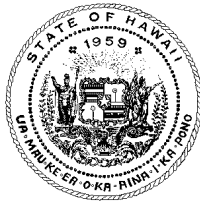


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
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Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 539
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF CLIFTON CHOY TO THE CRIME VICTIM
COMPENSATION COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2027.

By

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

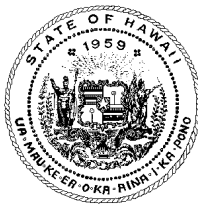
I write in support of Mr. Clifton Choy's nomination and confirmation to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC) for a term to expire on June 30, 2027.

Mr. Choy has served in several governmental and private sector positions, including 28 years with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in Oahu and several positions within the Judiciary. He has also served in supervisory and managerial positions in the Judiciary, the Department of Social Services, and the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney on Oahu during the past 40-plus years.

As a longtime victim advocate Mr. Choy's knowledge and experience would make him a welcome addition to the commission. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend the Senate advise and consent to this highly qualified and committed nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 539 and the confirmation of Mr. Clifton Choy.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARI McCAIG BELLINGER
Chair

CLIFTON Y.S. CHOY
Commissioner

JO KAMAE BYRNE
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII – KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

Ke Komikina Uku Luaahi Kalaima

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: 808 587-1143
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TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 539

Consideration and Confirmation of Clifton Choy
to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2024; 3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission ("Commission") with the opportunity to testify before you today. The Commission strongly supports the appointment of Clifton Choy to serve as a Commissioner, for a term to expire on June 30, 2027.

Mr. Choy has served as a Commission since July 1, 2019, and has twenty-eight (28) years of experience working with victims and their families as a Victim Witness Advocate and Supervisor at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu.

The Commission is a quasi-judicial body that assists victims of violent crime by providing compensation for crime-related expenses. The Commission also administers a Restitution Recovery Project, under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, to collect restitution from inmates and parolees and to disburse the collected funds to crime victims.

Commissioners hear appeals from administrative decisions ordering or denying compensation and set policy for the determination of claims submitted to the Commission. Special areas of concern in the past have been the treatment of sexual assault and domestic violence victims and enhancing the delivery of compensation services to underserved victim populations. An ongoing concern for the Commissioners is the sustainable fiscal self-sufficiency of the Commission. The Commission's core

mission is funded through special funds and federal matching Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds.

Commissioners must be knowledgeable about the impact of violent crime on individuals and be sensitive and compassionate in dealing with these individuals. Mr. Choy started as a Victim Witness Advocate and worked his way up to become a Victim Advocate Supervisor in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. As a Victim Witness Advocate and Victim Advocate Supervisor, Mr. Choy assisted victims and guided them as their cases moved through the criminal justice system. Mr. Choy worked with victims in very branch of Victim Witness Kokua Services from misdemeanors to felony cases. Having worked with victims and their families through various type of cases, Mr. Choy is very much aware of the impact of violent crime on victims and would be able to ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect as a Commissioner.

Mr. Choy's background and experience will be invaluable to the Commission's efforts to provide equitable and efficient services to Hawai'i's violent crime victims. The Commission looks forward to continuing to have Mr. Choy's guidance as a Commissioner.

The Commission strongly urges you to confirm Mr. Choy's appointment for a second term as a Commissioner to the Commission.

GM-539

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:48:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/28/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merry Mercy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM539

I support this bill.

Thank you to bring this matters to the public.

Report Title: Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission:

About crime and crime victims. I would like to present some issues that are facing our community today.

When it comes to crime, we must focus on methods to prevent criminals from committing crimes before they happen. We must work directly with crime prevention agencies to come up with effective ways to solve and prevent crimes. The most important thing is that the police agencies will give reports to crime prevention task forces, and then prosecutors must work directly with the courts to bring criminals to court and prosecute them with direct and quick handling.

We cannot continue to let criminals continue to harm innocent people. We must take them to court immediately after each case, and we must force the criminals to compensate all the victims right away.

Regarding compensation for victims, we must consider economic injury, physical injury, and mental injury. Victims need direct emotional and physical support from government workers to bring the case to court. So they can receive justice in a fair and timely manner.

We need to provide victims of crime with a victim supporter, to work directly with victims and bring victims to court, to assist victims with legal issues, and to ensure that all victims' rights will be protected and compensated appropriately.

In the current legal system, we have no human resources and no specific and clear agency to guide and help victims bring their cases to court. All the government agencies just refuse to do their duties and let all the victims suffer.

Even though we currently have government victims' assistance agencies and the Crime Victim Compensation Commission, But it seems that these agencies are not really supporting the victims and bringing cases to court, and often the victims end up at a disadvantage on their part. That's why I hope our government will establish a committee to support victims.

Here, we will have staff to work directly with victims and will submit the necessary documents to bring victims' rights to court. Only in this way can we ensure that all victims will receive fair and timely justice.

I am also a victim of criminals, domestic violence, etc., and no one in the government system stands up to protect my rights and take my cases to court. All the employees working in the government, including the police and prosecutors, seem to not be doing their jobs properly, and they have no one to follow up with the cases. And often they will dismiss the cases, which is reprehensible and irresponsible in their duties.

That's why I am submitting this testimony, hoping that we will consider and establish a crime prevention team to work directly with the police and prosecutors and bring criminals to court.

We also need inspection teams to re-inspect cases that have been dismissed to ensure that all victims' rights will be guaranteed.

We also need to establish special crime victim teams to work directly with victims, support victims, and present their cases to court to properly protect victims' rights and promptly.

Thanks for bringing this issue to the attention of the public.

Merry Mercy, President.

GM-539

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 3:50:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/28/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Takatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clif provides a level of expertise and knowledge that enhances the Commission's ability to serve victims of violent crime.