



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

TESTIMONY ON Governor's Message 507  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MAX OTANI

By: Max Otani

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

February 2, 2021: 1:00pm  
Hawaii State Capitol

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

I am honored and humbled to be appearing before you to be considered for Director of Department of Public Safety (PSD). I would like to thank Governor Ige for his trust and confidence in making this nomination. I have spent over 30 years working in the criminal justice field and have held various positions throughout my career, ranging from probation officer to Deputy Director. I retired from the PSD in 2016 and enjoyed retirement until I was selected to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority in 2019. My tenure on the parole board made me realized how much I truly missed working with the offender population and how rewarding this work can be. I was appointed to this position and started on December 1, 2020 and to say that it has been challenging is an understatement. The issues that needed to be addressed in corrections and law enforcement were overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency to address the problems associated with the virus. Together with three strong Deputy Directors and able staff, PSD was able to systematically implement appropriate responses to the outbreaks in our correctional facilities.

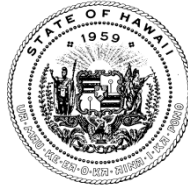
PSD is awaiting the Special Master's Report to the Governor that will cite deficiencies within the department which would need to be addressed. This report will also recommend strategic long-term goals. We plan to use this report as a planning template to address the deficiencies within the department. While this appointment expires in December 2022, there are many goals that I would like to accomplish before then. With law enforcement, CALEA is a top priority and the target date is November 2022. This certification will contribute to the enhancement of standards and professionalism with our uniformed deputies.

With corrections, we will continue to pursue the relocation of OCCC to the Halawa animal quarantine site. However, please note reducing recidivism for prisoners leaving our facilities is the utmost priority. Appropriately addressing criminogenic factors with the offender population will assist in safer management of our prisons and jails, more inmates deemed appropriate for parole release, reduction of parolees returning to custody, and safer communities. For the above goal to be successfully implemented, appropriate programming will have to be available to inmates with proper staffing in place to have these programs delivered. Collaboration with the Hawaii Paroling Authority will also be required to establish parole criteria that can be used as guidelines for everyone in the correctional system, including the inmate, to have a thorough understanding of what is needed to achieve parole. While this goal may appear manageable, a shift in correctional philosophy would be needed before any progress can be made.

Lastly, and the one goal that is personally important to me and I plan to achieve during the next two years is giving every employee an opportunity to succeed. Treating everyone with dignity and respect is the first step in fostering a productive environment. It is important that employees feel that their work is important, receive acknowledged for their accomplishments and there is a

willingness to take on greater challenges. This is where I believe we will make a paradigm shift as we begin think of employment not as a job, but a career and we will then begin to find our future role models and leaders. We have many dedicated and talented employees at PSD and I would like the opportunity to display their potential.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify and ask for your favorable consideration.



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 2, 2021  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**G.M. 507**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

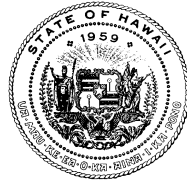
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). Mr. Otani earned his BA and MSW from the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Otani is currently a board member for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA). He has worked in a variety of positions in the state's corrections and judicial systems for more than three decades. Otani began his criminal justice career with the Judiciary, as a Family Court officer and Circuit Court probation officer from 1985 to 1987. From there, he served more than two decades with the HPA in various positions. Otani became the Oahu Intake Services Center manager from 2003-2005, before he was promoted to Intake Service Center Division Administrator from 2011-2013. He then moved on to become PSD's deputy director for Corrections from 2013-14, before returning to his previous position as administrator of the Intake Service Center Division, where he remained until his retirement from PSD in 2016.

The pandemic has critically increased existing burdens on PSD's overcrowded and aging correctional facilities and the DOT is confident Mr. Otani has the experience and wisdom to explore alternatives to incarcerations that reduces recidivism and will prioritize mitigation measures that will enable the department to operate more effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM507**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 2, 2021      Room Number: N/A

1    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of Mr.  
2    Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety. Mr Otani’s professional  
3    accomplishments span not only two branches of government, but levels of supervision as he  
4    worked up the career ladder from a frontline investigator to senior management. His volunteer  
5    work also demonstrates a commitment to his profession and community, and in the capacity of  
6    head coach of the Newtown Shinseikan Judo Club, he works with youths to instill values of  
7    tradition, discipline, and restraint.

8    The Department of Health looks forward to working with the Department of Public Safety under  
9    Mr. Otani’s leadership, on a variety of health, mental health, substance abuse, and family  
10    strengthening projects.

11    Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12    **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

13

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

To: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair;  
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and  
Military Affairs

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director  
Department of Taxation

Date: February 2, 2021  
Time: 1:00 P.M.  
Place: Via Videoconference, Hawaii State Capitol

**Re: G.M. 507, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation Director of the  
Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, Max Otani**

I am in strong support of G.M. 507 and the confirmation of Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani has extensive experience in the field of law enforcement including serving on the Hawaii Paroling Authority Board, and as a Deputy Director and Division Administrator for Department of Public Safety. I believe that Mr. Otani's character and experience make him an excellent candidate for the position.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety .

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
AND  
ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 507

**February 2, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m.**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MAX OTANI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

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

We strongly support the appointment of Max Otani to the position of director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Otani is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Otani has been serving as director of the Department of Public Safety since December 2020. Prior to that, he was a board member for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. He also served in various positions in the state's corrections and judicial systems for more than three decades, which also includes serving as the PSD's deputy director for Corrections. His work experience and knowledge of the state's corrections and judicial systems will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

January 29, 2021

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

For Hearing on Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1 p.m. via video conference

By

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message 507: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as  
the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
MAX N. OTANI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

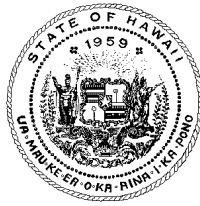
Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Max N. Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Otani on a multitude of matters since his recent appointment. I have found him to be a dedicated and knowledgeable public servant who is well suited to lead PSD during these trying times. Mr. Otani's background and extensive experience across various segments of the public sector will be a great asset as he assists the administration in getting us through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507 and Max N. Otani. We humbly request your favorable consideration.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION**

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1530  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Telephone: 808 587-1143  
Fax: 808 587-1146

MARTHA ROSS  
Chair

CLIFTON Y.S. CHOY  
Commissioner

SANDRA JOY EASTLACK  
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507

Consideration and Confirmation of MAX OTANI  
Director of the Department of Public Safety  
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 J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2021; 1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

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

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (the "Commission") with the opportunity to testify before you today. The Commission strongly supports the confirmation of Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

The Commission is administratively attached to the Department of Public Safety. The Commission was established in 1967 to mitigate the suffering and financial impact experienced by victims of violent crime by providing compensation to pay un-reimbursed crime-related expenses.

In 2003, the Commission initiated a pilot project to collect and disburse restitution from inmates and parolees to their crime victims. The project became permanent in 2012 as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. During the implementation of this project, the Commission has worked closely with the Department of Public Safety, Hawai'i Paroling Authority, and the county victim assistance programs to ensure that restitution is ordered and collected in all eligible cases.

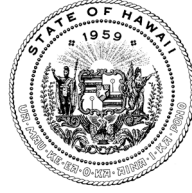
Since the Restitution Project was initiated, the Commission has opened 10,311 restitution and compensation fee cases and collected almost \$5,500,000.00 in restitution payments for crime victims as of June 30, 2020. This project has become a national model for other compensation programs nationwide.

Director Otani has continually supported the Restitution Project in his various roles at the Hawai'i Paroling Authority and the Department of Public Safety, and during his tenure as Deputy Director of Corrections. His commitment and support have ensured that more victims are receiving increased amounts of restitution payments from offenders.

Director Otani's support of the Restitution Project through the years and in his various roles, ensures that: 1) crime victims have the ability to financially recover from their crime; 2) there is an effort made to hold the offender directly accountable to the crime victim; and 3) there is an effort made to assist the offender in developing a sense of self-respect by righting the financial wrongs the offender has caused to the crime victim.

The Commission appreciates Director Otani's commitment and support for financial justice for crime victims and to establishing offender accountability.

Thank you for providing the Commission with the opportunity to testify in strong support for the confirmation of Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

On **Governor's Message No. 507**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Director of the Department of Public Safety**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Max Otani**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Max Otani to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD), for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

After holding several positions in the state's corrections and judicial systems for more than 30 years, Mr. Otani brings his dedication as a public servant and thoughtful approach to the Department of Public Safety and the constituents that they serve. Over the last couple of months, I have observed Mr. Otani to be a humble, compassionate, and competent leader, and believe he is well suited to lead the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani has already shown himself to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of his nomination as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM No. 507. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Videoconferencing

In consideration of  
**GM507**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the  
Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI,  
for a term to expire at noon on 12-5-2022.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee.

I am writing in support of Max Otani to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Max has been working in the field of public safety for over three decades, in the position of court and parole officer to branch and division administrator, in the Judiciary and Paroling Authority for the State of Hawai'i. His past hands on experience and knowledge of the department, its responsibilities and challenges, allows him to step into the job quickly and with skills and ability. He is respected and is respectful and the right person to transform public safety and shepherd it forward during these times.

I strongly support the confirmation of gubernatorial candidate, Max Otani, as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

February 2, 2021

To: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair,  
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,  
and Military Affairs

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Via Videoconference

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 507 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee,

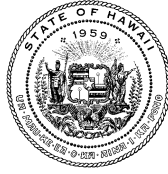
My name is Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 507, Gubernatorial Nominee, Max Otani, as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Mr. Otani demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to successfully lead the DPS. As the Director, Mr. Otani provides leadership in the Department's facility operations, correctional programming, and administration. Prior to his tenure as Director, Mr. Otani served as the Deputy Director of Corrections and Division Administrator of the Intake Service Center where he managed the statewide pretrial operations. Mr. Otani also continues to serve as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority as well as volunteers for the Honolulu County Offender Reentry Program. Overall, Mr. Otani has dedicated thirty-six years of his professional career to improving the State's criminal justice system.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Otani to serve as the Director of the DPS so that he may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Otani.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 1:00 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 507

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, **MAX OTANI**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kalani English, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 507.

Testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of G.M. 507 for Max N. Otani. I've known Mr. Otani for a while and more recently as a fellow deputy when he was at Department of Public Safety during a previous administration. Mr. Otani is clearly well versed in many areas in the Public Safety arena. His knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of  
David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1:00 P.M.

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 507**  
Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Public Safety,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Max Otani

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Max Otani, as the director of the Department of Public Safety, a position he has held since December, 2020.

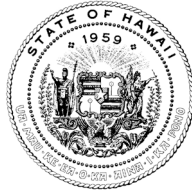
Mr. Otani has worked with the Department of Public Safety for decades serving as Intake Service Center Manager before being promoted to the Division Administrator for Intake Service Centers where he managed statewide pretrial operations for the Department of Public Safety. He also served as the Deputy Director of Corrections from 2013-2014. Throughout his time in the department he has initiated evidence-based practices with the incarcerated, parole and pretrial populations in an effort to reduce recidivism.

Prior to his work in the department, Mr. Otani was a court officer and later a probation officer in the First Circuit Court. He then began working within the Hawai'i Paroling Authority eventually serving as the Field Service Branch Administrator.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Mr. Otani will continue to support our employees in the Department of Public Safety in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

## OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119  
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922  
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of  
DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
Chief Information Officer  
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 507  
Gubernatorial Nominee Max Otani

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and members of the committee:

I am testifying in support of Max Otani as director of the Department of Public Safety. He currently serves as its interim director. Mr. Otani has worked in many positions in the state's corrections and judicial systems for more than three decades.

Mr. Otani began his criminal justice career with the Judiciary, as a Family Court officer and Circuit Court probation officer from 1985 to 1987. From there, he served more than two decades at the Hawaii Paroling Authority in various positions. Mr. Otani has worked at the Department of Public Safety in many capacities, including deputy director for Corrections, Oahu Intake Services Center manager and Intake Service Center Division administrator.

I recommend Mr. Otani to the position. His in-depth knowledge and experience in public safety will be an asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nominee.



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 1:21:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

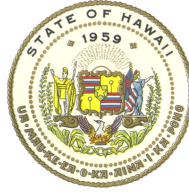
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edmund "Fred" Hyun	Testifying for Hawaii Paroling Authority	Support	No

Comments:

1. Good afternoon Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English, Committee members Baker, Fevella and Rivier. My name is Edmund "Fred" Hyun current Chair for the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I stand in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination for Max Otani to serve as Director of the Department of Public Safety. Max is the consummate professional, fully capable to serve in this demanding position. His education and experience provide a sound foundation to address the complex problems and issues facing the Department as he has demonstrated these past two months. More importantly, Max believes and commits to humane treatment and conditions as well as ReEntry and Accountability. This attitude and philosophy stems from his work in the Judiciary, Parole, Pre-Trial, Corrections, Martial Arts and recently as a sitting member of the Parole Board. Based on my professional interactions with Max since 1987, I can personally and professionally attest to Max's experience and capabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Max Otani and I hope others who read this testimony will aspire and dedicate themselves to high levels of service as does Max.

Mahalo nui loa, Edmund "Fred" Hyun

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
MAX OTANI  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message 507 nominating Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.**

Max Otani is a graduate of Hilo High School and the University of Hawaii at Hilo, subsequently earning a Master's in Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Upon graduating from college, Mr. Otani began his criminal justice career as a Family Court Officer and Circuit Court Probation Officer with the Judiciary. From there, he went on to holding positions as Oahu Intake Services Center Manager, Intake Service Center Division Administrator, and the Deputy Director for Corrections with the Department of Public Safety. Prior to his appointment as the interim Director for the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Otani has been serving as a board member for the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources believes that Mr. Otani possesses the experience, knowledge, and understanding needed to lead the Department of Public Safety, and that Mr. Otani will dedicate himself to addressing the challenges the Department of Public Safety faces during these difficult times.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Governor's Message 507, nominating Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021  
1:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 507**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 507, consideration and confirmation as Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAX OTANI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) strongly supports this measure.

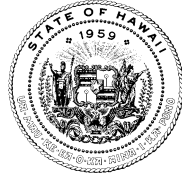
Mr. Otani has extensive experience in the Department of Public Safety (PSD). He began his career with PSD as a parole officer in 1985 and has continually risen through the ranks thereafter, including serving as Deputy Director of Corrections in 2013-2014. Mr. Otani previously served as a member of the Parole Board at PSD. The breadth and depth of his knowledge and experience at PSD will serve him well as Director, and HDOA strongly recommends Max Otani to serve as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

IN SUPPORT OF

**GM507**

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **MAX OTANI**,  
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

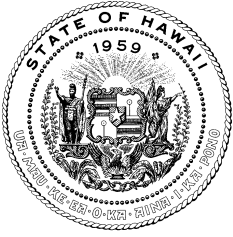
February 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and members of the Committee:

We provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani's life work has been in the state's corrections and judicial systems as a probation officer, parole officer and supervisor, to division administrator. His experience shows a focus on probation, parole and pretrial populations aimed at reducing recidivism. His knowledge, experience, and service on a number of committees or working groups evidence that Mr. Otani is well qualified for this nomination.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 1:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

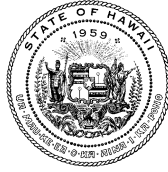
In SUPPORT of  
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507, MAX OTANI**  
**As Director, Department of Public Safety**  
**(Written Testimony Only)**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee. I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Otani to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani has admirably led the Department as the acting Director, especially through the COVID emergency. His prior experience in corrections, especially with paroling and the intersection of corrections with the public, gives him insight into the operations of the Department while bringing a perspective to how the Department can improve itself and outcomes for its service populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 1:00 P.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 507  
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, MAX OTANI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 507. I support the nomination of Mr. Max Otani to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Max Otani has served as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority since 2019. He has also served in multiple leadership roles within the Department of Public Safety since 1997.

Mr. Otani's experience as a leader, his commitment to public service and his passion for public safety makes him an ideal candidate to serve as the Director of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507,  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MAX OTANI

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

I respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of Governor's Message 507, relating to Gubernatorial Nomination of MAX OTANI for the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I deeply respect Mr. Max Otani. He has broad expertise and experience in the areas of the state's corrections and the judicial systems with extensive experience in the Parole Authority, as well as the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Otani is also a seasoned leader having served at the most senior levels in state government as a Deputy Director and Administrator.

Mr. Otani has been a committed public servant of over 30 years and continues to be an active supporter and volunteer in his community. He is trustworthy and committed, and I would be honored to serve with him as a fellow cabinet member.

I am confident Mr. Otani will make an outstanding Director, and I stand behind his leadership to be one of the beacons to help guide and lead our state in this time of crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1211

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN  
CHAIR

CLAYTON H.W. HEE  
FITUINA F. TUA  
MEMBERS

ANDREW MORGAN  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

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

**Testimony on Governor's Message 507**  
**Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety**  
**Max N. Otani**

By  
Hawaii Paroling Authority  
Acting Paroles and Pardons Administrator  
Andrew Morgan

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental , and Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

As the Acting Paroles and Pardons Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, I am providing testimony in full support of the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Max N. Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Otani since November 1997. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Department as a former parole administrator, intake service center administrator, deputy of corrections, and parole board member. The Department of Public Safety will benefit tremendously from his past experiences within the Department.

Mr. Otani has the integrity, dedication, and perspective to take the appropriate course of action on all issues as they relate to public safety. He has the knowledge and expertise to advance the Department of Public Safety to new heights and I look forward to working with him.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the confirmation of Mr. Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.



## **GM507 Director of PSD: Max Otani**

COMMITTEE ON Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

- Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Sen. Kalani English, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021: 1:00 pm
- Videoconference



### **Hina Mauka Highly Recommends Max Otani as PSD Director:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit Treatment and Prevention agency for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and other behavioral health conditions providing treatment for over 2,500 patients a year and providing prevention to thousands of youth and families each year.*

- With positions as Deputy Director of Corrections, Division Administrator(s), Field Service Administrator(s) and decades of management for PSD, Max Otani has developed the leadership skills while serving under various Directors over many years.
- Moreover, Acting Director Otani has the confidence of PSD management that he can lead them, which will be critical for developing the strategic initiatives for PSD to do the necessary moves to evolve PSD's practices.
- Max Otani, at his various levels of management, has worked with providers at various capacities and understands the need for collaboration. It is this collaboration with providers that can help him plan for more creative solutions for PSD to prepare for the future.
- Once Acting Director Max Otani becomes Director Max Otani, he has the understanding and experience to know that he needs the strong support of the Legislature's leaders in addition to the Governor. He knows that he will have to be both progressive in policies while conservative in spending.
- As evidenced by his long tenure, Max is committed to the values of Public Safety and remains hopeful to what it could become. He is well positioned to address public policy to improve those systems as well as find a more cost-effective process to utilize limited resources.

We fully support Max Otani's nomination as Director of Public Safety.

*Aloha, Alan Johnson, President and CEO, Hina Mauka*

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM 507

January 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Nishihara and Vice Chair English:

I would like to submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Max Otani to the Director of Public Safety Position.

I have known Max for at least 20 years and have worked with him throughout his career in State Government. Max has served the People of Hawaii in many leadership positions and has always been consistent in his conscientiousness to the duties and responsibilities of each position. He works collaboratively and effectively with people on all levels. He possesses excellent problem solving skills, is reliable, caring, and honest. He can always be counted upon to “do the right thing”. Max Otani represents a positive role model for everyone in State Government.

Max has had previous experience working at the Public Safety Department, as the Deputy Director for Corrections and the Intake Service Division Administrator. As such he knows what needs to be done and who can do it.

Max’s experience working at the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) will be beneficial with regards to a rehabilitative focus towards Corrections. Max has worked on the front lines, served in every leadership position at HPA, as well as recently being a HPA Board member.

Max is the logical choice for this position, especially in such trying times, with regards to the pandemic and State budget short falls.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Wesley Mun  
1251 Ekaha Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
358-5898

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/28/2021 5:26:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael A. Town	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong testimony in support of Senate confirmation. Max Otani has impeccable temperament, solid knowledge of public safety both substantively and dynamics, and knows the community. Should there be questions, let me know. Suffice it to say he is such a welcome leader and I look forward to working with him in my role as part of the Hawai'i State Correctional Oversight Commission. Best wishes. Judge Michael A. Town (retired)

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/28/2021 9:30:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Lowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Max Otani as the Public Safety Director. In working with Max, I found him to be an effective leader who was genuinely committed to the proper integration of inmates back into the community. Max has extensive experience within the Corrections Division and at the Hawaii Paroling Authority. He is an excellent candidate for the PSD Director position. Max is well respected among his peers in both the private and public sector.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter. Again, I highly recommend that Max Otani be confirmed as the Public Safety Director.

Jordan Lowe

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 8:51:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Mr. Otani.

Mahalo

**Chair Clarence Nishihara**  
**Vice Chair Kalani English**

**Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**  
**1:00PM**

**TESTIMONY OFFERING COMMENTS ON GM507**

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin, I am a Junior at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and currently serve as an at-large board member for the Young Progressives Demanding Action. I am testifying today as an individual, offering **COMMENTS** on GM507, for the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani has talked about reentry of people currently in our prisons as one of his priorities as director. This is super important, but we really need to hear a clear plan on how a Department of Public Safety under his leadership will carry that out when the department is already lagging on giving out identification documents for people exiting our state prisons, and is even proposing a \$500,000 cut to reentry contracts.

I am very concerned with the contradictions between the supposed priorities of Mr. Otani and the actions of the department. I am asking for the members of the Senate committee with the constitutional duty to vet this nomination to clear this confusion up by asking the following questions to Mr. Otani during his confirmation hearing:

- 1) What is your plan to bring PSD into compliance with its comprehensive reentry planning obligations, including its duty to provide civil identification documents to those transitioning back into society?
- 2) What is the timeline for this plan?
- 3) Will you commit to identifying alternative areas for budget reductions to ensure that funding for reentry contracts and planning services will not be cut?

We need to get the nominee on the record on reentry planning, especially during this pandemic when those who are incarcerated are one of the groups most in danger from COVID-19. To prevent recidivism, to create a fairer society where incarcerated and non-incarcerated individuals are all treated as human beings, and to give our incarcerated friends, neighbors, and family members a real chance to become a part of their communities and engage in society again, the Department of Public Safety must do better.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,

1561 Kanunu Street

Honolulu, HI 96814

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: [junshinbusiness729@gmail.com](mailto:junshinbusiness729@gmail.com)

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 10:18:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koa Dobrowolsky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Max Otani's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 11:37:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim K Sasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in support of Max Otani as Director of Public Safety. I have known Mr. Otani as a family friend for 3 years and I think that he will be a positive edition to the Department of Public Safety to help the Department get back on the right track. He is dependable and a hard worker and I appreciate it if you would please consider him for the position. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim K. Sasaki

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/29/2021 11:39:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lora Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Max Otani for Deputy of Public Safety. I believe Max would be great for the position because of his experience in the department. Max is level headed and able to rectify issues when obstacles arise. Please consider Max Otani for the position.

Sincerely,

Lora Silva

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DAILYN YANAGIDA  
AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021  
1:00 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MAX OTANI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON  
ON 12-05-2022

Chairperson Nishihara, Vice-Chairperson English and Members of the Committee:

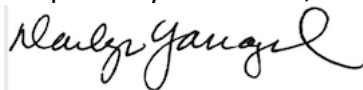
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 507 for the consideration and confirmation of Max Otani to the Director of the Department of Public Safety. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Mr. Otani's nomination to the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I submit my testimony in a personal capacity. I have known Mr. Otani for approximately 19 years. During that time, I have witnessed Mr. Otani as a devoted and loyal husband, father, son, son-in-law and caregiver. He always conducted himself in a responsible and thoughtful manner. Even in crisis, Mr. Otani remained calm and brought reasonable and prudent action to any situation. As the constant resource, whether friend, family or mere acquaintance, Mr. Otani proved himself to be committed to his belief in duty and always doing what is "pono" in the interest of well-being and safety.

As a public citizen and resident of Hawaii, I would hope that the successful candidate to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety, possess the traits that I know Mr. Otani to hold as the basis of his moral character.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of the confirmation of Max Otani.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dailyn Yanagida

[DYANAGIDA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DYANAGIDA@GMAIL.COM)

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 9:22:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Ref: GM507

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Committee Members:

I am Elaine Ileina Funakoshi, writing in strong support of Mr. Max Otani, nomination for the position of Director of Public Safety department

I m delighted to have the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Max Otani as the Director of the Public Safety Department. At the beginning of Governor Ige's 2nd term, I had recommended Mr. Otani for this position

Mr. Otani is more than well qualified, having served in leadership positions within the department, for many years. I am impressed with Mr. Otani's dedication to his job by taking off-duty time to attend community meetings on prison issues, including reform. I also supported him when he was nominated for the parole board which adds to his broad background.

Therefore, I humbly ask for the committee's confirmation of Mr. Otani.

Mahalo and Aloha,

elaine ileins funakoshi

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 8:26:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Otani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Max Otani all of my life. That is because he is my older brother. He has always been someone who cared about everything he chooses to do, from Judo, skin diving, people around him and his career. I cannot think of anyone who has the integrity, morals and knowledge of the Public Safety Systems of Hawaii than him. I am not saying this just because he is my brother but because I have known him as a person for so long.

Brad Otani

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 9:58:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
craig kurakazu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've know Max Otani my whole life being we are cousins. We grew up as a close knit family spending countless days together. I truly believe when a person is in a comfortable situation such as with all boy cousins true characteristics come out. As a child Max seemed more mature than his age. Taking on responsibilities seriously and completing. I feel he still has this in himself as an adult but at a greater level. We both share the same positions as Judo instructors Max on Oahu and I'm on the Big Island. I can personally say our positions are not easy ones and it's 100% voluntary. Still Max believes his part in teaching Judo is beneficial to his students thus continues to do so.

'Craig Kurakazu

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 10:20:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cheryl E Sora	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In all my past dealings with Max Otani, he has shown integrity and compassion that will serve the community well. He is an outstanding individual who strives for equality and fairness in everything he does. He serves with aloha and kindness, which is reflected in his history as well as his daily life. I look forward to welcoming news of his success in his new position.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:42:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Norene N Machida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

Kindly accept my favorable support and testiimony confirming Max Otani, whom I have known for 23 years, as a highly qualified public servant for your consideration, as Director of The Department of Public Safety.

Since 1985, Max has dedicated his ambitions in public service. Over that span, his expereince and contributions to the State's Public Safty and Criminal Justice systems is valuable knowledge and understanding with invaluable respected obligations to connect in the network. Even after retiring as an Administrator, he still feels honored to return and serve, in an already complex work amidst this pandemic.

I personally know Max to be a caring and protective husband and father. Being ensued with responsibilities involving public saftey, it was important to him, to keep his family and work seperated. He is tough and fair, is what you would hear his students say, as the head instructor of Newton Shinseikan Judo Club.

In closing, I would like to thank you for accepting my tesitimony in support of Max Otani and the experience, leadership, and integrity he exemplifies to move foward as the Director of Public Saftey.

Higest Regards to the work each member of the Senate does on behalf of myself and many people of Hawaii.



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 1:31:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Okihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

SUBJECT: GM 507

Max Otani, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of the Department of Public Safety

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English and Members of the Committee,

This letter is in **strong support** of Mr. Max Otani's nomination as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Otani has been a close friend for nearly 50 years. He is one of the most reliable and level-headed individuals with a very high measure of discretion and moral character. I am confident that his prior experience as with the Department of Public Safety makes him an ideal candidate for the Director of the Department.

Mr. Otani's outstanding character and unique set of professional experiences will enable him to effectively collaborate with other Departments and provide strong leadership as the Director of the Department of Public Safety during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of Mr. Max Otani and for your consideration.

Darren Okihara



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 2:52:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Amano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

SUBJECT: GM 507

Max Otani, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of the Department of Public Safety

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to recommend Max Otani for the position of Director of Public Safety for the state of Hawaii. I have known Max Otani on a personal level for over forty years from our days in Hilo. With over 35 years in roles within the criminal justice system, he is highly qualified for this position.

Max Otani has always been a humble leader who has not let individual achievements and titles create an ego. He has always been a team-oriented individual with a strong moral and ethical foundation to make good choices for the good of the public.

Max Otani is dedicated and disciplined in all facets of his personal and professional life and is fully capable to take on the responsibilities of this role. His lifelong service to the community will continue through his appointment and I am honored to write this recommendation in strong support of Max Otani for the Director of Public Safety.

Robin Amano

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 5:22:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Santee Ginoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think he will do a good job.

**TESTIMONY ON THE  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
MAX OTANI**

**BY: ROSALINA AIPOPO**

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair**

**Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair**

**DATE: Tuesday, February 02, 2021**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**

**Place: Via Videoconference**

**Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and Members of the committee:**

I am in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee Max Otani as the Director for the Department of Public Safety (PSD). My name is Rosalina Aipopo and I have worked at PSD for 18+ years. I have worked and have known Max Otani for 10+ years. We need a leader that will communicate what the vision and mission is, one that is approachable, that brings accountability, fairness, integrity and most importantly that empowers our employees. Director Otani is that person and I proudly follow him. He is a leader that is humble and wants to do what is right and just for our staff, inmates and the community.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide a written testimony. I strongly encourage your Committee to confirm the appointment of Mr. Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

SUBJECT: GM 507  
Max Otani, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of the Department of Public Safety  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair English and Members of the Committee,

This letter is in **strong support** of Mr. Max Otani's nomination as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I have known Mr. Otani for over 45 years, both on a professional level while he was previously with the Department of Public Safety and I was previously with the Department of Budget and Finance, and on a personal level. His prior employment with the Department of Public Safety in progressing positions with increased scopes and responsibilities have provided him with the necessary skill set and understanding of the Department. Mr. Otani's long, dedicated and successful career focusing primarily in the area of public safety makes him uniquely qualified for this position.

I strongly believe that Mr. Otani has the unique experience and qualities to effectively lead and be the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of Mr. Max Otani and for your consideration.

Scott Kami

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:46:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melanie Boehm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Max Otani's confirmation to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety and look forward to continued work with him especially toward rehabilitative efforts for our mutual clients involved in the justice system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief note of support.



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:29:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria C. Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507

Consideration and Confirmation of MAX OTANI

Director of the Department of Public Safety

Testimony of Maria C. Cook

January 31, 2021

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair

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

I strongly support the nomination of Max Otani as Director of the Department of Public Safety ("Department") and urge your favorable consideration. My name is Maria Cook and I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity. I work with Director Otani in my professional capacity as the Department's Deputy Director for Administration. Director Otani is an exceptional choice for the Director position. He has the mental fortitude, leadership skills, and positive attitude to lead a challenging department.

Director Otani is a thoughtful leader who is guided by principles of fairness. He makes decisions fair to all. He has helped strengthen trust and confidence in the Department

by his unique ability to engage with everyone and by being transparent with his actions and decisions.

Director Otani has the experience and skills to lead the Department through the COVID-19 pandemic. The enormous scale of the crisis and the impact it is having in the State's correctional facilities require a leader with a significant knowledge of the structure and operations of the Department. Director Otani has worked in a variety of positions with the Department for more than three decades, including Deputy Director for Corrections, Intake Service Center Division Administrator, and Oahu Intake Service Center Manager. In the few months that Director Otani has assumed the Director position, he has proven to be an effective leader. He is successfully addressing the outbreaks in the various correctional facilities by prioritizing prevention, testing, treatment, and vaccination. Director Otani has also tackled numerous public safety issues and has addressed concerns raised by employees, unions, and community advocates.

Finally, Director Otani's recent experience as a board member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) and other positions he held at HPA make him the right choice to ensure the Department's Re-entry programs are successful in reducing recidivism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:33:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ramona Aipopo-Fuifui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Ramona Aipopo-Fuifui, I have been with Department of Public Safety for 17 years. I am in support of Director Otanis' confirmation. He has proven to be an exceptional leader in the management positions he has held in the past. He is humble, fair, hardworking and loyal. The past turmoil and chaos that PSD has undergone. It is with the upmost confidence that Director Otani will lead our department in a direction that we as employees will be proud of.

Therefore, I strongly urge others to support Director Otani. Thank you for the opportunity in providing a written testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 10:29:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Virginia Kemmerlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and members of the committee:

I, without hesitation submit my testimony in full support of the confirmation of Mr. Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

I've been employed with PSD since May 1996 in the Personnel Management Office. In all my years, I've worked with many Administrators and Managers in providing advisement and assistance in all areas of Personnel. Max Otani is undoubtedly one of the most hardworking and morally sound Administrators I have had the pleasure to work with. Max Otani possesses an admirable strength of character due to his high ethical standards and integrity. Max Otani's loyalty and commitment to servitude of the Department of Public Safety and the people of the State of Hawai`i is incomparable.

Thank you Governor Ige for nominating Max Otani, a truly honorable and well deserving person as our Director.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:33:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fituina F. Tua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Mr. Max Otani for many years in his various professional positions with Public Safety. Most recent work experience was working with Max as a Board Member of the Hawaii Parolying Authority. The best way I can describe Max's talent for this position as Director of Public Safety is simply this, " The State of Hawaii Prison System and the community NEEDS Max Otani. Max Otani does not need the Hawaii Prison System." Max could have stayed retired or could have stayed a part time Board Member of the Hawaii Parolying Authority. But, when Acting Director Fred Hyun and Governor Ige called, Max like a true warrior stepped-up to the plate and took on Covid-19 and all the challenges that comes with the job. Max is well qualified for this job. Max understands people. He listens. He solves problems. He is transparent. He is honest. I feel the prison system has a great leader knowing Max Otani is the Director. Thank you.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 8:33:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendel Yoda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Wendel Yoda, I work for the Department of Public Safety. I'm writing this testimony in support of Mr. Max Otani as being confirmed for the position of the Director of Public Safety. Although I have never worked under Mr. Otani, I did have the opportunity to converse with him during his supervisory position at the Hawaii Paroling Authority and the Administrator of the Intake Service Center. During those encounters, I would have conversations about issues that arise and he was always willing to assist with providing advice or possible solutions to resolving those issues. Mr. Otani has proven his ability to guide those that were not under his supervision which displayed qualities of a true leader. I know that Mr. Otani will do this job to the best of his ability. In the event, that there are tough decisions to be made, I believe he will bring his people together to figure out the best decision for the department. This is a very difficult task, but I think Mr. Otani has the support from many public safety workers. Mr. Otani has many years of experience at the Department of Public Safety and I look forward to working with him to unite this department.

February 1, 2021

Clarence K. Nishihara  
Chair Public Safety Committee  
Senate District 17  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OTANI, Max  
Support for confirmation  
**GM 507 - 2/2/2021, 1:00 pm**

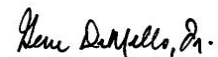
Senator Nishihara:

I support the confirmation of Max Otani as Director for the Department of Public Safety. I have known Max professionally for about 30 years through my work in community corrections.

Max is an experienced and competent leader. Max has the knowledge base and leadership to meet the needs and challenges of the department. Max has unquestionable integrity. He is an absolute professional.

I wholeheartedly support this confirmation without any hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,



Gene DeMello, Jr.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 11:54:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clayton Frank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:**

**I'm in strong support for Gubernatorial Nominee, Max Otani to Director of the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Otani brings a wealth of experience and knowledge.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony**



TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507  
Consideration and Confirmation of Max Otani  
As the Director of the Department of Public Safety  
By  
Cheryl E. Inouye, Senior Advisor to the Prosecutor  
City and County of Honolulu

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

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

I am providing testimony in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Max Otani for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

I have known Mr. Otani since 1985, working together while each in our various capacities in the criminal justice system, the last of which was as members of the Hawaii parole board. His extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system through work experiences in the Judiciary, the Department of Public Safety, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority allows him to move fluidly and effectively between systems. He is of solid character and judgment with strong leadership and collaborative competencies.

Mr. Otani's dedication to public service is best demonstrated by his commitment to improving the criminal justice system to enhance the lives of others. Most notably, he spent over 15 years learning about evidence-based principles to reduce recidivism, and became a leader in training probation, prison, and parole staff in using effective strategies to effect behavioral change. He brought this knowledge to the Hawaii Paroling Authority as a board member, which was consequential in making sound decisions relating to the setting of inmates' minimum terms and parole releases.

Mr. Otani's leadership and skills, together with a balanced approach of public safety and rehabilitation, will be necessary for prison reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this highly qualified nominee.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:25:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia MQ Aguilar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Max N. Otani. The Department of Public Safety will benefit from his leadership.

**LATE**

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 5:22:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Max Otani as Director Of The Department Of Public Safety.

**LATE**

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:06:11 PM  
Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KEAWE	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*Happy New Year and Aloha PSD Chair Senator Nishihara, Vice Chair Senator English and Senate Committee; Senator Baker, Senator Fevella, Senator Riviere*

*First, I hope that this email finds you in good health with a fresh strong start into 2021.*

*Mahalo to Governor David Ige for his appointment of Mr. Max Otani as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Staff members are excited to serve with Mr. Otani as he shares his wealth of knowledge and leadership skill to take us to the next level.*

*We, as PSD and attachment HPA staff members, kindly ask for your support to confirm Mr. Max Otani as the new Director of the Department of Public Safety.*

*Mr. Otani was instrumental in the project and relocation of the Administrators from AFFES Building 919 Ala Moana Blvd into the Business District Keoni, Ana Building 1177 Alakea Street "Downtown Honolulu" a large project. Mr. Otani also lead us forward by exemplifying PSD's mission statement in continuing to "uphold justice and public safety by providing correction and law enforcement services to Hawaii's communities with professionalism, integrity and fairness.*

*I/We, deliver this message as the Staff Member and Union Stewards, and on behalf of staff members who we spoken with we all support the confirmation of Mr. Otani as the new Director of the Department of Public Safety.*

*Mahalo*

**LATE**

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 3:51:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:19:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Monica Lortz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madam,

As a public employee for 30 years in the correctional field, I can say from experience, that it is not a job for everyone. It takes a special kind of dedication and one which I feel candidate Max Otani has. I am of the opinion that by confirming Mr. Max Otani, as Director for the Department of Public Safety, the State will gain a leader, whose knowledge of both corrections and parole, will help him forge a path to bring the department into the 21st century, working together with those below him as well as those outside the agency.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Monica Lortz