Public Defender as a member of the Council. I hope to be a contributing member of the Council to assist the newly appointed Public Defender in dealing with all of the various new issues that have arisen this year due to the health crisis. Overcoming this pandemic and its economic and social effects will likely last for years. I also hope to assist in dealing with longstanding issues such as systemic racism, excessive force/police brutality, and indigent defense reform that have finally been brought to the forefront by the current protests and black lives matter movement to effectuate real change.

6. What issues do you believe that the Council has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Council should address in the future?

When I was a deputy public defender, members routinely sought our opinions on varying issues to take back to the Council. This was encouraging and valuable to improving office morale.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interests. If a conflict of interest should arise, I would inform the Council and recuse myself, if necessary.

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

I was raised in Aiea and graduated from Aiea High School, received my B.A. from the University of Southern California and my J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

I currently serve as Vice-President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. I previously served as Treasurer and New Member Division Liaison. I am also a volunteer attorney with the Hawaii Innocence Project. I am a 2013 HSBA Leadership Institute Fellow. I am a former

Maui County Bar Association Board Member. I have previously served as Grand Jury Counsel for the Second Circuit Court of Hawaii.

I will always support what is in the best interest of the Office of the Public Defender.

9. Is there anything in your background that might be deemed as negative or controversial by the Senate?

I do not believe there is anything in my background that may be deemed as a negative or controversial by the Senate.