



Hawai'i State Legislature  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Hearing: Wednesday 3:00 pm, February 19, 2025  
Conference Room: 225 & Via Videoconference

Subject: Testimony in Support of Linda Rich's Appointment to Hawai'i Parole Board

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

Mahalo for your public service and the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Linda Rich's nomination to the Hawai'i Parole Board.

With over 45 years dedicated to improving the justice system, we have had the privilege of working alongside Ms. Rich for more than three decades. She is an exceptionally qualified and highly respected social worker with extensive experience working with justice-involved individuals, their families, and the broader community.

Ms. Rich's career reflects an unwavering commitment to rehabilitation, trauma recovery, and substance use disorder treatment. Her professional expertise includes leadership roles at The Salvation Army Family Treatment Services, Kahi Mohala, and various mental health and correctional service programs. She has provided clinical supervision, program development, and accreditation oversight, ensuring high standards of care and effective treatment interventions. Additionally, she has served as an instructor at the University of Hawai'i School of Social Work, mentoring future social workers in the field.

Her deep understanding of criminal desistance and evidence-based rehabilitation practices make her an invaluable asset to the Hawai'i Parole Board. She has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to public service, earning accolades such as the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter, and the Outstanding Executive Director Award from Mental Health America of Hawai'i.

It is fortunate for our state and community that an individual of Ms. Rich's caliber is willing to serve in this critical role. Her professional insight, extensive experience, and compassionate approach to justice will undoubtedly contribute to fair and informed parole decisions that prioritize rehabilitation and community safety.

We strongly urge the confirmation of Ms. Rich's appointment and offer our highest recommendation. Mahalo again, and please feel free to contact me at [lorenn@hawaiifriends.or](mailto:lorenn@hawaiifriends.or) or 808 218 3712 if you have any questions regarding this testimony.

Aloha,

Loren Walker, JD, MPH  
Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice



**GM620 Linda Rich**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, Feb19, 2025: 3:00pm: Room 225 Videoconference

**Hina Mauka Supports GM620 Linda Rich for HPA:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.*

As the CEO of Hina Mauka and the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, I have had many experiences in working with Linda Rich when she was the Executive Director at The Salvation Army Women's Way. Linda is amazing at effective leadership, superb at bringing community together, most knowledgeable with offender processes, and very insightful into how to improve systems.

Linda Rich has decades of experience in non-profit leadership and after her retirement, Linda has been most active in advocacy for justice-involved reforms. She has reviewed national accreditation studies, developed programs for many varieties of social service programs, and has decades of experience working with justice-involved individuals. Ms. Rich understands the root causes of criminality as well as knows what approaches can be effective for transformation. Moreover, Linda has specialized in her skills with years of understanding and relating to families and how to foster family reunification processes. She will promote effective re-entry strategies that will most assuredly reduce recidivism.

Linda Rich continues to play an integral and innovative role for improving systems that would benefit all of Hawai'i. We enthusiastically support Linda Rich for HPA.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
*Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i*  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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INTERIM CHAIR

MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
JENNIFER M. MERKLE  
LINDA L. RICH  
LOUIS M. CHING  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 620  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LINDA RICH

By: Gene DeMello, Jr., Interim Chair  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

I submit testimony in very strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Linda Rich to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) for a term ending June 30, 2028.

I support Linda's confirmation to serve as a parole board member. She has served the board well since her interim appointment in May 2024. Her education and work experience in the substance abuse industry as executive director, administrator, therapist and counselor, and participation in prison and correctional committees affirms her passion as an advocate and critical decision-maker.

Linda has sound knowledge base of addiction, mental health diagnoses and trauma, and its nexus to criminality and maladaptive behaviors. She makes sound decisions and appropriately balances punishment and accountability with rehabilitation and re-entry opportunities. She is a valued member of the parole board and I highly recommend her confirmation.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent of the Gubernatorial Nominee of Ms. Linda Rich.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of the Governor's Message 620.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
*Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i*  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GENE DEMELLO, JR.  
INTERIM CHAIR

MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
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LOUIS M. CHING  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ADMINISTRATOR

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 620  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LINDA RICH

By: Corey J. Reincke, Administrator  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

As the Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), I am providing testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Governor Green's nomination of Linda Rich to serve as a member on the parole board with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Linda Rich's experience with managerial positions, her social work background, and currently sitting on the parole board for the past several months would add an immense amount of experience as a member of the HPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message 620 for the confirmation of Linda Rich as a member of the parole board.

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  
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. 620  
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF LINDA RICH  
TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

by  
Tommy Johnson, Director

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

Wednesday, February 19, 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 very strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Linda Rich to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), for a term ending June 30, 2028. Ms. Rich has a diverse and wide-reaching work background in both the private and government sectors.

Ms. Rich's vast work experience with several organizations includes supervisory and managerial positions in both clinical and non-clinical settings, coupled with her social worker background, would add a human services perspective to the membership of the parole board.

She possesses the prerequisite knowledge, honed leadership and managerial skills, interpersonal, and decision-making skills required of members of the parole board.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this qualified nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of the Governor's Message No. 620 and Ms. Rich.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Video Conference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**RE: GM 620 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Gubernatorial Nominee, LINDA RICH, for a term to expire 06-30-2028**

Dear Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong and unequivocal support of Linda Rich's appointment as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and ask that you vote to confirm her nomination.

Her official CV, which you have copies of, highlights her many years of academic, practical, clinical and leadership positions as well as the distinguished awards she has received in the fields of social work and social sciences.

I want to share a more personal view of Linda Rich and why I believe she is very well-suited to be a permanent member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, where she has served as an interim member for the past 10 months.

I met Linda Rich three years ago, shortly after the founding of the Women's Prison Project. She had been recommended as a member because of her long career helping women and children as a leader of Clinical and Family Services for The Salvation Army.

Linda brought exactly the kind of extensive expertise the Women's Prison Project needed to carry out its mission of changing the paradigm of how the people and State of Hawaii treat justice involved women.

Linda and I spent many hours working together to formulate WPP's legislative package, often calling and texting each other well after midnight.

She was the primary author of our most important legislation, including the law that created the Women's Corrections Implementation Commission, of which she is a member.

WPP recognized fairly early in our four-year history that the Hawaii Paroling Authority was an important component in criminal justice reform and could play a significant role in addressing the 50 per cent recidivism rate at the Women's Community Correctional Center.

I believe Linda Rich can be an impactful HPA member who will always put the community's safety first when making decisions, while at the same time treating those appearing before her with dignity and respect.

I appreciate you considering my opinion on this matter and ask you to vote to confirm Linda Rich as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

Sincerely,

Linda Lingle  
Governor of Hawaii (2002-2010)

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:13:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edmund "Fred" Hyun	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Committee Members.

My name is Edmund “Fred” Hyun, and I wholeheartedly support Governor Green’s nomination of Linda Rich to serve as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). As the former Chair of the HPA, I had the opportunity to work with Ms. Rich and can attest to her ability, qualifications, and character for the Board.

Ms. Rich's extensive experience in addiction, mental health, and trauma has been a cornerstone of her career. Her dedication to these critical areas of service makes her a valuable and fitting addition to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.



# Adult Friends for Youth

*"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"*

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*Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun,  
M.S.W.*

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*\*Past Chair of the Board*

## Testimony on GM620

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

From: Debbie Spencer-Chun, President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth (AFY).

In strong support of GM 620, the confirmation of Linda Rich to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I currently serve as a member of the Women's Prison Project and have worked alongside Linda Rich in this capacity. She has worked tirelessly to help implement the WPP's goals, which included, but were not limited to, helping to establish a Women's Court, supporting/establishing programs at the Women's Community Correctional Center, and developing the Mohala Mai (permanent supportive housing for justice-involved women).

Linda's passion, integrity, and extensive knowledge (as evident in her resume) make her the perfect candidate for the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I ask for your consideration and confirmation. Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 2:34:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Wake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Linda Rich's confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I am a United Methodist pastor and have known Linda for almost 20 years through professional and church connections, such as the Samaritan Counseling Center and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Missional Team. She is a person of great integrity, sound intelligence and has a deep passion for justice.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 2:49:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Q. Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of the appointment of Linda Rich. I have known her for 10 years and have seen the care and dedication she gives to everything she does. She is trustworthy, reliable, and reasonable. In one problem solving session I participated in with her, she was kind and firm in her decision, and was open to hear others' opinions, too. She is a good team player and does her homework. I feel you would be very fortunate to have Linda as part of your organization. Linda Q. Green

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 4:32:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Tillotson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawaii Parole Board. I have had the good fortune to work with Linda for several years at Church of the Crossroads where she has served as Moderator and as CoChair of the Peace, Justice, and Stewardship of Creation Mission Team. I can testify to her ethics, good character, extensive knowledge of addiction and mental health, and to her commitment to a just system of rehabilitation for people in Hawaii's corrections system. Her relevant background includes involvement with the Women's Prison Project and Women's Corrections Implementation Commission. Finally, she has been on the board for almost a year already, and has clearly demonstrated her capability to do the job.

Please vote to confirm.

Thank you for considering my testimony and Mahalo for your service.

Richard Tillotson

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 11:03:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frances Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Honorable Committee Members,

I write in strong support of the confirmation of LINDA L. RICH to the Hawai`i Paroling Authority.

I am Frances Q.F.Wong, a retired circuit court judge of the First Circuit. I was initially appointed as a family district judge and then as a circuit judge. As a circuit judge, I was assigned at various times to the circuit court's criminal division (motions judge of the master calendar, trial judge, and drug court) as well as family court (Senior Judge).

Ms. Rich and I have been friends and fellow church members for nearly 5 decades. Our paths also crossed during my service on both the circuit and family courts, particularly with her extensive expertise in public safety, addictions treatments, mental health, and rehabilitation and support of these populations.

Ms. Rich's professional expertise and her professional experience in Hawaii make her remarkably well suited for the hard work of the Hawai`i Paroling Authority. The Paroling Authority is continually confronted with balancing public safety, rehabilitation possibilities, retribution justice for the community and victims, and fine tuning the community costs of confinement as well as the costs of missed opportunities preparing offenders to positively contribute to our state. Even after retirement, Ms. Rich continued to do important volunteer work with the Women's Prison Project and the Women's Corrections Implementation Commission.

Last but certainly not least, I cannot say enough about Ms. Rich's fine character, including her scrupulous honesty, passion for justice, capacity for hard work, and a great sense of humor.

Thank you for your kind consideration of Ms. Rich's confirmation.

Aloha

*/s/ Frances Q.F. Wong*

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 12:39:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to support Linda Rich's appointment. She was Executive Director of Salvation Army's Women's Way Treatment Facility for quite a few years. She has also been very involved with the Woman's Prison Project and Women's Corrections Implementation Commission. She has a strong commitment to a just system of rehabilitation for people in Hawaii's Corrections System.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Nelson

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 1:06:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs,

I would like to show my **STRONG SUPPORT** for GM620 and the consideration and confirmation of LINDA RICH to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

I have known Linda since I was a young adult. We have been members of the same church since she joined in the early 90's. I have gotten to know her more and more as the years went on, participating with her in FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity) actions that we were both engaged in, attending church services, events and meetings together, and other social activities with friends and family.

When I was at the U.H. School of Social Work MSW program, Linda was the Director of Clinical Services at The Salvation Army Family Treatment Services. She asked me if I would like to apply for a residential counselor position there and so I did. I learned of how much the staff and clients respected Linda's administrative skills and, particularly, her fairness in handling crises that arose at the living facilities for women and their children. Many of these women experienced severe trauma and some also came out of incarceration. Linda was sensitive to their life experiences but was also able to hold them accountable in the hopes of supporting them to become healthy, thriving parents.

Linda does her homework and is often looked to by our church, community members and organizations for leadership and guidance. There is a reason for this. She has shared with me how much she appreciates the opportunity to support women coming out of incarceration through her recent volunteer work. This is just one of the many impressive ways Linda has contributed to our community over the years in addition to her vast work experience.

I firmly believe Linda Rich will continue to serve the Hawai'i Paroling Authority with utmost competence while upholding the highest ethical standards.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 4:46:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawaii Parole Board. I've known her for about 20 years, as we are both involved in the Church of the Crossroads and its Peace, Justice and Stewardshp of Creation Mission Team.

Linda is highly knowledgeable, committed, and articulate. She has an extensive background in clinical practice and healing of trauma that gives her invaluable insights into those who are experiencing incarceration. She is compassionate and energetic, and dedicated to helping our community. She has been involved as a volunteer in numerous activities involving our criminal justice system.

I hope you will vote favorably on her appointment.

Ellen Carson, Honolulu, Hawaii

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 9:18:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hitomi "Mimi" Demura-Devore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Committee Members,**

**I'm writing in support of appointing Linda Rich to the Hawaii Parole Board.**

**I have known Linda for almost 30 years through church. She has been very active in the church and deeply involved in Peace and Justice work, and taking on many leadership roles both within and beyond our church. As a social worker myself, I have always been interested in her professional work and her involvement in various organizations and groups. I have seen her dedication to serving people in the community most of whom are very vulnerable, and she is eager to stand up and speak up for people whose voices are not often heard.**

**I also believe that Linda, as a social worker, can bring an important perspective to the parole board by assessing and evaluating each person from a holistic and comprehensive view while believing in the rehabilitation of a person. Drawing on her extensive knowledge and experiences in the areas of mental health and addiction, she will be able to understand and consider various factors and root causes that lead a person to criminal behavior, assess and evaluate if the person is ready to be released, and suggest post-parole support plans for the individual to successfully reintegrate back to the society to prevent recidivism and enhance public safety.**

**As a friend and a social worker, I support Linda Rich's appointment to the Hawaii Parole Board.**

**Thank you for your commitment to public safety and prioritizing rehabilitation in the correctional system in Hawaii.**

**Sincerely Yours,**

**Hitomi "Mimi" Demura-Devore, LCSW**

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 9:36:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Hinshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Linda Rich is eminently qualified for this position. Her experience and commitment to this issue are abundantly obvious in her C.V. She is an individual who truly is devoted to ensuring the Hawai'i Patrolling Authority does the best it possibly can. I have great respect for her ability and urge you to support her appointment.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 1:35:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon Inake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I registered my enthusiastic support for Linda Rich's appointment to the parole board. She has been a consistent community leader in support of various projects to better our community.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:12:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Aloha Senator Elefante and Senator Wakai,

I have known Linda L. Rich for over a decade. I have had the privilege of witnessing her work and seeing how she is able to benefit many communities.

As an interim member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority since last year, Linda is familiar with providing best practices as she serves Hawai'i incarcerated population. Her ability to balance compassion with justice makes her an invaluable asset to the public.

As a Licensed Social Worker, Linda's experience as a clinical supervisor, manager of organizations, program developer, specialist in alcohol treatment, addiction recovery, trauma resolution, crisis intervention, victim services, and women in transition proves her wealth of knowledge, practical expertise, and impressive competence.

Linda is known for her impeccable integrity. The many awards she has received testifies to this fact. Among these are the Award for Excellence in Social Services (The Salvation Army), Partners in Community Service Award, Mental Health America, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers.

I highly recommend Linda L. Rich for confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

Mahalo for your attention.

Tadia Rice, CEO

Blue Horizon Films

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:02:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ms. Rich demonstrates both compassion and justice in her dealings with others. I recommend her to the Parole Board position without hesitation.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:16:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marilia Duffles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LINDA RICH Nomination to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

February 16, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

Aloha. As I'm sure you are very familiar with Ms. Rich's impressive resume, I will limit my remarks so as to spare your time. But kindly allow me to briefly and humbly address my own background for the sole purpose of your visualizing that I speak on behalf of Ms. Rich's with an insightful voice as to her enormous capacity for this important role.

I'm a former molecular biologist who worked in two Presidential administrations and then wrote for the Economist magazine about neuroscience. This, and with a psychiatrist father whose patients were mostly suffering from mental illness and the victims of social problems, I grew to fully understand the social, psychological, and neurological causes behind women (and men) ending up in prison.

From the clinical, academic, and policy work, Ms. Rich's enormously profuse background is key to the multi-faceted and tailored approach required to address the needs of these folks who have faced some of the most difficult challenges life presents to the less fortunate and which have placed them on an unchosen life's path to prison and then parole.

In closing, I would be remiss in not addressing the other essential ingredient of this position:

A compassionate devotion and dedication, as evidenced not just by the several decades she worked in this field but by the very difficulty of these challenging and demanding positions that not all of us have the wherewithal or stamina to take on. More impressively, she has excelled in each.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and admirable work.

Respectfully yours,

Marilia Duffles



**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 1:14:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I am testifying on GM620 in support of the confirmation of Ms. Linda Rich to the Hawaii Parole Board. I am the pastor at Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu and have been Linda's pastor for most of the last 8 years. During that time I have worked closely with her not just on numerous church committees but as a colleague in her consistent advocacy for just and compassionate legislation and programs. Her character is beyond reproach; her professionalism is well-proven; her knowledge regarding addiction and mental health is extensive; and her commitment to a just and fair rehabilitation system for those in Hawaii's correctional system has been consistent. She has already served in this position for the past year, and I am confident that she will continue to serve in her always excellent manner. I support her appointment wholeheartedly.

Aloha, Kahu David Baugart Turner, Pastor - Church of the Crossroads, UCC.

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 7:41:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james howell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Linda Rich for 40+ years, primarily as a fellow church and choir member. I

know her history as a social worker, and a manager with Salvation Army. I've worked with her on many church activities, and have seen her work with Healing of Memories, and

know of her numerous volunteer hours in support of needy individuals.

I strongly support her as a parole board member.

To Whom It May Concern:  
18 Feb 2025

Thank you for your attention to my submission concerning Linda L. Rich and the state's consideration of her participation in the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

I originally became familiar with Ms Rich and her publications on mental health as related to "treatment retention", substance use and misuse, and her extensive knowledge of local clinical and social work when our company produced the feature documentary films, "ICE - Hawaii's Crystal meth Epidemic" and "Life or Meth - Hawaii's Youth" (2005, 2006).

These films were simulcast across the state of Hawaii on all network affiliate television stations without commercial interruption, on the subject of Hawaii's methamphetamine crisis (history, medical and social effects) followed by a film capturing real life scenarios of meth affecting Hawaii's youth.

Later, when she joined The Salvation Army Family Treatment Services as their Executive Director, we again conferred with her in 2013 while scripting a prime time television special "Unprescribed - Prescription for Addiction", sponsored by Hawaii HIDTA and the White House ONDCP on the subject of opioid addiction and abuse of other pharmaceutical drugs.

Years later, Ms Rich assisted us while we researched the subject of women in prison and why numbers have increased. (The Hawai'i female inmate population is 14 times that of the same population five decades ago, reflecting nationwide trends as per the Vera Institute).

No doubt Ms Rich is highly educated in clinical social work, behavioral sciences, and retains strong administrative skills. I am recommending her to the Hawaii Paroling Authority because she is as well, highly experienced and adept at communicating with people of all backgrounds and situations.

She displays a consistently tempered disposition and sense of fairness while she is far from naive having worked closely with street kids, teenage mothers, to elderly alcoholics and drug addicts.

She has experienced first hand, the darker sides of our human nature and yet she remains patient, never extreme in her actions or judgment. While it is clear that she understands the necessity in observing protocols, regulations, and procedures that maintain order she has an ability to see beyond the surface, to assess a situation or a person in a realistic view.

We would benefit greatly by having her participate on Hawaii's paroling board.  
Please give Linda L. Rich your serious consideration.

Thank you,

Edgy Lee

808. 221.2255

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:42:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine H. Payne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: GM620

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have come to know her and her long history of dedicated service to our community through my volunteer work with the Women's Prison Project. Her lifelong commitment to helping those who are struggling with complex life problems is inspiring. Her success providing guidance toward a positive life is evidenced through her work with the Salvation Army Program, Women's Way. She has worked at all levels from direct client services to executive director and understands all the challenges and opportunities faced by the clients and those who work with them.

I have found Ms. Rich to be a collaborative member of a working team. She listens with empathy and is respectful of diverse views. She will bring her wisdom and commitment to this important work.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Catherine Payne

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:35:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Tom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Linda's impressive resume, long time service in the community and the testimony of others speak volumes to the skills she brings with her, She will no doubt be a tremendous asset to the HPA.

As a founding member of the Women's Prison Project, I have seen first hand Linda's commitment and didication to all causes she supports. She is passionate and caring and well respected in the varIous organizations she serves. I look forward to a favorable outcome to the confirmation hearing.

Mahalo,

Laurie K.S. Tom, M.D.

Endocrinologist, private practice

February 18, 2025

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

RE: GM 620 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, LINDA RICH, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai and the committee members,

My name is Noriko Namiki. Although I am writing this testimony in a personal capacity, my views expressed here are based on my professional experience as the CEO of YWCA O'ahu.

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Ms. Linda Rich to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I've known Ms. Rich over the last several years through our work with incarcerated women and women in recovery from substance abuse. I am also a part of the Hawaii Women's Prison Project and have witnessed strong leadership by Ms. Rich along with Governor Lingle.

You often may find a list of credentials and work experience when you look at someone's resume and Ms. Rich's resume certainly shows a lot of professional accomplishments as well as credentials. Ms. Rich spent more than 20 years with the Salvation Army Family Treatment Services, serving in various roles including the Executive Director and the Director of Clinical Services. This portion of her professional life alone tells you the depth of her experience working with a marginalized and sometimes hard to work with population, including women transitioning out of incarceration and substance abuse. Ms. Rich understands the complexity of factors these populations face, and she takes each individual as unique without labeling or applying preconceived notions about what the general public sometimes may think of them. Her clinical social work background is critical – she is able to see a person as a whole instead of as an action that he/she has taken that led to an entrance to the criminal justice system.

We at YWCA O'ahu have worked with more than a few hundred women with a history of incarceration over the last decade. Many of our residents at our Fernhurst Transitional Housing Facility met with the Parole Board. We appreciate the diversity of backgrounds each Parole Board member brings and it is comforting to know that an accomplished and well-respected professional like Ms. Rich is part of this work. She can bring a sense of accountability or even discipline with compassion and care. She takes the time to understand each person through active listening. Ms. Rich will be a great asset to the Parole Board and I wholeheartedly support Ms. Rich serving as part of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Noriko Namiki  
nnamiki@ywcaoahu.org

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 3:13:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandra A. Simms	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

I strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawaii Paroing Authority.

I have encountered her in a number of professional capacities over the \years and have found her work and expertise to be compelling and reflective of the values we hold important.

I first enouctered her when I was a Criminal Court Judge in the early 2000s when defendants were being recommended for drug and alcohol treatment. In her capacity at Salvation Army, she ran one of the most credible and comprehensive treatment program that positively impacted many women's lives.

Later, when I serrved on the State Council of Mental Health, it was there again, her competence and professionalism stood out.

I am currently on the board of Mentla Health Americof Hawaii and was part of the group that recommended her as a recipient f our annual mental health awards program honoring those who have contributed significantly in the area of mental health awareness and programmings. Again, her work and professionalism were stellar.

Finally, we are now colleagues on the Women's Prison Project and I am very pleased to recommend her to this position.

Judge Sandra A. Simms (retired)

**Leslie VC Moody**  
92-747 Makakilo Drive #35  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707  
Lmmody1962@gmail.com  
(808) 258-6770  
Feb 15,2025



**RE:GM620**

**Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Linda Rich**

I am pleased to offer my strong recommendation of Linda Rich for an appointment to the Hawaii Parole Board. I had the opportunity to work under her supervision for many years and I can attest to the fact that she is an exceptional professional whose integrity, dedication, and expertise make her an ideal candidate for this role.

Linda has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. Her extensive knowledge of addiction and mental health, combined with her deep commitment to a fair and effective system of rehabilitation, makes her an invaluable asset to the corrections system. She is equally devoted to ensuring public safety while balancing the need for rehabilitation with the protection of the community.

Her involvement with the Women's Prison Project and the Women's Corrections Implementation Commission further underscores her dedication to meaningful reform. Having already served as an interim for nearly a year, I am certain she has clearly demonstrated her capability to fulfill the responsibilities of this position with diligence and effectiveness.

I have no doubt that Linda will continue to serve with distinction and contribute significantly to the work of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I strongly urge you to consider her for this appointment.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Leslie Moody

**LATE**

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:21:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Wayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs February 18, 2025

Dear Chair, Senator Elefante and Vice Chair, Senator Wakai:

I am writing with exceptionally strong support for the confirmation of Linda Rich’s appointment to the Hawai‘i Parole Board. I have known her for 25 years and have the highest opinion of her professionalism, her commitment to the best possible system of rehabilitation for Hawai‘i’s correctional system, and her expert knowledge of how to help those with addiction and mental health problems. She has served responsibly on the parole board for almost a year and demonstrated her ability to accomplish the work. She has also been involved with the Women’s Prison Project and the Women’s Corrections Implementation Commission. She has dedicated her life to the service of others, and her work on the parole board will enable her to make a continuing contribution to our state.

Ms. Rich is a licensed Social Worker who was Executive Director of the Salvation Army Family Treatment Services from 2006 to 13 and served the organization for fourteen years before that. In 2008 she was honored as Outstanding Executive Director by the Mental Health Association of Hawai‘i and in 2010 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She was also honored in 2014 with two awards for her work with the Salvation Army. She continues as chair of the board of directors for the Institute for Healing of Memories in North America and is on the board of the Counseling and Spiritual Care Center of Hawai‘i, an interfaith counseling service that helps anyone in need.

Beyond these honors and positions, Ms. Rich is a deeply ethical person who combines calm and warmth with a measured sense of justice. She understands the need for public safety and how to balance competing claims. I have deep respect for the grace and wisdom with which she handles challenging situations. Given her fine character and her exceptional qualifications for the position, I believe she will make a first rate member of the Hawai‘i Parole Board.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Valerie Wayne

Professor Emerita, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa



**LATE**

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:24:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Howell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Linda Rich is eminently qualified for the position on the parole board. I have known her personally and professionally for almost 40 years, and I believe that she would be a great asset to the board.

**LATE**

**GM-620**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:31:48 AM  
Testimony for PSM on 2/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kristen Young and I am a Honolulu resident, born and raised on O‘ahu. I support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawai‘i Parole Board. She is professional with strong ethics and good character with extensive knowledge of addiction and mental health. Linda has shown her dedication through her involvement with Women’s Prison Project and Women’s Corrections Implementation Commission and has been on the board for almost a year, demonstrating her capability to do the job.

I know Linda from the faith community. We worked together most closely in her capacity as the volunteer chairperson for the Justice and Witness Missional Team of the Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ, when we hosted a 12-week educational series. I know Linda's passion for justice and commitment to a just system of rehabilitation for people in Hawaii’s corrections system.

I strongly support the appointment of Linda Rich to the Hawai‘i Parole Board.

Mahalo for your consideration!