

TESTIMONY ON Governor's Message 607

RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE GENE DeMELLO, JR

By: Gene DeMello, Jr

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

February 9, 2021: 1:00pm

Hawaii State Capitol

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

I am honored to appear before you and be considered for Board Member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I would like to thank Governor Ige for his trust and confidence in making this nomination.

I have spent over 30 years in community corrections. My entire career has been dedicated to transitioning incarcerated individuals as they return to life our community. I worked at a local halfway house and served as a parole officer with the Hawaii Paroling Authority. The majority of my career was with the U.S. Probation Office as a probation officer, supervisor, and assistant deputy chief. I retired from U.S. Probation on June 30, 2020 after 28 years of service. I have not found a better way to come out of retirement than to continue my community corrections work with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I believe in the mission of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have the knowledge base and skill set to make critical decisions to grant parole and set minimum imprisonment terms. I am prepared to engage in the challenge to preserve public safety and facilitate opportunities for parolees to improve their lives as they return to our community.

To that end, I have a working knowledge of the principles and strategies of Evidence Based Practices (EBP) that research proves are effective to reduce recidivism. In my experience, the best supervision outcomes are achieved when an offender's risk and needs, and their criminogenic factors (such as Alcohol/Drugs; Education/Employment; Antisocial peers) are addressed and no longer a barrier to a successful reintegration.

I bring to the Hawaii Paroling Authority a retrospective and prospective knowledge base of effective and ineffective supervision strategies. Early in my career I worked in a traditional supervision model of enforcement and compliance without Evidence Based Practices.

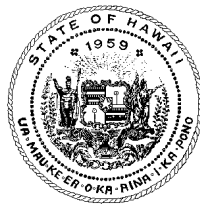
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GM607
February 8, 2021

As I have learned, supervision outcomes from a traditional model are less favorable than outcomes produced when using Evidence Based Practices. For nearly the last third of my 28-year career, I assisted in operationalizing an Evidence Based Practices model. The transition was an epic undertaking that brought significant change to the philosophy and culture of the U.S. Probation Office.

One of my goals as a Board Member is to foster the use of Evidence Based Practices to enhance the continuity of release preparation and reentry services. I pledge to use my knowledge base and experience in my decision making. I am committed to making significant contributions to protect the community and facilitate opportunities for sustained change.

I look forward to working collaboratively with the Paroling Authority Chair and Board Members, and Department of Public Safety to meet the needs and challenges of the department. I will serve with integrity, loyalty, and dedication to the mission. I have no personal conflicts of interests that would hinder serving as a Board Member. Thank you for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 607
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE GENE DEMELLO JR.

By:
Max N. Otani, Director

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

February 9, 2021: 1:00pm
Via Videoconference

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

The Department of Public Safety strongly supports Gene DeMello Jr., to be a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). Given Mr. DeMello's educational accomplishments, experience working in the criminal justice field, and commitment to service, I believe he would be an excellent choice to serve on the parole board. I previously worked with Mr. DeMello at the HPA years ago. Although he was relatively new to working with the parole population, Mr. DeMello showed great insight in balancing public safety and offender rehabilitation. His years of employment with the United States Probation Office have provided him with a wealth of knowledge in criminal behavior, reentry, and supervision of offenders, making him an ideal candidate for the HPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. DeMello to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

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' MESSAGE 607
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE GENE DEMELLO Jr.**

**By Edmund "Fred" Hyun, HPA Chair
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as
Hawaii Paroling Authority Board Member**

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

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, Senators Baker, Fevella and Riviere:

**The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) thanks you for the opportunity to testify in
STRONG SUPPORT of Governor Ige's nomination of Gene Demello Jr. to be a sitting
member of the HPA.**

**Mr. Demello's personal and professional experience makes him highly qualified and
capable to review, hear and decide on cases appearing before the Board. Having
worked in half-way transition settings, supervision of convicted felons on the state and
federal levels, provides Mr. Demello with a sound foundation with a level of expertise
and insights that will make him a valuable asset to the Authority. HPA board members
need to be versed in all aspects of the justice system, community resources but more
importantly be impartial and fair when rendering decisions in the interests of the inmate,
victims, and the community at large.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 5, 2021

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

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.
Support for confirmation
GM 607

Chair Nishihara:

I have known Gene DeMello Jr. for more than 20 years as a coworker at the U.S. Probation Office. I was also fortunate to have him as my supervisor after he was promoted to Supervising U.S. Probation Officer. He retired from the U.S. Probation Office in June 2020.

Gene has a vast knowledge in the field of corrections as a Probation Officer and a former State Parole Officer. From first hand observations, he exhibited all of the necessary skills and attributes to carry out the duties of a probation officer. In this regard, we "protect the community" as well as assist offenders in their successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. He demonstrated flexibility, drive, and commitment in his work. He skillfully implemented strategies to address risk/need and utilized principles of evidence based practices such as assessing risk and needs, enhancing intrinsic motivation, targeted interventions and cognitive and behavioral treatment.

He was hard working, meticulous, organized, and extremely competent and had an excellent rapport with offenders and the Court family. He was well-liked and well-respected by his peers, other law enforcement agencies, and the Court family. He always displayed a high degree of integrity and responsibility and developed an outstanding reputation. He adhered to the highest ethical standards that were expected of a U.S. Probation Officer. Additionally, throughout his career at the U.S. Probation Office, he contributed many innovative ideas which the office adopted.

He has excellent communication skills and interacted effectively and efficiently with all team members and across cultures. He is an extremely strong communicator and is also a great listener. He worked well with everyone, recognizing and respecting differences of opinions. He clearly upheld respect for rules, boundaries and differences.

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Support confirmation
GM 607

Gene was a consummate "team player" who earned the respect of his colleagues and the Court family. What is most impressive about Gene is his abundance of knowledge. He was the "wikipedia" for the office when it came to policy, procedures and "case law."

Gene has a great sense of humor and a wonderful positive attitude. As a friend, I trust him wholeheartedly to give me his honest opinion when needed.

Gene's experience, knowledge, competence and disposition will be a wonderful addition to the Parole Board. I have every confidence that Gene will be a valuable, contributing member. I unequivocally support his nomination.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merilee N. Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Merilee N. Lau

February 6, 2021

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

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.
Support for confirmation
GM 607

Chair Nishihara:

I have had the pleasure of working with Gene DeMello Jr. for more than 20 years at the United States Probation Office. As a colleague, I have had the opportunity to observe his exemplary interpersonal style and keen sense of justice. In addition, he was extremely organized, reliable and computer literate. Gene's ability to articulate information and ideas in both verbal and written forms enabled the courts to have a complete understanding of the cases presented.

Entrusted in a leadership role, Gene was a key player and vital member of the office. His passion, commitment, and attention to detail raised the bar for others to follow. His approachable demeanor made it comfortable for his co-workers.

I have the deepest personal and professional respect for Gene, sincerely believe that he will be a tremendous asset and I fully support his nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority without any reservation. If you have any further questions with regards to his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stace Kubota
Systems Manager (retired)
United States Probation Office
808.343.2540

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 8:06:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Menor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nishihara:

I consider it an honor to express my support for Gene Demello Jr.'s confirmation as a board member with the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have known and been close friends with Gene for over 40 years since we first met in high school. I have always known him to be an upstanding citizen with sound judgement. I have followed his career in case management, supervision and law enforcement and found him to be a dedicated employee with high morals and an outstanding work ethic. I have always admired Gene's decision making process due to his analytic approach and thorough investigation. He is the type of person that you seek out and depend on for advice because the result will be an effective plan of action. I could go on and on about Gene, but i think it would suffice to say that i am extremely proud of his accomplishments and subsequent appointment. Once again,, I support the addition of an outstanding board member (and great man) to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 10:29:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Yoshihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair Public Safety Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214

415 South Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI. 96813

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.

Support for Confirmation

GM 607

Chair Nishihara:

I am writing this letter in support of confirmation for Gene DeMello, Jr. as a board member for the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have known Gene for over 25 years as a colleague and friend. We initially met when we worked as U.S Probation Officers for the U.S. Probation Office, District of Hawaii. In that capacity, I had an opportunity to supervise Gene and subsequently worked with him after he was promoted to the position of Supervising U.S. Probation Officer.

Having known Gene for over 25 years, I am confident that he has the necessary work experience, character and commitment to public safety to make an excellent parole board member. Gene is dedicated to the rehabilitation of offenders and, as a U.S. Probation Officer, demonstrated the ability to assess risks while balancing the rehabilitation needs of offenders with public safety. Gene exemplifies professionalism and integrity to the highest degree. He has excellent communication skills and

possesses the ability to analyze and process complex information. Further, he is an expert regarding rehabilitation programs in the community and has worked effectively with local, state and federal criminal justice systems. In short, Gene is a conscientious, reliable person who has dedicated his life to the successful rehabilitation of individuals back into the community.

For these reasons, I am confident that Gene will serve the State of Hawaii with distinction and recommend him for appointment to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Yoshihara

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 3:16:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracey Uyehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2021

Dear Chair Nishihara,

My name is Tracey Uyehara. I have known Gene Demello for the past 20 years. I believe that I can truly and effectively vouch for his dedication, hard work, loyalty, and his integrity. I also believe that with Gene Demello's combined physical and mental capability that he will make an excellent Parole Board Authority. Gene Demello will most certainly be a great service to our state.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to be a part of this process.

Sincerely,

Tracey Uyehara

February 5, 2021

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

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.
Support for Confirmation
GM 607

Dear Chair Nishihara,

I am writing to you in strong support of the confirmation of Gene DeMello, Jr., for the position of Board Member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). I have known Gene since 1997 when I was hired as a probation officer by the U.S. Probation Office (USPO) for the District of Hawaii.

During my tenure with the USPO, I watched his career as he received well-deserved promotions to Special Offender Specialist, then to Supervising U.S. Probation Officer, and to Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer. At the time of my retirement, Gene had the privilege of being assigned to a national working group tasked with fine-tuning and automating the risk assessment tool still used by the Federal Probation System today. Each of these promotions and added responsibilities represented the skill, knowledge, and sound judgement that Gene possesses.

At times during my career, Gene was my direct supervisor. I found him to be an excellent source of advice on dealing with all manner of client, from the street level drug dealer to white collar thieves to violent offenders. His experience as an officer allowed him to accurately analyze case facts and provide sound assessments of offender risks and needs. Thereafter, he advised me on effective means of assisting the offender while also providing for community safety. I also worked closely with Gene on several surveillance and search operations. His even temperament coupled with his ability to think quickly and strategically, routinely resulted in successful outcomes.

Gene's retirement was a great loss to the USPO; however, it presents the State of Hawaii with an opportunity to acquire an HPA board member who possesses the temperament, sound judgement, and experience who will add to the Board's ability to dispense justice by both assisting offenders and protecting the community.

Sincerely,



Neil W. Tsukayama

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 4:57:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kandy Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Kandy Key, would like to submit testimony in strong favor of the confirmation of Gene DeMello, Jr. to the Hawaii Paroling Authority by Gubernatorial Nomination. I have worked with and known Gene DeMello for 18+ years in my professional capacities as Miller Hale Director, Mahoney Hale Director and T J Mahoney & Associates, Inc. (TJMA), Director of Operations. T J Mahoney & Associates maintained the only federal Residential Reentry Center in Hawaii under contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons from 1992-2019.

Over these many years, I had the pleasure of working with Mr. DeMello via his multiple positions of graduating responsibility in the US Probation Office, US Court, District of Hawaii. During this time, I have known Mr. DeMello to be both highly competent and professional in each of these positions. I would characterize Mr. DeMello's interactions with residents housed at TJMA programs in Hawaii to be professional, ethical, fair and unbiased. During my observations of Mr. DeMello in his roles at US Probation, he has always exhibited a healthy balance between providing offenders under his supervision with the tools and opportunities to succeed while at the same time remaining cognizant of any potential risks they might present to the community. This ability, and the benefits derived from maintaining this kind of balance, cannot be underestimated in the criminal justice system. Mr. DeMello's lengthy experience in the Hawaii US Probation Office required him to observe and analyze offender behavior and compliance, and then based on that knowledge make custody recommendations to the US Court. It is my belief that this experience makes him an ideal candidate for the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Based on Mr. DeMello's broad offender supervision experience and my many observations of his work in the Hawaii US Probation Office, I can without hesitation strongly recommend his confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for your time,

Kandy Key

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:19:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to offer my recommendation for Gene DeMello Jr. to be confirmed for the Hawaii Paroling Authority Gubernatorial Nominee position.

I have known Gene for over 22 years. In this time, he has always worked tirelessly to be an excellent leader at work, a positive role model in the community, and a loving father and husband at home.

As evidenced by his many years in leadership in his position at the US Probation Office, Gene has a demonstrated track record of working hard. He takes his responsibilities very seriously, he is very thoughtful about his decisions, and he always acts in a judicious and fair manner.

I sincerely believe Gene is ideally suited for the Hawaii Paroling Authority position. Please consider him your top candidate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chad Adams

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:05:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellie N. H. Asasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair Public Safety Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.

Support for confirmation

GM 607

Chair Nishihara:

This letter is submitted in support of the confirmation of Mr. Gene DeMello, Jr. to the Hawaii Paroling Authority Board (Parole Board). I am Ellie Asasaki, retired United States (U.S.) Probation Officer, Sentencing and Guideline Specialist, with the U. S. Probation Office for the District of Hawaii. Mr. DeMello and I have been professional colleagues for 30+ years, first, through our work with private residential pre-release programs for state and federal male and female inmates and, later, through our appointment to the U.S. Probation Office. Hence, I am honored and qualified to speak to Mr. DeMello's exemplary character and qualifications, for purposes of this confirmation hearing.

Mr. DeMello was always a trusted colleague of unquestionable integrity and unfaltering work ethics. His vast field and supervisory experience working with pre- and post-release offenders contributed to his adeptness at assessing individual needs and

risks, developing and implementing realistic release plans and programs, and all the while weighing the interest of public safety. In his capacity as a Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer, Mr DeMello was recognized for his astute decision-making and was a trusted go-to person for offender case and policy consult. Further, Mr. DeMello's competency in working successfully with offenders of varying risks, the Court and communities was drawn from his experience with and knowledge of evidence-based practices. Assuredly, Mr. DeMello will serve as an asset to the Parole Board, the offenders who come before him, and the community.

Thus, I humbly ask for your consideration in confirming gubernatorial nominee Gene DeMello, Jr. as a member of the Parole Board. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Ellie Asasaki

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:43:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothea Tsipopoulos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am supporting the appointment of Gene Demello Jr. to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Gene has been working in the corrections system in Hawaii for about 30 years. He has worked directly with defendants and has also supervised federal probation officers. He is well versed in sentencing considerations as well as rehabilitation possibilities. Gene exercises excellent assessment skills and judgement regarding best outcomes for the defendants and the safety of the community. I recommend him to the Hawaii Paroling Authority without reservation. Thank you.

LATE

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 1:36:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andre Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair Public Safety Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214

415 South Beretania St

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Gene DeMello, Jr.

Support for confirmation

GM 607

Chair Nishihara:

I am writing this letter for the support of Gene DeMello, Jr. I have known Gene for over 40 years. This time spanned from our days as students from St. Louis High School thru the University of Portland. From this long experience of knowing Gene, I can assure you that Gene is of the highest character, dedication, honesty and fair minded type individual we of the state of Hawaii would want in promoting justice and fairness while at the same time protecting our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andre Wong