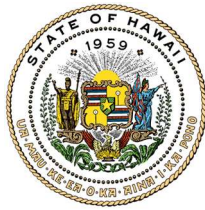


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUPĀPĀ
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 623
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF CARLA KOBASHIGAWA,
TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

by
Tommy Johnson, Director

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

Wednesday, March 5, 2025; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference

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

I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Carla Kobashigawa, to the Correctional Industries (CI) Advisory Committee. With Ms. Kobashigawa's educational background with a master's degree in criminal justice administration and bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy, she demonstrates an understanding of the justice system which is key for contributing to discussions and decision-making for Hawaii Correctional Industries vocational rehabilitation program.

Ms. Kobashigawa's experience at Applied Computer Training and Technology, Inc. (12/2017 – present), where she oversees the compliance of academic plans and industry certifications, positions her as an excellent candidate for the CI Advisory Committee. Her role in ensuring adherence to educational standards and certifications equips her with the expertise needed to support vocational training initiatives aimed at rehabilitation and workforce readiness for incarcerated individuals.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this qualified nominee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No. 623 and Ms. Kobashigawa.



Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club

Pō'akolu, Malaki 5, 2025



Testimony in Support of CARLA K. KOBASHIGAWA for consideration and confirmation to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee,

Hearing Date: March 05, 2025

LATE

Aloha e,

I write in strong support of the nomination of Carla Kobashigawa to serve on the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Ms. Kobashigawa's extensive experience in education, workforce development, and compliance combined with her passionate advocacy for Native Hawaiian communities uniquely positions her to help address the systemic challenges facing incarcerated individuals, particularly Native Hawaiian women, who are disproportionately affected by the criminal justice system.

As a Native Hawaiian woman and active leader in organizations such as Na Wahine 'O Kamehameha and the Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club, Ms. Kobashigawa is deeply invested in the future of our lāhui. She understands that restorative justice and vocational training are essential in breaking the cycle of incarceration and providing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to reintegrate into society with dignity and purpose.

"Ua lehulehu a manomano ka 'ikenā a ka Hawai'i."

"Great and numerous is the knowledge of the Hawaiians." ('Ōlelo No'eau 2814)

Ms. Kobashigawa's knowledge in workforce development, compliance, and education will bring immense value to the Hawai'i Correctional Industries (HCI) program, ensuring that incarcerated individuals are equipped with the necessary skills to reenter society as productive members. Her ability to build pathways to employment, secure partnerships with private businesses, and provide culturally responsive job training is precisely what is needed to reduce recidivism and uplift Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations.

The need for culturally relevant rehabilitation programs cannot be overstated. Native Hawaiian women make up 44% of the female incarcerated population in Hawai'i, despite only comprising 19.8% of the general female population. This is a profound injustice that must be addressed through intentional policies, workforce initiatives, and strong leadership, all of which Ms. Kobashigawa is well-equipped to advance.

Her prior work as Deputy Director in the Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs and her tenure at Catholic Charities Hawai'i showcase her deep commitment to public service, community engagement, and social justice. Additionally, her current role as School Official and Compliance

Officer at Applied Computer Training & Technology, Inc. has allowed her to assist underserved students, including veterans, in obtaining certifications and employment, a critical skill set that directly applies to HCI's mission of providing incarcerated individuals with economic opportunities.

"Aia ke ola i ka hana."

"Life is in labor." ('Ōlelo No'eau 57)

Rehabilitation, reintegration, and the opportunity to rebuild one's future all begin with access to meaningful work and education. Ms. Kobashigawa embodies this belief, ensuring that those who seek a second chance have the resources and guidance to succeed. With her dedication, expertise, and heart for the people of Hawai'i, she will be a tremendous asset to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to confirm her appointment.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josann Meyer Parker Jenks".

Josann Meyer Parker Jenks
President, Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM623, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CARLA K. KOBASHIGAWA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
MARCH 5, 2025**

Aloha Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Bronson K. Silva, and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Carla K. Kobashigawa to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Kobashigawa through her work with Na Wahine 'o Kamehameha, where she serves as Secretary on the Executive Board/Board of Directors. Na Wahine 'o Kamehameha honors the memory of King Kamehameha I and uplifts the people of Hawai'i by uniting women in benevolent work, protecting and preserving Hawaiian culture, values, and traditions, and advocating for the preservation and advancement of Hawaiian rights and benefits. Of notable praise, Mrs. Kobashigawa coordinates community events for the public and computer literacy workshops for members. Mrs. Kobashigawa has consistently demonstrated her dedication to her work with Na Wahine 'o Kamehameha and her passion for helping others. Her leadership, experience, and commitment to excellence make her an ideal candidate for the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

I strongly support and respectfully urge you to confirm Mrs. Carla K. Kobashigawa to serve on the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of Mrs. Kobashigawa and for your kind consideration of her appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Bronson K. Silva

GM-623

Submitted on: 3/3/2025 7:50:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nicole Anderson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am submiting this written testimony in strong support of GM 623, confirming Carla Kobashigawa to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. I had the privilege of working alongside Mrs. Kobashigawa on the Oahu Workforce Development Board, where I witnessed firsthand her dedication to workforce development, particularly in expanding opportunities for justice-involved individuals.

Mrs. Kobashigawa is deeply committed to reducing recidivism through meaningful employment and training opportunities. She understands the barriers justice-involved job seekers face and has consistently worked to bridge the gap between corrections, workforce development, and employers to ensure better outcomes for returning citizens. Her passion, expertise, and collaborative approach will be invaluable to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee as it seeks to enhance vocational programs that improve employment prospects for incarcerated individuals.

I am confident that Mrs. Kobashigawa's experience will make a significant impact on the Committee's work and the lives of those seeking to successfully reintegrate into society. I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm her appointment.

Mahalo nui loa for your time.

Respectfully,

Nicole Anderson

GM-623

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 2:31:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Arma Oana | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I, Arma R.Oana, would like to speak in support of applicant Carla Kobashigawa under GM623, for the Correctionsl Industries Advisory Board

I have known Carla over the last 6 years through community organization . She is very sure footed in her business dealings regarding compliance with standing rules and laws. She will advocate for her perspective and she supports her position with reliable data and current reference sources. Carla's contribution to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committe. I believe, she would be a benefit and be based on the laws and what is right (Pono). Carla's IT knowledge is such that she teachers safe and appropriate handling on online interaction and she is in tune with safety issues.

On a personal note, Carla has a purposeful intent to see others be successful. She's willing to guide and teach individuals to become productive contributors to their lives and to support our communities. I believe her greatest asset is her integrity, her honesty and her willingness to to advocate for others when they show their focus and potential. She's hard working but mainly she's honest and trustworthy. I hope your advisory board will give serious consideration in support of Carla Kobashigawa's application.

mahalo. Arma R. Oana

March 4, 2025

LATE

To: Senator Brandon Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
And Members
Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of Carla Kobashigawa for Confirmation to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee

I am writing in **support of GM623**.

I have known Carla for approximately twenty years. Over that time, she has developed a commitment to workforce development- whether it be as an educator or as a connector between organizations to facilitate access for employment and training opportunities for those with limited means of obtaining those opportunities.

During her time at Applied Computer Training & Technology, Inc. she not only directly taught courses but also worked with city and federal case managers to develop and implement training and credentialing plans for students.

In spring 2023, Carla joined the City & County of Honolulu's Oahu Workforce Development Board, which I'm currently the Interim Chair of. Over the last two years, Carla has been not only a valuable resource in presenting ideas in board discussions, but has also helped in keeping our service provider accountable to their performance measures and to the established processes and procedures for case management. While her focus is on contract performance, she has at times questioned proposed program budgets to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with federal, state, and city guidelines. Lastly, her attendance and discussion at a previous Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) Advisory Committee meeting yielded thoughtful input and discussion through her line of questioning and interest in providing opportunities for inmates.

I offer unequivocal support for Carla's appointment to HCI Advisory Committee and ask for your consideration in her appointment as well.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher Lum Lee
Christopher Lum Lee

LATE

GM-623

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 10:14:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/5/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kamana Seymour | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha e na Hoa,

I write to you, the members of this committee, to express my strong and comitted support for the nomination of Carla Kobashigawa to the Correctional Industires Advisory Committee (GM 623). Ms. Kobashigawa is known to me through our membership in one of our most estemed community and Native Hawaiian orgranizations (The Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawaii Ch. 1) and through this organization, I have seen their talents and tenacity at work. They serve the Na Wahine (Women's Axuiliary) as treasurer and has done so with efficency and strong fiscal acumen. Outside of this role, I know Ms. Kobashigawa as a family women and a small business owner. They directly operate an adult educaiton organization that provides needed skills for adults in-need to participate in society as working and contributing indifiduals. It is in this capacity that they can bring a valuable perspective to this position. They know first-hand from their work and their additional community service activites what can make a difference for those in the Correctional system to reintegrate into our society and economy. They will also bring the added skills and knowledge of working with those with learning disabilities to the overall work of this board.

Again, I strongly reccomend Carla Kobashigawa for confirmatino to the Correctional Industries Advisor Committee.

Mahalo,

Kamana Seymour

Honolulu, Hawaii, Senate District 13, House District 27 (3)