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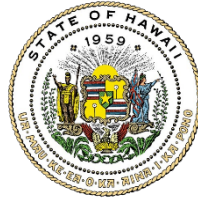
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April 10, 2025

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GM 738: Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Randall Hironaka to the Defender Council

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **strongly supports the confirmation of Randall Hironaka to the Defender Council.**

The Defender Council is the five-member body of Governor's appointees who serves as the "governing body of the office of the state public defender."¹ Members of the Defender Council are not compensated and participate as a service to the OPD and the community. The most important role of the Defender Council is the appointment of the Public Defender.² Currently there are only two active members on the Defender Council (Chair Crystal Glendon and Member Setsuko Gormley). In addition to appointing the Public Defender, the Defender Council is also involved in the management of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) and provides counsel and assistance to the employees of the OPD. Due to the lack of quorum, the Defender Council has been unable to hold a meeting since last year. Therefore, the appointment of new members is important to the functioning and management of the OPD.

Mr. Hironaka is highly qualified to serve as a member of the Defender Council. Mr. Hironaka is one of the most sought-after criminal defense attorneys in the state and federal courts for both trial and appellate matters. Most relevant to his Defender Council nomination, Mr. Hironaka was a Deputy Public Defender (DPD) with the O'ahu Branch of the OPD from 2001 to 2011. During this time Mr. Hironaka progressed through all sections of the office including a promotion to the position of DPD 4. DPD 4s handle the most serious felony offenses and promotion to DPD 4 is based on an evaluation of the attorney's knowledge, skill and experience, not simply seniority. It is important that the members of

¹ HRS § 802-9 (1993).

² HRS § 802-11 (1993).

the Defender Council understand the OPD and its mission but also the specific challenges that are faced by attorneys in the OPD. Mr. Hironaka will be able to lend his experience as a Defender Council member and DPD and his specific experience as a DPD in the O`ahu Branch in all sections to his role as a Defender Council member. Mr. Hironaka still maintains ties with many of the attorneys in the office and has served as a valuable resource person and mentor. The OPD strongly supports the confirmation of Randall Hironaka to the Defender Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

GM-738

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:18:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sat Freedman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Randall Hironaka's appointment to the Defender Council. I have known him since 1998, when we met in law school. Mr. Hironaka is a good person and a great attorney. Although he left the Office of the Public Defender over a decade ago, he still cares deeply about the office, and is always willing to help our attorneys, including by volunteering as an instructor at our annual training seminar. I believe that he will always act in the best interests of the public defenders. Because he worked at the office and maintains close ties with many current and former PDs, his understanding of our jobs and the challenges we face will make him a valuable addition to the Defender Council.

Thank you,

Sat Freedman

GM-738

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:42:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of Randall Hironaka to the Defender Council. I have known Mr. Hironaka for many years and his reputation in the legal community precedes him. His many years of experience in defense work along with the ability to analyze and problem solve makes him a good candidate for the Defender Council.

The Defender Council serves an important role in supporting and ensuring the Office of the Public Defender runs smoothly and efficiently. I believe first and foremost, the members of the Council must have a desire to see the Office succeed. Mr. Hironaka has shown that genuine desire through his volunteer work and mentorship of those in that office. He would be a great member of the Defender Council.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter in support.

Sincerely,

Doris Lum