

GM 637

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

Gubernatorial Nominee: MARI McCAIG,

for a term to expire 6-30-2019

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

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MARI MCCAIG
Chair

MARTHA ROSS
Interim Commissioner

ABELINA SHAW
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 637
Consideration and Confirmation of Mari McCaig
to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission
by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and Members:

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission ("Commission") with the opportunity to testify before you today. The Commission strongly supports the re-appointment of Mari McCaig to serve as a Commissioner, for a term to expire on June 30, 2019.

Ms. McCaig currently serves as a valued Commissioner. Her dedication to victims spans nearly thirty (30) years. She is a knowledgeable, experienced, and compassionate advocate for crime victims, with specialized expertise in the provision of services to underserved victim populations, and in the treatment of sexual assault and domestic abuse survivors with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

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 for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to collect restitution from inmates and parolees and 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 abuse victims and enhancing the delivery of compensation services to underserved victim populations, while

an ongoing concern remains the sustainable fiscal self-sufficiency of the Commission. The Commission's core mission is solely funded through special funds and federal matching VOCA funds.

Victims of violent crime who apply for compensation are often traumatized and angry about what has happened to them and frustrated about the way the criminal justice system treats victims. Commissioners must be knowledgeable about the impact of violent crime on individuals and be sensitive and compassionate in dealing with these individuals.

Ms. McCaig is a knowledgeable, experienced, and compassionate advocate for crime victims. She has served for over twenty (20) years as a Victim/Witness Counselor at the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney providing counseling and support to victims, witnesses and surviving family members in cases involving murder, assault, domestic abuse, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

Another area of commitment for the Commission is improving the delivery of compensation services to underserved victim populations. The Commission was part of a strategic planning project to develop a strategic plan to address the needs of underserved populations. Four populations of underserved victims were identified by the project: the elderly, individuals with limited-English language proficiency; the disabled, and visitors/tourists. Ms. McCaig's expertise in promoting access to compensation on behalf of visitor/tourist victims continues to assist the Commission in meeting its commitment to assist this underserved victim population. Ms. McCaig has served as the Director of the Visitor Assistance Program at the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. The Visitor Assistance program provides comprehensive victim services to crime victims who were victimized during their stay as visitors to Hawai'i.

Ms. McCaig is affiliated with the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress and has expertise in the treatment of PTSD suffered by survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. After working as a research therapist with domestic abuse and sexual assault survivors, she co-authored an article entitled *Cognitive Trauma Therapy for Battered Women with PTSD (CTT-BW)*, and authored a book, *Healing the Trauma of Domestic Violence*, in 2004. Ms. McCaig's expertise in this area will continue to support the Commission's ongoing efforts to provide consistently excellent services to victims of violent crimes.

Ms. McCaig's background, training, and experience will be invaluable to the Commission in its efforts to provide high quality services to Hawai'i's violent crime victims. The Commission strongly urges you to confirm Ms. McCaig's re-appointment to the Commission.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 10:58 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tasakaa002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM637 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM*

GM637

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for PSM on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allicyn Tasaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations and
Military Affairs

Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 1:15pm Conference Room 229

GM #637 Crime Victim Compensation Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
MARI MC CAIG, For A Term To Expire 6-30-2019

By
Ibrahim G. Aoudé, Ph. D. Professor
Department of Ethnic Studies
College of Social Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MS. MARI A. MCCAIG
TO THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION.**

Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and members of the Senate Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs. My name is Ibrahim G. Aoudé Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Mari A. McCaig at the Department of Ethnic Studies from 1976-1986. We have since become very good friends and so my testimony is based on having known Ms. McCaig for over 38 years. As a Teaching Assistant at Ethnic Studies, Ms. McCaig was dedicated to serving the students and collegial with her peers and respectful of the faculty and staff. She took her work and commitments seriously and invariably went beyond the call. She was fair in dealing with students and peers.

Ms. McCaig and I often meet to discuss matters of significance and interest to the community and I can say unequivocally that she has the interest of the community at heart and very knowledgeable in its affairs. She has demonstrated much of that while at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu from 1989 till her retirement a few years ago. Ms. McCaig has the education, knowledge and experience to serve on the Crime Victim and Compensation Commission for a second term to expire 6-30-2019. She has my full and enthusiastic support to serve on the Commission for which she was nominated.
Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha.

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 1:15pm Conference Room 229

RE: GM 637 SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARI MCCAIG, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-19.

Dear Senator Espero,

I am writing this letter in support of Mari A. McCaig's nomination for a second term as a Commissioner on the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. The reference number for her nomination is GM 637.

I retired as a Detective in the Honolulu Police Department after 30 years of service. My last assignment was Supervisor of the Missing Persons Unit, Homicide Detail, of the Criminal Investigation Division.

I have known Mari A. McCaig for over 20 years, personally and professionally. I have worked with her on several felony cases throughout the years, where she was the Victim/Witness Advocate for our extremely traumatized victims, witnesses, and their families.

Mari's expertise was invaluable in assisting them through the complicated, and sometimes frustrating, criminal justice system. She assisted myself, and other detectives, on several occasions, making sure our victims and vital witnesses were present in court, or at Grand Jury, prepared to testify. She provided them with comfort, support, information, and referrals.

Mari is a true professional; compassionate and sensitive to others feelings. She genuinely treats all individuals with dignity and respect. She has an excellent working relationship with not only the Honolulu Police Department, but all relative law enforcement and community agencies. She is highly respected in her field.

Mari is an inspiring mentor and role model, with the highest integrity, and a strong commitment to fairness and justice.

I have observed Mari tenaciously work long hours, absent of any monetary compensation. She is truly dedicated to the advocacy of crime victims and assisting them in acquiring the services due them, under Hawaii state Law.

I firmly believe Mari is a valuable asset to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission.

In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to express my strongest support, without any reservation, for Mari A. McCaig's re-nomination for this position.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jill Kauai
P.O. Box 244
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795
(808) 554-6816
Jkai808@gmail.com

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April 15, 2015

TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hearing for Thursday, April 16, 2015

RE: GM 636 – Martha Ross

Governor's Appointment to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Dear Chairman Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in full support of the Governor's appointment of Martha Ross to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission.

My name is Jo Kamae Byrne and I am President of Honolulu Information Service, Inc., a Hawaii corporation providing public records research and other business transactional services. In addition, I have been a community activist for many years supporting open access to government through Common Cause Hawaii, and issues affecting women and children through the Hawaii Women's Political Caucus.

In these roles it has been my privilege over the years to know and work with Martha Ross to support programs for women and children. Martha was the Executive Director for the State Commission on the Status of Women when we first collaborated and I learned she had previously worked as a victim advocate with the prosecutor's office. To add to her qualifications, Martha also spent many years with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and was responsible for establishing OHA's office in Washington, D.C.

With this background alone, Martha would bring valuable experience to her role as Commissioner for the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. Add to that Martha's professional qualification as a social worker and we have a well-balanced candidate for Commissioner.

I strongly support the Governor's appointment of Martha Ross to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission and urge your committee to approve the Governor's appointment as well.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Jo Kamae Byrne

SANDRA TAM
Victim Advocate
Victim Witness Kokua Services
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
stam@honolulu.gov

April 15, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM # 637 Gubernatorial Nominee Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of nominee Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. Mari and I have worked together as Victim Advocates with the Honolulu City and County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for 22 years. For 14 years, Mari has successfully created and directed the Visitor Assistance Program with a vision and dedication to improve crisis response and counseling services to our visitors who are faced with victimization.

Mari is well respected in the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for her high standards for ethical conduct, extensive experience and her tireless contribution to give a strong voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. She consistently gives much more than required of her and has been a mentor to numerous students and advocates while providing various services to hundreds of victims with compassion, kindness and respect. Mari has worked with high risk/vulnerable populations with sensitivity and caring, and has strength in identifying barriers to appropriate services and used her keen problem solving skills to remove those barriers and make significant improvements in the lives of victims. In addition, her ability to successfully network in the community has led to positive cooperation with various private and government offices which facilitates optimum services for crime victims.

I have tremendous respect for Mari, a remarkable person who puts her heart and soul into making positive changes for others.

I wholeheartedly support Mari's nomination to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts to the Committee.

Yvette Brasseur
Victim/Witness Advocate
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
ybrasseur@honolulu.gov

April 15, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: GM # 637 Gubernatorial Nominee Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission on Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in overwhelming support of the nomination of Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. I have known Mari for twenty-two (22) years, and we have worked together for many of those years as Victim/Witness Advocates for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu.

In all of the years that I have known Mari, she has been a tremendous advocate for crime victims, as well as for other vulnerable populations in our community. She understands, on a deep level, the many and various ways that violent crime can affect both the individual, and the community at large. She regularly goes above and beyond what is required to meet the needs of the victims she serves. She also has an extensive understanding about marginalized groups, whether it be youth that get caught up in gang subculture (and are sometimes also victims of that culture), victims of domestic violence, or visitors to Hawaii, who become victims when they least expect it. I have seen Mari deal with people across the board with great sensitivity and compassion.

With her wealth of wisdom and enormous heart, I can think of no one I would more highly recommend serving as a Commissioner of the Crime Victim Compensation Commission than Mari McCaig.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support.

Mari A. McCaig
P.O. Box 513
Ka'a'awa, Hawai'i 96730
E-mail: mari.mccaig@gmail.com

April 13, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 637
Consideration and Confirmation of Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senator Espero, Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of my nomination to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. I am honored to be re-nominated by the Governor to serve as a Commissioner.

I have worked as a victim advocate for 22 years with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu and in this capacity have served as Director of the Visitor Victim Assistance Program. A significant part of my professional life has been dedicated to working with victims of crime and providing services and support as they navigate through the arduous complexities of the criminal justice system.

One agency stands out as a beacon of light, hope and help for victims and that is the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. During the time I have worked with the Commission, I have come to recognize and appreciate the importance of the vital services they provide to victims of crime. As a recent retiree, I look forward to the possibility of continuing to support the mission and work of the Commission.

My extensive experience in dealing with victims has given me a unique perspective on the physical, mental and financial hardships they face when victimized by crime. I believe that this experience has been an asset to the Commission and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to be of service.

Sincerely,
Mari McCaig

Mari A. McCaig
P.O. Box 513
Ka'a'awa, Hawai'i 96730
E-mail: mari.mccaig@gmail.com
April 13, 2015

RE: TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 637

Consideration and Confirmation of Mari McCaig to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission

WHY DO YOU WISH TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION?

During the 22 years I have worked at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I have been impressed by the excellent work done by the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. Victims of crime are often times left angry and disappointed by the criminal justice system. Their sense of justice and redress is restored in great measure by the compassionate treatment and the compensation they receive from the Commission.

GIVEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION, WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION?

The primary role of a Commissioner, as I see it, are to work closely with the Executive Director to set policies for the Commission, and to render final determination on cases in which victim applicants appeal decisions made by the Commission – a process of evaluating, analyzing criminal justice data, applicant documents, and merits of the case to ensure that the victim is fairly and justly awarded compensation. I have worked in the criminal justice system for 22 years providing services to a wide variety of crime victims and/or surviving family members. During this time, I have worked with victims of sex assault, domestic violence, physical assault, kidnapping and in the cases of homicide and negligent homicide, the surviving family members of the victim(s). In addition, my academic work has been primarily in the field of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I obtained a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Chaminade University and I am also a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC).

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH DURING YOUR TERM OF SERVICE?

During these challenging economic times an important concern is that the Commission remains fiscally viable. I believe that this can be accomplished in a variety of ways. I am committed to the concept of restorative justice for crime victims. I believe an important part of this is holding offenders accountable for the harm they have inflicted on the victim and as a vital part of restorative justice is holding them financially accountable by paying restitution to the victim and/or restitution to the Commission.

CAN YOU FORESEE ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS THAT COULD ARISE DURING YOUR SERVICE ON THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION COMMISSION? HOW WOULD YOU OVERCOME ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests. However, should a conflict arise I would recuse myself from decision making.