

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.
CLAYTON H. W. HEE
MILTON H. KOTSUBO
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI
MEMBERS

KEVIN S. REGO
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

No. _____

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 565

by
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chair
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

As Chairman, and on behalf of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), I am in Strong Support of Governor Ige's nomination for Milton Kotsubo to continue serving as a sitting board member. Milton has served the HPA well this past year and quickly learned the complexities in decision making regarding the various types of hearings. Milton is straightforward, honest, and the consummate professional in dealing with inmates and staff. His background in social work, pre-trial and corrections provides him with deep insights into criminal thinking and behavior that enhances his ability to raise sound arguments in board decision making.

As a former warden at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), he has a deep understanding of the female population, the challenges, and programming needs. I should also mention that Milton was a sitting member on the Inter-Agency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) that addressed recidivism and future victimization by adult offenders.

In closing, Milton's professionalism, ethical demeanor, and character make him a true asset and valued choice to sit on the HPA Board.

Thank you for opportunity to present testimony before the Committee.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 565,
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
PAROLING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MILTON KOTSUBO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026.

By: Max Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 12, 2022: 1:00pm
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

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

The Department of Public Safety strongly supports GM 565, nominating Milton Kotsubo for reappointment to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), for a term to expire June 30, 2026. Mr. Kotsubo earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has over 40 years of experience working with the Hawaii offender population. While employed with PSD, he held various positions, ranging from direct case management with prisoners to division administrator. He has been on the parole board since 2021.

Knowing Mr. Kotsubo personally for over 20 years and recognizing his integrity and experience working with the offender population, I believe he will continue serving the parole board with integrity and excellence.

I ask for your support to report GM 565 from the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs for the Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Mr. Kotsubo to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator Nishihara and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military affairs:

I come before you to seek your support in my reappointment to the Hawaii Parole Board. I am a current sitting member of the Board having been appointed in April of 2021 to fill the remainder of a term of a previous board member. I now seek appointment to a full term.

As you can see by my resume, I have 32 years of experience working in the Department of Public Safety. I have worked in a variety of roles both in pretrial with the Intake Service Center and in various correctional institutions. I was a case manager and also a Unit Manager in Halawa Correctional Facility. I have also served as a contract monitor for the mainland branch enforcing the contract with then Corrections Corporation of America, now CoreCivic, to house Hawaii inmates in Arizona. In the later part of my career, I gained administrative experience as the substance abuse program manager, the warden at the Women's Correctional Facility and the intake Service Center's División administrator. This array of experiences gives me a unique perspective on the decisions to be made by the Parole Board.

I am fully aware of the board range of criminal attitudes and values that inmates have that driver their behavior. I also have insight into what inmates experience in prison and the processes treatment programs use to change those attitudes. This knowledge helps me to make the decisions that board is responsible for on a daily basis.

Although I have retired from the Department, I would like to continue to utilize my knowledge and skills to serve my community. Thank you for your consideration of my application.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 565

by
Kevin S. Rego, Acting Administrator
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn Decoite, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

As the Acting Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), I am providing testimony in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Milton Kotsubo to serve as a board member with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Mr. Kotsubo brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from his employment with the Department of Public Safety as a former Case Manager, Unit Manager, Intake Service Center Administrator, and Warden at the Women's Community Correctional Center. The HPA will continue to benefit tremendously from his past experiences. Since his appointment as a board member from April 2021 to present, Mr. Kotsubo has participated in various hearings conducted by the parole board resulting in sound decisions. He has truly shown to be an asset to this agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 565 for the confirmation of Mr. Kotsubo as a board member with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

GM-565

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 8:28:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene DeMello Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Nishihara; Vice Chair DeCoite; Members: Baker; Riviere; Fevella

My name is Gene DeMello Jr, Board Member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I strongly support the nomination and confirmation of Milton Kotsubo. I have worked with Milton in the last year. Milton has the temperament, professional demeanor, and expertise to perform the board's quasi-judicial functions. Milton is even keeled in his decision making. Milton makes relevant recommendations and sound decisions that appropriately balance punitive and rehabilitation considerations. Milton's high-level knowledge base of correctional programs and institutional processes has served the board well.