



The Judiciary, State of Hawaii

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Dwight S. Sakai
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
First Circuit

Marsha T. Yamada,
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
Second Circuit

Dean T. Hiraki
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
Third Circuit

Renette S. Garma
Deputy Chief Court Administrator
Fifth Circuit

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision



Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

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Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. Mr. Aganon is currently the Social Services Manager for the Adult Client Services Branch of the First Circuit. The Adult Client Services Branch provides probation and probation-related services for the District, Family, and Circuit Courts. Mr. Aganon has the knowledge and skills to represent Hawai'i in matters of interstate adult offender supervision.

The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision was enacted on June 19, 2002, and currently all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Island are members. It provides the day-to-day oversight of the compact between states. Besides promulgating rules to achieve the goals of the Compact, the Commission ensures an opportunity for input and timely notice to victims; provides access to information to heads of state councils, state executive, judicial and legislative branches and criminal justice administrators; and monitors and enforces compliance with the rules governing appointment of the Interstate Commission members such as Mr. Aganon. It also establishes a state-level council, known as the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, with representation from all branches of government and victim groups to heighten awareness of the Compact's activities.

With administrative responsibilities for Hawai'i's State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, the Judiciary has supported training for Judges, probation, parole, and other criminal justice agencies on the Compact. Under Mr. Aganon's leadership and management, Hawai'i will continue to fulfill its responsibilities to promote public safety, protect the rights of victims, control movement of offenders, provide for effective tracking of offenders, and engage in the supervision and rehabilitation of offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Stacey Luke

Supervision 1 Section Administrator, Adult Client Services Branch

Deputy Compact Administrator (Probation), Hawaii Interstate Compact Office

Interim Commissioner, Hawaii Interstate Compact Office

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

As the Deputy Compact Administrator for Probation and Interim Commissioner for the State of Hawaii, I believe that Mr. Saifoloi Aganon has the knowledge and ability to be the Compact Administrator/Commissioner for the State of Hawaii.

The role of Compact Administrator/Commissioner must be held by a leader who is able to learn quickly and understand the "Spirit of the Compact." I have worked with Sai Aganon for over 10 years and I believe he has complete knowledge and understanding of the Interstate Compact. He is able to effectively communicate with judges, attorneys, court staff and other states which is a key attribute needed for this position. He is honest and trustworthy and will work to keep the State of Hawaii in compliance with the Rules of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision.



Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

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I would, however, like to propose an amendment to the Governor's Message No. 694 to remove the four-year term limit of the appointment of Saifoloi Aganon as the Compact Administrator/Commissioner. Pursuant to HRS 353B-3(a)(9), State Council for interstate adult offender supervision: With the exception of the director of corrections and rehabilitation or the director's designee, and the compact administrator, the terms of all members shall be for four years; provided that the victims group representative and the compact administrator shall be subject to confirmation proceedings under section 26-34. No person, except the compact administrator, shall be appointed consecutively to more than two terms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

William EKH “Sonny” Ching

Governor’s Message No. and Title: Governor’s Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

As someone who has known and worked with Saifoloi Aganon for 2 decades as a member of Hālau Nā Mamo o Pu‘uanahulu and a board member of our non-profit arm, the Pua‘ainahau Foundation for the past two years, I have seen the proficient and conscientious manner that he conducts himself with while heading various committees and events for our school and non-profit. I have also had the pleasure of seeing him be able to apply some of the things we implement into his professional life. For eleven years, Sai Aganon has dedicated his career to serving our community as a Probation Officer, Social Worker, and Administrator, working with offenders, victims, providers, and partner agencies. His experience overseeing probation operations, ensuring policy compliance, and managing Interstate Compact cases qualifies him for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination

William Kahakuleilehua Haunu‘u Sonny Ching
Kumu Hula – Hālau Nā Mamo o Pu‘uanahulu



Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

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Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Jaclyn Kanilehua Kim, MSW, LSW

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I strongly support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

With over a decade of dedicated service in various capacities, including Probation Officer, Social Worker, and Administrator, Mr. Aganon has demonstrated a deep commitment to serving the community and working collaboratively with the wide spectrum of those who are a part of the justice-involved population.

Aside from Mr. Aganon's professional qualifications, his personal qualities of determination, dedication, and desire for improvement, coupled with his innovative approaches, including restorative justice, make him an excellent choice for this role.

Me ka mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

O wau iho nō me ka ha'aha'a,



J. Kanilehua Kim, MSW, LSW



Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

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GM-694

Submitted on: 3/2/2025 11:50:41 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isayas F Mandrial Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Isayas F. Mandrial Jr.

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I have known him for more than 20 years, and as one of the leaders and cultural practitioners of Hālau Nā Mamo O Pu'uana'hulu he has supervised the school's fundraising events, performances, and education curriculum. He is very organized and task oriented, manages people well, and is very adept at problem solving. I have every confidence he will be successful in whatever endeavor he undertakes.

Thank you or the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By Michael Lee

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

Mr. Aganon has a proven track record of spearheading innovation in the Judiciary system. Examples include creating a novel virtual initiative with the Smithsonian Institute during COVID-19 for clients to complete their probation hours and implanting the first Women's Court in Hawai'i utilizing Native Hawaiian cultural practices, decisions informed by state data. Additionally, he continues to bring social justice and leadership to the forefront with a strong ability to work across various teams to accomplish strategic and agreed upon goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By Darlene O. Lee

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

Mr. Saifoloi Aganon has a proven track record of creating and overseeing innovation in the Judiciary system. An example includes the forming of the first Women's Court in Hawai'i, in which our Native Hawaiian cultural practices were utilized. This ultimately gave indigenous women a powerful voice to be heard, to be acknowledged, and to be seen. Additionally, he continues to bring social justice to every phase of his career path, with a strong ability to work across various teams, and the clear direction and exuberance to accomplish agreed upon goals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on his nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Greg Uwono

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I have worked with Saifoloi Aganon for the past 10 plus years and I am confident that he has the skills, experience, and leadership needed to succeed as the Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision. He is highly organized, pays close attention to detail, and understands complex regulations, making him a great fit for this role.

Mr. Aganon has shown strong problem-solving skills and adaptability. He has experience working with multiple stakeholders to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines while keeping operations running smoothly.

In addition, he is a natural leader who fosters teamwork. His clear communication and ability to give direction help him manage teams with confidence and professionalism.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

(Insert Name)

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I have worked with Saifoloi Aganon during his tenure as Section Administrator of the Supervision II Section and have found him to be consistently professional and of sound judgement. His effectiveness as a Section Administrator has led to his selection as Probation Administrator and now as nominee for Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. Saifoloi initially worked as a supervising probation officer, worked as a presentence probation officer and then became a supervisor with the Adult/Juvenile Restitution Unit before being promoted to Section Administrator for the Supervision II Section. He is well versed in the functions of probation and also founded the Adult Client Services Branch Women's Court and has developed this program and has fostered its growth. His involvement can be seen in the strength of this program and the positive impact it continues to have serving and addressing the specific needs of women in the judicial system.

Saifoloi has maintained sound working relationships within the Judiciary, is a wealth of ideas and is able to see a task from inception to completion. He is unafraid of innovation and is able to



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look outside of the box when seeking solutions, and he does so with a balance of knowledge, humor and enthusiasm. Saifoloi is a hard worker and will be committed to this position as Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. I believe that Saifoloi Aganon maintains the personal attributes to do well in this position and fully support his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Jan Koroki-Matsumoto
Section Administrator
Intake Section/PSI Branch and District Court Probation
Adult Client Services Branch - Probation

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

Governor's Message No. 694

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: TinaAnn Heatherly Auva'a

POSITION: Support

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I have worked closely with Sai in the Domestic Violence Probation Unit and have seen firsthand his dedication, professionalism, and ability to manage complex supervision cases. He is highly knowledgeable in policy and compliance, works well with multiple agencies, and is committed to ensuring both public safety and fair supervision practices.

Sai's strong problem-solving skills and ability to collaborate with stakeholders make him well-suited for this role. His experience handling high-risk cases, coordinating with other jurisdictions, and navigating the legal requirements of offender supervision will be valuable assets to the state.

For these reasons, I strongly support Sai's confirmation as Compact Administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

TinaAnn Heatherly Auva'a

GM-694

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 5:27:54 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by Ann I. Choo

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position: I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I am writing to offer my full support for Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. Having had the privilege of knowing him personally for many years and watching him progress in his career, I can confidently attest to his qualifications, dedication, and the remarkable skills he brings to his work. Saifoloi has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the mission and responsibilities associated with his roles.

What truly sets him apart is his innovative approach to problem-solving. He has successfully designed and implemented programs that shift the focus to the positive aspects of difficult situations, helping to provide constructive solutions even when faced with adversity. His work in establishing a gender responsive, trauma informed Court with the partnership of judges and administrators for women in Hawai'i is just one of many successful programs that showcases his ability and skills.

In conclusion, Saifoloi is the ideal candidate, with the experience, leadership skills and commitment to excellence that make him an asset to any team. There is no doubt that he will continue to excel in this new role.

Thank you for considering my support of this nomination.

Sincerely,
Ann I. Choo

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Matter

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday March 5, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225

By

Kathy L. Catobus

LATE

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision.

Position: I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision for the following reasons.

As an "alaka'i" of Halau Na Mamo O Pu'uana'hulu, Sai, as he is known to the members of HNMOP, has shown a high degree of leadership skills. "Alaka'i" means "leader" and Sai's qualities are unmatched. He shows excellent managerial skills while working with a very diverse group of haumana (students). He always maintains a strong work ethic; being responsible and reliable in every situation. Sai has an innate quality to make everyone feel special and important. His desire to continue to contribute to the betterment of those that he serves is a testament to the aloha he feels for all. Saifoloi Aganon would be an excellent choice for the position of Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

LATE

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

by

Lynne Minamishin

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

(I feel that Saifoloi Aganon would be a wonderful candidate to manage the Interstate Adult Offender Supervision as the Compact Administrator. He is meticulous and diligent in any task he is given and takes pride in completing said task to the best of his abilities. He is kind, compassionate and fair with great leadership and organizational skills. He is an excellent communicator and works tirelessly to improve the community around him. His experience working as a probation officer will assist him in working with adult offenders as will his work as a social worker. His experiences have given him a unique understanding of working in the environment, which will deal with adult offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

LATE

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

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by

Punavaioleola Auva'a

Governor's Message No. and Title: Governor's Message No. 694, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Compact Administrator of the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision, Gubernatorial Nominee, Saifoloi Aganon, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Purpose: Compact Administrator for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Position:

I support the confirmation of Saifoloi Aganon for a four-year term as the Compact Administrator for the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision.

I have worked alongside Saifoloi for over 10 years beginning as line staff/probation officers. I have seen his growth throughout the years and he is the right person for the job. He thinks outside the box and his vision for community supervision aligns with national standards. He also has wealth of experience in Interstate Compact and will do well as the Compact Administrator if confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.