

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 1:04:14 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doug Imig	Testifying for Early Childhood Action Strategy	Support	No

Comments:

I am delighted to write in support of the consideration and confirmation of the Gubernatorial Nominee, DAVID MATTOS, to the Commission on Fatherhood. I have attended meetings of the Commission on Fatherhood and am impressed by the leadership and direction demonstrated by Mr. Mattos, and his encompassing vision of the wellbeing of fathers, and of their families, across the State of Hawai'i. I recommend him for this position enthusiastically and without reservation. Thank you.

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