

# **GM 802**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawaii Paroling Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
MICHAEL A. TOWN, for a term to expire 6-30-19.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Alan M. Asato**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Shawn H. Tsuba**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 802  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL A. TOWN  
TO THE HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY

By  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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 of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** the confirmation of Michael A. Town to continue serving as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Judge Town's extensive experience in his former Judicial role provides him a unique and invaluable insight into the details of an inmate's entire processing through the Law Enforcement, Judicial, Corrections and finally, the Parole systems in Hawaii.

Judge Town has been an active and enthusiastic participant in his current role as a Parole Board member, and we support his continued appointment to a term to expire June 30, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BERT Y. MATSUOKA  
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO  
MICHAEL A. TOWN  
ANNELLE C. AMARAL  
FITUINA F. TUA  
MEMBERS

TOMMY JOHNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 802  
Consideration and Confirmation of Michael A. Town  
to the Hawaii Paroling Authority

By Bert Y. Matsuoka  
Chairman, Hawaii Paroling Authority

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

Thursday, April 16, 2015; 1:15p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

I am providing testimony in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Michael A. Town for a full 4-year term as a member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority to expire on June 30, 2019.

Since his initial appointment to the Authority in April 2011, Mr. Town has consistently displayed integrity, diligence, and a commitment to public service. As a retired Circuit Court Judge, Mr. Town contributes immeasurable experience, mature judgment, and an extremely high degree of procedural knowledge to the Authority.

Mr. Town's experience on the board, knowledge of the Authority, and legal skills are instrumental in the Authority's decision making process. Therefore, I strongly recommend the nomination of this qualified and dedicated public servant to continue as a member of the Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Town's nomination and confirmation.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 12:13 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlv@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM802 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM

**GM802**

Submitted on: 4/10/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	No

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT Judge Town's continued presence & leadership on the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 16, 2015

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Chair, Sen. Will Espero; Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Committee Members  
Public Hearing, April 16, 2015, 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 299, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM ANONSEN,**  
**IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 802**  
**MICHAEL TOWN, REAPPOINTMENT TO HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group, and serve on various law enforcement organizations and non-profit organizations. I would like to express my personal support for the reappointment of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Michael Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

I have found Judge Town to be a dedicated individual who performs his professional and civic responsibilities with a sense of commitment, pride and duty. He has the professional credentials and many characteristics necessary that make him an outstanding member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Judge Town is a leader in the our island community and a team player who works well with all people and is an excellent facilitator. I've witnessed first-hand on several occasions his strong analytical ability and his ability to remain committed to his principals, always with the highest degree of ethics and diplomacy in times of heated conflicting opposition. I have found him to carefully consider difficult issues, and through a structured investigative process and mindset, he develops calculated decisions that address and resolve an issue. Most important, he stands by his principals, strongly defending them skillfully and with respectful tact.

As previously demonstrated during his tenure as a trial judge for over 30 years assigned to the Unified Family Court and Criminal Division of the Circuit Court State District Court and a mediator and arbitrator, I believe Mike is well qualified, and that by confirming his reappointment, it provides a sense of professional expertise on the authority. He is an individual of unquestionable integrity and fairness, and has my personal vote of confidence in this appointed position.

*Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this gubernatorial nominee.*

Sincerely,

*William F. Anonsen*

William F. Anonsen  
Managing Partner/Principal

---

**1221 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1032 Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814**  
**Tel: (808) 589-1223 [www.The-Maritime-Group.com](http://www.The-Maritime-Group.com)**

April 13, 2015



Aloha Senator Espero and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of Judge Michael A. Town (retired) supporting his reappointment to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) as a Parole Commissioner.

Judge Town has been an advocate for children and their families of the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii for over three decades. His tireless support of our mission and the youth we serve is fueled by his intimate knowledge of the alternative path many youths lives take. Many of those youth who found themselves on a less fortunate path passed in front of Judge Town as adults during the many years in which he served the court system.

His firsthand knowledge of our legal system and processes provide the expertise we assume would be of value to the HPA. Though his technical background is valuable his compassion and dedication to our community is beyond question.

I couldn't speak more emphatically for his reappointment.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy Motts".

Timothy Motts  
President & CEO  
Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii

**Administrative Office**  
345 Queen St, Suite 900  
Honolulu HI 96813  
Tel 808-949-4203  
Fax 808-955-4496  
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**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**

**GM 802**

**From:** Fituina Tua [mailto:tapa2b@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 6:43 PM

**To:** PSMTestimony; Mike Town

**Subject:** Judge Mike Town - Confirmation Hearing for Hawaii Parole Board

My name is Fituina F. Tua and I would like to support "Judge Town" for a second term for the Hawaii Parole Board. First of all, I want to recognize that the state of Hawaii is very fortunate to have a retired Judge sitting on the Parole Board. If I am not mistaken, Hawaii may be the only state in the U.S. to have a retired "Judge" on the Parole Board. His judgeship status gives credibility to the Parole Board and the parole and criminal justice process. Judge Town also brings a wealth of professional and personal experiences to the Board. Although his legal/professional experience as a Judge is well documented, his on-going volunteer work with the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii and other non profit groups is a testament to the type of person he is. Judge Town understands that public safety is a priority in determining the release/parole of an inmate into the community. But, he also, understands that parole is earned by assessing the inmate's program completion and behavior in prison. Judge Town has a good understanding of the assessment tools used by counseling professionals in the prison system and has a good understanding of the risk factors in determining inmates who are eligible for parole. Judge Town is known to "coach" and inspire hope to inmates who are troubled. He also provides courtesy mentoring for attorneys, prison counselors, parole officers, as well as, other members of the Parole Board.

I am a retired Federal Probation Officer with over 30 years of experience in the Hawaii and Massachusetts criminal justice system. I am also a sitting member of the Hawaii Parole Board. I have had the pleasure to sit and learn from Judge Town. I am certain this Senate Committee will do the right thing and re-confirm Judge Town to another 4-year term on the Hawaii Parole Board.

Aloha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 5:37 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** kaionagirl808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM802 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM

**GM802**

Submitted on: 4/10/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support MikeTown's nomination. He has the experience, trustworthiness, and character to make the right decisions for the parole commission. I've volunteered with him for the past 5 years and am inspired by his community involvement with the Boys and Girl's club and with his commitment to those who are affected by incarceration. Sincerely, Lisa Chang National Board Certified Teacher

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 8:18 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** Kiha@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM802 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM  
**Attachments:** Judge Town.pdf

**GM802**

Submitted on: 4/10/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kiha Pimental	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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10 April 2015

Aloha Senator Espero and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this in support of Judge Michael A. Town to continue as a Parole Commissioner for a second term.

Judge Town and I have served together in many different communities:

1. Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii, he as Chairman of the Board and I as ethicist.
2. Volunteers at Na Kama Kai passing a "love for the ocean to Hawaii youth."
3. National Trainers at Positive Coaching Alliance developing "better athletes and better people."
4. Co-Presenters to family court judges and clergy on "resiliency and compassion fatigue."
5. Volunteers at Camp Agape, a camp for children of incarcerated parents.
6. Co-speakers at the Hawaii Prayer Breakfast breakout sessions.
7. Co-Council Members, Co-Presenters to Coaches, Parents and Athletes, Co-Canoe Paddlers with US Supreme Court Justices.

Simply put, I love this man. He is a light to our community, an inspiration to children and adults alike, a walking example of everything it means to be "pono." I recommend him without reservation.

Me ke Akua pu.

**Reverend Kiha Pimental**  
**Church Health Coach**  
**Hawaii District of Foursquare Churches**  
4211 Waialae Avenue, Suite 1030  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
Kpimental@foursquare.org  
p 808.561-5967

HAWAII DISTRICT OF FOURSQUARE CHURCHES  
4211 Wai`alae Ave, Suite 1030, Honolulu HI 96816  
Tel. 808-783-2606 - Fax. 808-744-3392

Testimony by Aaron K. Wills in Support of Michael A. Town

I come before you today April 14, 2015 in humble support for the confirmation of Michael A. Town as a Parole Commissioner. I am a firm and solid supporter of retired Judge Michael A. Town. Judge Town took me under his wing when he had 6 months left as a Circuit Court Judge. I volunteered as a law clerk for him during his final months with the Judiciary. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Judge Town eagerly took on my situation and my eagerness to learn and harnessed that energy into a positive outlook on my personal life. Up to that point in my life, I had no real mentors, no life coach, or any guidance for a professional career. Judge Town invested his time and energy into not only believing in me, but also in developing me into a "better man" than I was before I met Judge Town.

After Judge Town retired, he started working with me one-on-one and we decided to approach the idea of going to Law School for the second time. I submitted my application in January of 2011, and during the wait time Judge Town hired me as his paralegal. During this time, Judge Town sat me down and told me, "Aaron, I don't know if the law school is going to accept you or not, but I believe in you, and I am going to teach you everything I know about the law, regardless if they let you in or not!" Here is a judge who sat on the bench for 30+ years, and now in his retirement, chooses to take on "my case" and decides to pour his heart and soul into his efforts with me. A few weeks later, I was accepted into law school, I became the first 3L class Justice on the Law School Student Body Government in 2013, and I graduated from William S. Richardson School of Law in May of 2014.

Judge Town has shown me thru his commitment to the community in volunteering and thru his commitment to his own family and to myself, that his character and heart are pure. He is not a perfect person, and Judge Town will be the first to tell you that. But he will be the first to stick his hand out to help a fallen brother and he will be the first to call and make known his heart felt feelings when appropriate and needed. I couldn't have made it thru law school without his support, love, and guidance over the last 6 years.

I was present when Judge Town was sworn in for his first term as a Parole Commissioner. This was a new job for Judge Town and one that he takes very seriously. I believe Judge Town was the first retired judge to be appointed to the Parole Commission. Which is a shocking fact. The Parole Commission needs balance, and the balance it has been lacking is the judicial expertise of a retired judge of 30 plus years of experience. Judge Town sought out this position, because he cares. He cares about the lives and the lives of "the children" these men and women leave behind when they go to prison. I can honestly say with the conversations I have with Judge Town that there isn't a case that he doesn't read over carefully, and there isn't one parolee that is overlooked while Judge Town was a Commissioner. Judge Town is constantly working to make sure the State of Hawaii is in compliance with the United States Constitution, and I feel safe knowing that Judge Town will use his discretion, experience, and training when deciding on minimums and release of defendants. There is not another candidate more qualified and my full support is behind this man because his heart and mind are in the right place. He is a man that puts others first before himself. I truly love this man for what he has done to support my career, and me but I am only one of the many this man has touched. It is my honor to write in support of him, and I know the State of Hawaii will be a better place with Judge Town working for the State than not. I fully support the confirmation of retire Judge Michael A. Town for Parole Commissioner in the State of Hawaii. Thank You for your time.

Aaron K. Wills

April 12, 2015

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

FR: Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo  
Hawai'i Paroling Authority, Member

RE: GM 802—Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Judge Michael Town  
to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority  
Hearing date and time: Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero, Senator Baker, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strongest support for the nomination of Michael Town to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA) for a four-year term.

I have served on the HPA for the past four years with Judge Town. During the first two years, when there were only three members (including the Chairman), we handled the entire caseload, adjudicating an average of 300-400 hearings per month. We learned to work together in a most collegial and efficient manner and developed an in-depth understanding of the parole process.

Judge Town brings both stature and experience to the Board from his three decades of service as a State court judge. He has extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system and offers valuable insight into complex reentry and reintegration issues.

I know of no other state in the country where a former judge is willing to offer his or her considerable time and energy as a parole board member. Judge Town is well-respected by attorneys and inmates alike for his ability to render decisions with fairness and compassion. He is firm but always encouraging in his comments to inmates.

I have really enjoyed working with Judge Town these past years. He is a very positive individual who seeks to enrich the lives of others through his wisdom and guidance.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

Robert K. Merce  
2467 Aha Aina Place  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
(808) 732-7430

April 15, 2015

Senate Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Thursday, April 16, 2015  
Room 229  
1:15 p.m.  
GM 802 (Nomination of Michael A. Town to Hawai'i Paroling Authority)  
**Strong Support**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

My name is Bob Merce and I am a retired attorney. I have known Judge Town for more than 20 years and I strongly urge you to confirm him for a second term on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Judge Town brings strong academic credentials to the Paroling Authority with an undergraduate degree from Stanford and law degrees from Hastings and Yale. He has published articles on various aspects of the law and was one of pioneers in introducing the principles of restorative justice to Hawai'i. Judge Town is intelligent, wise, fair, and hard working. He has been an asset to the Paroling Authority and it has benefited tremendously from his judicial experience, leadership, and knowledge of the law.

I met Judge Town in the 1990s when he was a family court judge and I was an associate at the law office of David C. Schutter. At various times our law firm represented children who were in the juvenile justice system for protection because they had been abused or mistreated by adults. Judge Town was fiercely protective of these children and determined to see that our justice system did not fail them. In one case we represented a young Mexican girl who, with the help of family members, had entered the United States illegally and was abused after accepting a job as maid for a wealthy couple who had a home on Portlock Road. We settled the girl's case and notified Judge Town that we wanted to send her back to her family in Mexico. Judge Town wanted to be sure that her family had no connection to the people who abused her and said he wanted a lawyer from our firm to go to the very remote village in Mexico where the girl was from to check out her family and make sure they were not complicit in her abuse. We had Spanish-speaking attorney in our office, and Mr. Schutter sent him on the long journey to Mexico as Judge Town requested. It turned out that the family had nothing to do with the girl's abuse, but this shows the lengths to which Judge Town will go to make sure he has all the facts before making a decision. He brings that same mindset and high degree of professionalism to his work on the Paroling Authority and its decisions are the better for it.

Judge Town has also demonstrated a profound, life-long, commitment to community service and helping those who need help most. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Columbia in the 1960s, and as a legal aid lawyer in Hawai'i for almost a decade. He has been a leader of the Boys and Girls Club of Hawai'i for nearly 30 years and has served as chair of its Board of Directors and its Statewide Alliance. He has spent countless hours as an instructor and coach with Na Kama Kai's ocean awareness program and has selflessly devoted his time and energy to many other charitable organizations including the Go-First Foundation, the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund, the Positive Coaching Alliance of Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i Justice Foundation.

We have been extremely fortunate to have had someone with Judge Town's knowledge, experience, and commitment as a member of our parole board, and we are doubly fortunate that he is willing to continue the great work he has been doing. I strongly urge you to confirm Judge Town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Merce", written in a cursive style.

Robert K. Merce

HAWK SING  IGNACIO  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. B-299  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
T (808) 532-3800  
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April 15, 2015

Senate Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Thursday, April 16, 2015  
Room 229  
1:15pm  
GM 802 (Nomination of Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority)  
**STRONG SUPPORT**

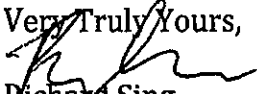
Dear Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker, and members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Sing and I am writing you today in **strong support** of the nomination of Michael A. Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I have practiced law before Judge Town as an attorney in Family Court, Circuit Court, and the Paroling Authority since the late 1990's. I strongly urge this Committee to confirm him to a second term.

Judge Town brings impressive academic credentials to the Paroling Authority with an undergraduate degree from Stanford University and law degrees from Hastings and Yale. These credentials have been put to good use during a long and distinguished career as a private practitioner, a Family Court Judge, and Circuit Court Judge. Judge Town was, and continues to be universally acknowledged as one of the wisest, fairest, and hardest working judge the first circuit has seen.

The fact that Judge Town is willing to serve on the Paroling Authority is fortunate and a blessing to our community. As you know, the Paroling Authority deals with the worst criminal offenders in our State. The vast knowledge and experience that Judge Town brings to this difficult and important job is vital to public safety, restorative justice, and the professional and competent operation of the Paroling Authority.

I strongly urge you to confirm Judge Town to the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Very Truly Yours,  
  
Richard Sing  
Hawk Sing & Ignacio

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 8:31 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** ghammond@carlsonhammondhi.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM802 on Apr 16, 2015 13:15PM

**GM802**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon E Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mike Town is the perfect person for this position. His lifetime work as a judicial leader and current non-profit involvement with the Boys and Girls Club and Positive Coaching Alliance "saves lives". He is caring, thoughtful, and absolutely capable of making the right decision. Sincerely, Gordon E. Hammond

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11 April 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered by your committee and the Senate for service on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. The following information is in response to your letter of 9 April 2015 asking for a written statement regarding my background and reasons for applying.

1. My reasons for applying to serve as a commissioner are based upon my past three plus years of service as a parole commissioner. It is service that requires rigorous preparation, careful attention and discernment along with close cooperation with each commissioner and various agencies. The current commission is a quasi-judicial body, which is collegial, knowledgeable, chaired capably, and well staffed. There are now five (5) commissioners up from the three (3) when I began in 2011. Even with five commissioners we hear well over 300+ cases monthly

I have appreciated the professionalism and diverse knowledge each commissioner brings, such that at any one time three of the five of us sit and hear cases depending on our schedules, as this is a part-time position. I like to think we are consistent regardless of who is sitting as a commissioner. We hear about 20+ cases daily in one of the nine (9) facilities across the state, in Arizona or occasionally a federal prison via telephone. We have an excellent staff as well statewide as we travel to each neighbor island facility regularly.

The bottom line is this quasi-judicial group must constantly balance public safety with accountability and building competencies in the inmates to re-enter society. Restorative justice might best describe what we do. Work furlough is a key component of realizing core competencies.

2. Regarding qualifications, my resume is on file and hopefully speaks for itself. This position requires a balance of common sense, a background in law and criminal justice and the ability to listen carefully, keep an open mind and make a decision based upon the facts and law and the demeanor and history of the inmate before us. Restorative justice, as stated, best encompasses the philosophy where inmates must do their programs, avoid misconducts and present a specific proactive, productive parole plan for the future when they re-enter the community.

3. Accomplishments: In my view we must continue to work collaboratively with all law enforcement agencies, particularly Public Safety so there is a continuum of services and care for the inmates including a comprehensive work furlough program which is a key ingredient. Of particular interest to me are an aging inmate population and one where many inmates are in ill health or require compassionate alternatives to incarceration. Also the question of housing inmates out of state continues to be an issue worthy of discussion.
4. Regarding conflicts of interest, there are none I can think of as my service as a trial judge is consistent with what a parole commissioner does. Like a trial judge, a commissioner must be patient, courteous, dignified and even-handed. The issue of conflict has never become an issue even where I was the sentencing judge in Circuit Court for an inmate before the Commission.

Finally, I regard this position as valuable public service and would like to thank the Committee, the Senate and the Governor for considering me for another four years. Should you have any questions, I will be glad to answer them.

Sincerely,

Judge Michael A. Town (retired)