

GM542: Brian Alston Questionnaire

Statement of Interest for Appointment to the Commission on Fatherhood for the State of Hawaii - Brian Alston

Introduction

My name is Brian Alston, and it is with a profound sense of responsibility and enthusiasm that I present my candidacy for the Commission on Fatherhood for the State of Hawaii.

My journey, both personal and professional, has been deeply intertwined with the nurturing and support of family values, fatherhood, and community welfare. This statement aims to articulate my motivations, perceptions of the role, qualifications, aspirations, and my alignment with the Commission's mission to promote healthy family relationships in Hawaii.

1. Motivation for Membership

My desire to join the Commission on Fatherhood stems from a deeply rooted belief in the transformative power of engaged and responsible fatherhood. Recently I undertook an analysis of the critical role of Fatherhood Commissions in the United States after reading Dr. Richard Reeves' book "Of Boys and Men" where he emphasizes the need for a collective societal response to the challenges facing boys and men. It seems to me that Commissions on Fatherhood are needed now more than ever, and the nature of this work resonates with my personal and professional experiences. As someone who has dedicated a significant portion of my life to addressing these challenges, I see membership in the Commission as an opportunity to contribute to a broader platform that aligns with my values and the needs of our community.

2. Understanding of Role and Responsibilities

I perceive the role of a Commission member as multifaceted, involving advocacy, policy recommendation, program development, and community engagement. The Commission serves as a critical advisory body, influencing decisions that affect children and families across Hawaii.

It is about fostering environments where fathers are empowered and equipped to contribute positively to the emotional, educational, and social well-being of their children. This role entails a commitment to understanding the diverse needs of families, advocating for inclusive policies, and promoting initiatives that support father involvement in family and community life.

3. Qualifications for the Position

My qualifications for this role are grounded in a comprehensive background in psychology, ethics, conflict resolution, and leadership development, coupled with hands-on experience in fostering positive male engagement and fatherhood through initiatives like the Kauai Fatherhood Council and the annual Kauai Men's Conference. My expertise in addressing issues related to mental and physical health, education, and the social challenges facing men and boys equips me with a unique perspective and skill set for the Commission. My history of successful collaboration with diverse groups and my ability to bridge cultural, generational, and societal gaps align with the Commission's goals of inclusive and effective fatherhood promotion.

4. Aspirations for Term of Service

During my term of service, I aim to leverage my experiences and insights to foster initiatives that address the critical areas identified by Dr. Reeves, including education, fatherhood, family relationships, career development, and health and wellness. I aspire to contribute to creating a supportive ecosystem that encourages fathers to actively engage in their children's lives, thereby promoting healthier families and communities. By fostering collaboration between various stakeholders, I hope to contribute to a holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges facing fathers and families in Hawaii.

5. Personal Qualities

Three qualities that epitomize my approach are empathy, leadership, and innovation. Empathy enables me to understand and relate to the diverse experiences of fathers and families. My leadership is characterized by inclusivity, vision, and the ability to inspire others towards common goals. Innovation drives me to seek and apply creative solutions to complex problems.

Together, these qualities would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the Commission's work, fostering environments where fathers can thrive as positive influences in their families and communities.

6. Standout Experience

My leadership in transitioning the Kauai Men's Conference to a millennial cohort stands out as a testament to my commitment to empowering the next generation of fathers and leaders. This experience underscores my ability to mentor, adapt, and ensure the sustainability of initiatives that support fatherhood and male engagement, aligning closely with the Commission's objectives.

7. Addressing Conflicts of Interest

I am committed to transparency and integrity in all my professional roles. Should any conflicts of interest arise, I would proactively disclose them and recuse myself from related discussions or decisions. My primary commitment is to the welfare of Hawaii's families and communities, guided by the principles of fairness and ethical conduct.

Conclusion

In closing, I am deeply committed to the mission of the Commission on Fatherhood and believe that my background, skills, and personal attributes align well with its objectives. I am eager to contribute to the Commission's work, promoting engaged fatherhood as a cornerstone of healthy and resilient communities in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,

Brian Alston