

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 5:32:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 5/14/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mattos	Testifying for SOH - Commission on Fatherhood	Support	No

Comments:

RE: Charles Woolfork – applicant,

Commission on Fatherhood

Aloha Committee Members. I am currently the Chairman of the SOH - Commission on Fatherhood. I have met with Charles Woolfork from Kauai on several occasions in different capacities involving meetings of supporting families. He has consistently displayed good character and enthusiasm for the Fatherhood Commission's work. I recommend Charles Woolfork's nomination.

In addition, below my recommendation and signature, here is a recommendation written by Brian Alston of the Kauai Fatherhood Council.

Regards,

David "Kawika" Mattos, Chairman and Maui Representative.

Please read below.

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To whom it may concern:

I write this letter in support of applicant Mr. Charles Woolfork for the State of Hawaii - Fatherhood Commission representing the island of Kauai.

I met Mr. Woolfork three (3) years ago in a meeting of the Kauai Fatherhood Council. He was engaged, energetic and appropriate in his participation.

Over the last 3 years, Mr. Woolfork has volunteered and supported community efforts for Kauai men and families with great enthusiasm and intelligence. He has big vision

and common sense ideas, and willing to collaborate and work with others to achieve their fulfillment.

I support his nomination for the Hawaii State – Commission on Fatherhood.

Regards,

Brian Alston - Kauai Fatherhood Council

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May 10, 2020

## **Testimony in Strong Opposition to: GM 710, 711 and 712 Governor Ige's Nominations to the Commission on Fatherhood**

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

At a time when hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents are suffering, there is no need to proceed with Governor Ige's Nominations to the Commission on Fatherhood. This is not a priority for the Senate and your consideration sends the message that you are prioritizing an ineffective and irrelevant commission over the true needs of the people.

According to their [website](#), this Commission shows no record of meeting in 2019 or 2020. Despite years of work, they have not developed any strategic plan for the public. In a review of their Minutes dating to 2013, almost no one from the public ever attends their meetings and it is standard that there are no publicly generated issues ever recorded. It is unclear if they have any private funding and appear to rely almost 100% on State funds to carry out activities like tabling at Windward Mall, printing business cards for members, as well as in/out-of-state travel. It is really unclear what they do or how they carry out their mission to promote and improve outcomes for fathers, children and families in Hawaii.

In this time of crisis for our state, nation and the world this Committee has no need to advance Governor Ige's nominations to an ineffective Commission. If you don't act on these nominations, the Commission will be unable to achieve quorum. Will anyone in the public notice? I doubt it. If their work is so valued by the public, perhaps in a future special or regular session of the Legislature, it might be more appropriate to provide your approval.

Today, is not that day. Today is the day to invest in proven strategies that will demonstrably get people the unemployment benefits they are overdue, to get people the affordable housing solutions they need to avoid homelessness and to tell Governor Ige, this failed Commission is not a priority for the Thirtieth Legislature.

Respectfully,

Eduardo Hernandez

Registered voter in State House District 26 and Senate District 12