

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of  
**Josh Green, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message No. 517**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 517, the appointment of Tommy Johnson to be Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Prior to his appointment as Director, Tommy served as the Deputy Director of Corrections for five years. During this time, Tommy worked to reduce recidivism, maintain staff development and training, and worked on the development of prison programs centered on education and rehabilitation.

In addition to his service as Deputy Director of Corrections, Tommy also served for 16 years as the Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, where he directed and oversaw statewide parole supervision operations, legislative coordination, and other areas critical to department improvement. Tommy also served as a Personnel Management Specialist with the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, as a Youth Corrections Officer for the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, and as a Correctional Service Officer. Through these positions, Tommy gained extensive experience in grievance resolution, program development, and the legislative process and coordination.

With his vast experience dealing with Hawaii's correctional system, I am confident that Tommy will serve the State well in his capacity as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**TESTIMONY BY:**

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO  
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 517**  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public  
Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tommy Johnson

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

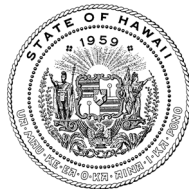
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Tommy Johnson  
as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Mr. Johnson has held various positions in public safety most recently he served as the  
Deputy Director for Corrections with DPS, prior to that he was the Administrator for the  
Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA), and a Youth Corrections Officer with the Hawai'i  
Youth Correctional Facility.

The DOT believes that Mr. Johnson's strong background in public safety makes him an  
ideal candidate to serve as DPS director.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 517

**April 5, 2023**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 225 & Videoconference**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY  
JOHNSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026.

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

I strongly support the appointment of Tommy Johnson to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I am working with Mr. Johnson in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

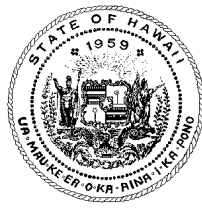
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Johnson is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Johnson has been serving as the Director of PSD since December 2022. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Director for Corrections from 2020 to 2022 and 2007 to 2010; he was also the Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority for nearly 16 years. His work experience will benefit PSD and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT  
Deputy Director  
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT GOVERNOR  
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

VACANT  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 517  
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF TOMMY JOHNSON  
TO BE THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

By

Jordan Lowe, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 p.m.  
CR 225 & Via Video Conference

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

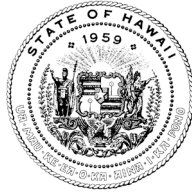
I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Tommy Johnson as the Director, Department of Public Safety (PSD).

Mr. Johnson has extensive work experience in the state government and military service. His decade of experience in both youth and adult corrections, leadership in the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, years of experience serving in the military, along with his impressive accolades, make him a suitable and highly qualified candidate to navigate the complexities of the duties and responsibilities, and authority as the Director of PSD.

I had the honor of working alongside Mr. Johnson while we both served as Deputy Directors. This gave me firsthand experience of Mr. Johnson's knowledge, skills, and his ability to lead the people in his division and instill integrity, compassion, hard work, and a positive attitude.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony support of Governor's Message 517 and the confirmation of Mr. Johnson.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

## OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119  
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922  
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of  
DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
Chief Information Officer  
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 517  
NOMINATION OF TOMMY JOHNSON, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Johnson has served as the Deputy Director of Corrections for five years, working to reduce recidivism, improve staff development and training, and develop prison programs centered on education and rehabilitation.

He served as the Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority for 16 years, where he directed and oversaw statewide parole supervision operations, and legislative coordination.

He has extensive experience in grievance resolution, program development, and legislative coordination.

I am honored to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
*Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i*  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN  
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.  
CLAYTON H.W. HEE  
MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 517  
CONSIDERTION AND CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

by  
Edmund "Fred" Hyun, Chairman  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

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

My pleasure and honor to testify before this Committee in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the Governor's nomination of Tommy Johnson as Director for Public Safety Department (PSD) (to become Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation). I am blessed to be in such a position to testify having experienced the evolution of Corrections from a Division to a Department with nine (9) different directors as well as serving as Acting Director myself.

Let me begin by saying that in 2003, based on second and third hand rumors and innuendos, I was not a fan of Nominee Johnson. In 2016, I began as Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) and Mr. Johnson was the Parole and Pardons Administrator (PPA). Although we had different styles of management, as professionals we worked intensely with each other on a daily basis. Mr. Johnson's tenure as PPA and twice as Deputy Director of Corrections (Dep-C), his administrative skill set as well as servicing numerous parole boards and chairs, I can now say is **EXEMPLARY**.

In 2020, with the onset of COVID and the retirement of then Director Espinda, Governor Ige assigned me the task of Special Master (trouble shoot/evaluate the department and system) followed by two months as Acting Director to assemble/install a team for his approval to address the crisis and move the Department forward. One of those team members was Tommy Johnson who was the Deputy Director of Corrections (Dep-C). Mr. Max Otani was appointed as Director.

Mr. Otani and Mr. Johnson both come from backgrounds of paroles and pardons, community supervision and re-entry, as well as pre-trial, but more importantly, served stints as DEP-C under different administrations. This provided the groundwork for Rehabilitation and Re-entry. As Dep-C in charge of jails, prisons, programs and pre-trial services, the position establishes a solid foundation to address the long standing problems growing in the department. The 'new' Director, in the new Department, will have numerous challenges and change will not happen overnight.

While there are those who have their opinions and not support the nomination, I can with high degree of experience and authority believe Mr. Johnson has demonstrated himself to ME and others to be highly qualified and capable to serve as the Public Safety Director and later the Director for Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in STRONG SUPPORT for Tommy Johnson as Public Safety Director.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

April 5, 2023

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: GM 517; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as Director for the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Mr. Johnson possesses the experience and knowledge to successfully lead the DPS. Mr. Johnson is deeply familiar with public safety as exemplified by his extensive career with the department. He has served as the Deputy Director of Corrections for five years and as the Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority for sixteen years. In both positions, Mr. Johnson directed statewide operations and worked to reduce recidivism.

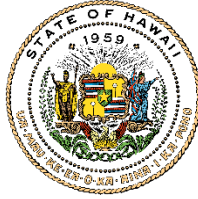
Mr. Johnson is committed to reduce recidivism, increase staff training, and development as the department focuses on prison programs centered on education and rehabilitation. The DLIR strongly believes that he will uphold justice and public safety by providing correctional and law enforcement services to Hawaii's communities with professionalism, integrity, and fairness as the DPS transitions to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 517.



**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 517  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY  
JOHNSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

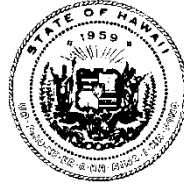
Governor's Message 517 submits for confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tommy Johnson, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department has found Mr. Johnson to be responsive, professional, and dedicated to the mission of public safety. Recently, Mr. Johnson assisted the Department with improved patrolling at the Kalanimoku Building following an attack on a staff person and other safety concerns around the building. The Department acknowledges the efforts of Mr. Tommy Johnson, a highly skilled and experienced corrections and law enforcement leader with more than 25 years of service in the state of Hawai'i. Following a decorated career in the U.S. Army, Mr. Johnson served as a Youth Corrections Officer, Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, and Deputy Director for Corrections (twice). He is the current Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Johnson's experience leading departments with multiple divisions, offices, and programs, managing budgets of \$200 million and above, and formulating and implementing state policies and objectives has perfectly prepared him for the role of Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message 517.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**GM 517**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY JOHNSON,**  
**FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.**

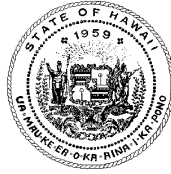
Honorable Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 517, to consider and confirm Tommy Johnson to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety.

It is truly my honor and privilege to be working alongside with him and there is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 517 and confirm Tommy Johnson to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**JOSH GREEN, M. D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR  
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**RYAN YAMANE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
**KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of  
**BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO**  
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

3:00PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**GM517** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, **TOMMY JOHNSON** for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and the members of the committee.

We strongly support the appointment of Tommy Johnson to the position of Director, Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Johnson has proven to be a dedicated public servant with considerable knowledge of corrections and public safety. In the few short months working with Mr. Johnson, I have found him to be proactive, collaborative, and responsive.

Prior to Mr. Johnson's position as Director of the Department of Safety, he served as the Department's Deputy Director for Corrections, as the Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and as a Youth Corrections Officer. His extensive experience at all levels within and outside the department makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Public Safety.

We look forward to collaborating closely with Mr. Johnson in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
**HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY**  
*Ka 'Ākena Palola o Hawai'i*  
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

EDMUND "FRED" HYUN  
CHAIR

GENE DEMELLO, JR.  
CLAYTON H.W. HEE  
MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
CAROL K. MATAYOSHI  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 517  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

by  
Corey J. Reincke  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

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

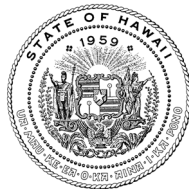
Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Mr. Tommy Johnson as the Director for the Department of Public Safety (to become the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation).

I am currently the Acting Paroles and Pardons Administrator for the Hawaii Paroling Authority, a position Mr. Johnson held for nearly sixteen (16) years. I have had the privilege of working for Mr. Johnson since October 2003 as a Parole Officer IV, Parole Supervisor V for the Special Services Unit (High Risk), then as the Branch Administrator for Field Services statewide in 2022.

Mr. Johnson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Department as a former Paroles and Pardons Administrator and Deputy of Corrections. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will benefit tremendously from his past experiences and administrative capabilities. I can attest to Mr. Johnson's dedication to meet the challenges ahead and lead the transition of the Department into the future.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of Mr. Tommy Johnson.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 517

**April 5, 2023**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 225 & Videoconference**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY  
JOHNSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026.

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

I strongly support the appointment of Tommy Johnson to the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I am working with Mr. Johnson in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

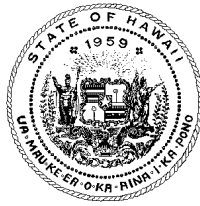
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Johnson is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Johnson has been serving as the Director of PSD since December 2022. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Director for Corrections from 2020 to 2022 and 2007 to 2010; he was also the Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority for nearly 16 years. His work experience will benefit PSD and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA`ĀINA



**MARI McCAIG BELLINGER**  
Chair

**CLIFTON Y.S. CHOY**  
Commissioner

**JO KAMAE BYRNE**  
Commissioner

**PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII – KA MOKU`ĀINA `O HAWAII`I

**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION**

**Ke Komikina Uku Luaahi Kalaima**

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1530  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Telephone: 808 587-1143  
Fax: 808 587-1146

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR`S MESSAGE 517  
Consideration and Confirmation for Tommy Johnson  
as the Director, Department of Public Safety

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director  
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (Commission) with the opportunity to testify before you today. The Commission strongly supports the appointment of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). Mr. Johnson is committed to ensuring that offenders have the evidence-based programming and other resources to become successful upon their release into the community while also taking into account the needs of victims, survivors, and community safety in correctional practices.

The Commission is a quasi-judicial body that provides compensation for violent crime victims to pay un-reimbursed expenses for crime-related losses due to physical or mental injury or death. Many victims of violent crime could not afford to pay their medical bills, receive needed mental health or rehabilitative services, or bury a loved one if compensation were not available from the Commission. The Commission also administers a Restitution Recovery Project to collect court-ordered restitution from inmates and parolees and to disburse those funds to their crime victims.

I have had the privilege of working with Tommy Johnson for over 20 years through his tenure as the Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA), then as Deputy Director of Corrections, and as Interim Director of the Department of Public Safety. During my interactions with Mr. Johnson in his various roles, he has consistently sought out and acted upon the recommendations of victim and community safety advocates. He has focused on offender

accountability (restitution), victim and community safety (creation of the SAVIN victim notification system), and partnered with victim advocates in developing programming to provide wraparound services for victims and survivors (a partnership of victim services with PSD and state and county victim assistance programs).

The following three projects demonstrate Mr. Johnson's commitment to ensure that the needs of victims, survivors, and the safety of the community are reflected in PSD's correctional practices.

Restitution Recovery Project – Mr. Johnson understands that enforcement of court-ordered restitution is an integral part of the rehabilitative process. In 2003, the Commission, in partnership with PSD and HPA under Mr. Johnson's leadership, began a Restitution Recovery Project to ensure that court-ordered restitution payments are collected from inmates and parolees. The Project has collected over 6 million dollars of restitution and is a national model. In January 2021, the Commission and the Council of State Governments released an article titled "*Victim Restitution Matters: Four Lessons from Hawai'i to Ensure Financial Justice for Crime Victims.*"

As a result of Mr. Johnson's efforts to ensure offender accountability, more victims and survivors have received restitution payments from inmates and parolees. These increased restitution payments support and enhance victims' and survivors' ability to recover, serve to hold the offender accountable to the victim of their crime, and assist the offender in developing a sense of self-respect by righting the wrongs the offender has committed.

Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) System - In 2008, while Deputy Director of Corrections, Mr. Johnson secured federal grant funding to establish the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system in PSD. In 2012, the SAVIN Program became a permanent PSD program as a part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. The SAVIN system provides automated notification to crime victims, survivors, and others about changes in the custody status of offenders. The SAVIN system ensures that crime victims and survivors receive automated notification about the offender's custody status as required by statute.

Corrections-Based Victim Services – Mr. Johnson is working to establish a Corrections-Based Victim Service Program in PSD. Hawai'i was the only state without a corrections-based victim services program. In 2019, a national post-conviction victim advocate and program development consultant was brought in to work in consultation with Hawai'i's victim services community to identify gaps in existing services and opportunities to establish a program within PSD. The strategic plan identified the fragmentation of victim services in Hawai'i as a significant barrier to providing quality services to victims.

In 2021, the Commission and Mr. Johnson, as the Deputy Director for Corrections, agreed to collaborate on the implementation of PSD's Corrections-Based Victim Service Program. This Program will ensure that victim needs, community safety, and offender accountability are integrated in correction practices, eliminate the fragmentation of services for victims and survivors, and create a coordinated, efficient, and collaborative approach to corrections-based victim services in Hawai'i.

The Commission strongly urges you to confirm Mr. Johnson to continue to lead the Department of Public Safety as its Director.

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**Testimony of James S. Tabe, State Public Defender  
to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

April 5, 2023

GM 517: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, gubernatorial nominee, Tommy Johnson

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

I fully support the nomination of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS). I have known Mr. Johnson for over twenty years in his professional capacity as the Administrator of the Hawai‘i Paroling Authority (HPA) and as the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Throughout the years, I have developed the utmost respect for Mr. Johnson’s knowledge and professionalism, even though we have been at times on the opposite sides of issues. The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) has worked closely with Mr. Johnson when he was with the HPA. He has been remarkably responsive and has always made himself available whenever my office had a concern or question regarding correctional matters. I always appreciated that he would take the time to not only discuss issues regarding HPA matters but take extra care in addressing HPA cases involving unique circumstances.

For the last four years, Director Max Otani and Mr. Johnson have led DPS through some of their most difficult years. The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges during a time that was confusing and chaotic for all stakeholders in the criminal justice system. Under the leadership of Mr. Otani and Mr. Johnson, DPS worked collaboratively with the Judiciary, law enforcement, prosecuting agencies, and the OPD to successfully navigate issues of inmate releases, facility outbreaks, and facility precautionary COVID measures.

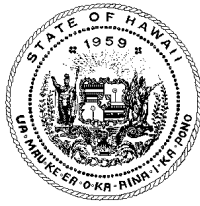
Mr. Johnson is well-qualified for the position of DPS Director. Having been in corrections as far back as 1996 and having served in positions ranging from corrections officer to administrator to deputy director of DPS, his experience, professionalism, and institutional knowledge, are unparalleled, and I am confident



that Mr. Johnson will serve the Department of Public Safety and the State of Hawai'i with distinction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Michael J. Hoffman**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

**William F. Oku**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

Testimony on Governor's Message 517  
Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety,  
Tommy Johnson  
By  
Melanie Martin, Deputy Director for Administration  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

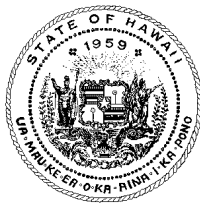
Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

It is with great honor that I submit testimony in support of Tommy Johnson for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). As a member of his leadership team, I have first-hand knowledge of Mr. Johnson's competence and fortitude to lead the PSD as it transitions to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). I have no doubt that he has the institutional knowledge, aptitude and work ethic required to move the DCR forward in a positive direction.

Mr. Johnson is intelligent, confident, and more importantly, he has integrity. He is open to new ideas and is always respectful towards staff. Mr. Johnson is not afraid to make decisions and will always take responsibility for his actions. Above all, Mr. Johnson is humble. He started with the state as a Youth Corrections Officer with the Office of Youth Services and worked his way up the career ladder to the position he currently holds. This career path has equipped him with the skill set and experience needed to make key decisions to fulfill PSD's mission to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of GM517 and the confirmation of Tommy Johnson.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Michael J. Hoffman**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

**William F. Oku**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 517  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TOMMY JOHNSON

By

Michael J. Hoffman, Acting Deputy Director for Corrections

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference

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

I submit testimony in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Tommy Johnson for the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I have worked with Mr. Johnson in my capacity as the Institutions Division Administrator twice under two different Governors and as the Acting Deputy Director for Corrections under the present Administration.

Mr. Johnson has more than thirty years in State service and experience in the Paroling Authority and Corrections at the executive level. He clearly demonstrates the knowledge, leadership, managerial, and interpersonal skills required to lead the PSD. I can clearly affirm he is open, approachable, honorable and has the integrity to take on the challenges and lead PSD. I stand in full and strong support and request the committee to support the confirmation of Mr. Johnson as the Director of the PSD.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 517 and the confirmation of Mr. Johnson.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378  
[doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov)

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM517**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

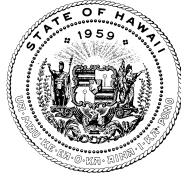
Hearing Date: 4/5/2023

Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of
- 3 Tommy Johnson for Director of the Department of Public Safety for the State of Hawaii.
- 4
- 5 Mr. Johnson has a record of service to his country, colleagues, and community across several
- 6 decades. His corrections career is mutli-faceted and spans age ranges and security levels, in
- 7 addition to administrative functions, policy development, labor relations, and executive
- 8 leadership. Especially valuable is Mr. Johnson working his way through the ranks, quite literally
- 9 in the US Army, but also through the public sector, so he has the perspective of line staff, middle
- 10 management, and leadership.
- 11
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 13
- 14 **Offered Amendments:** None

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o  
Hawaii'*

**SYLVIA J. LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina  
'o Hawaii'*



**KALI WATSON**  
CHAIRMAN, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

**KATIE L. DUCATT**  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON APRIL 5, 2023 AT 3:00PM IN CR 225**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**GM 517**

for consideration and confirmation as the Director,  
Department of Public Safety,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **TOMMY JOHNSON**,  
for a term to expire 12-07-2026

April 5, 2023

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Tommy Johnson as the Director for the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

With over 25 years of service with the State, DHHL is confident that Mr. Johnson will successfully lead and manage DPS with skill and diligence. Mr. Johnson's experience as an Active Duty soldier in the United States Army, a Youth Corrections Officer for the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, and Deputy Director for Corrections with DPS reflects his ability to work with a variety of different kinds of entities within the field of Public Safety. Mr. Johnson's administrative work is also reflected in his previous role as an Administrator for the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

DHHL looks forward to working in partnership with Tommy Johnson and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:33:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tuufuli A. Uperesa	Testifying for PSD	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Wakai,

My name is Sgt Tuufuli A. Uperesa, and I am an Adult Corrections Officer (ACO) at the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC). I have been employed with the Department of Public Safety for 24 yrs., all at WCCC. I would like to voice my concerns to you and why you should vote against the appointment of Mr. Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

His lack of leadership and questionable decisions leave alot to be desired. For example: his appointment of Mick Hoffman as the Acting Deputy raises many questions of abuse of power, favortism, unfair practices to “clean house” such as going after WCCC former WCW, Eric Tanaka, COS Pagharion and OCCC WCW, Francis Sequira. I have had the opportunity to work with these people and they are good leaders. They were accused and charged unfairly for situations that were not investigated properly which in turn forced them to retire. Currently, they reassigned COS Calvin Pagharion at OCCC and has reassigned Captain Grace Johnson to his position at WCCC for no reason. She does not have the experience to be a Chief therefore, she is the Acting Chief of Security (ACOS). Captain Grace Johnson has had a few major incidents (escape, discharge of a firearm, etc.) at OCCC that she was never charged or reprimanded for and COS Calvin Pagharion has had no incidents in his entire career of 35 years, so why is he being punished. This move makes no sense and appears to have ulterior motives.

**PLEASE DO NOT APPOINT TOMMY JOHNSON AS DIRECTOR OF PULIC SAFETY.**

Continuous staffing shortages and the resulting increase in assigning ACOs to long shifts have led to alarmingly low morale. While these are longstanding problems PSD has struggled with, we do not feel Mr. Johnson has demonstrated the ability to resolve these issues based on his many years within the Department.

I understand that your committee's recommendation will heavily influence the Senate's decision to confirm Mr. Johnson. I humbly ask that you consider the concerns of Hawaii's ACOs when you make your recommendation.

Mahalo,

Sgt. Tuufuli A. Uperesa

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023  
3:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 517**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chairperson Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Tommy's resume demonstrates his record of success and is an indication of his future success serving the State. Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm Tommy Johnson's nomination to serve as the Director, Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 2:06:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Pagharion	Testifying for Public safety	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Mistreated and targeted by Director Tommy Johnson and Acting Deputy Hoffman**

Hi Senator Wakai, I have been employed by the Department of Public Safety for 35 years. I am assigned at WCCC as the Chief of Security. I was Detached at OCCC for the last year due to a PREA investigation that they say I failed to process. Mind you that the Warden of the Facility has the last ultimate decision on approval. He since retired and I was the only one left to defend myself. The Warden took full responsibility of the failure to process this investigation BUT they still suspended me for 3 days in November. I did those 3 days and later was told that I will remain at OCCC as a line captain with rotation shifts instead of my usual 6-2 SSH shift at WCCC. Bottom line they want me to retire and leave the line captain at WCCC. This is the decision of the Acting Deputy Michael Hoffman who initiated this detachment and now Tommy Johnson who is going along with this decision. This has caused me undue STRESS and ANXIETY along with DEPRESSION. I have filed a claim with Workmans Compensation due to my mental issues. I have never been disciplined in my 35 years in Corrections. I had a good repore with all staff at WCCC. In fact they MISS MY LEADERSHIP a lot. I hope to return to WCCC as favoritism is at its finest. I would appreciate if this could be brought up at the confirmation of Mr Johnson. My state email is Calvin.a. Pagharion@hawaii.gov. Thank you for your time.

Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
**City and County of Honolulu**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



April 5, 2023

Testimony of  
**STEVEN S. ALM**  
Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu

Before the Senate Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

In consideration of Governor's Message 517  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TOMMY JOHNSON  
FOR DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PULBIC SAFETY**

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

I submit this testimony in strong support of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety, soon to be the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

I have known Tommy for more than 20 years in his capacities at both the Department of Public Safety and the Hawaii Paroling Authority. During that time he has developed a deep understanding of the Hawai'i criminal justice system in general, and the corrections system in particular.

Over time Tommy has become very knowledgeable about, and an advocate for, the importance of rehabilitation for those sent to jail and prison and their integration into the community afterwards. He knows that you have to start planning for an inmate's release from their first day behind bars.

At the same time, while recognizing the importance of rehabilitation and the different opportunities and strategies for providing for it, Tommy is clear-eyed about recognizing that part of the responsibility of the Director is public safety.

Given Tommy's background, positive attitude, and dedication to the mission, Tommy is the right person at this critically important time to lead the Department. I strongly support his nomination.

**# # #**

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 4:15:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De MONT Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the appointment of Tommy Johnson to become the Director of Public Safety.

Tommy's resume speaks for itself. However, having personally witnessed Tommy's growth over the years, especially as the Deputy Director of Public Safety under the leadership of Max Otani, it is clear that Tommy has come into his own brand of leadership that bodes well for the Public, Corrections Officials, Correctional Officers, as well as prisoners and their families.

While not all decisions by Tommy will make everyone happy. This is one of the hardest departments to run, in our humble opinion, Tommy has what it takes to do the job.

Please give Tommy your "Advise and Consent".

Mahalo,

De Mont Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager

Ho'omana Pono, LLC



## **GM517 Director of PSD: Tommy Johnson**

### **COMMITTEE ON Public Safety, and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:**

- Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair;
- Sen. Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, Ap 5, 2023: 3:00: Room 225 Videoconference

## **Hina Mauka Highly Recommends Tommy Johnson as PSD Director:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit Treatment and Prevention agency for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and other behavioral health conditions providing treatment for over 2,500 patients a year and providing prevention to thousands of youth and families each year.*

With positions as Deputy Director of Corrections, and Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and decades of management for PSD, Tommy Johnson has developed the leadership skills and Public Safety knowledge while serving under various Directors over many years.

- Moreover, Acting Director Johnson has the confidence of supportive PSD management staff that he can lead them, which will be critical for developing the strategic initiatives for PSD to do the necessary moves to evolve PSD's practices.
- Tommy Johnson, at his various levels of management, has worked with providers at various capacities and understands the need for collaboration. It is this collaboration with providers that can help him plan for more creative solutions for PSD to prepare for the future.
- Mr. Johnson has a clear vision for evolving PSD towards a more rehabilitative model while understanding that cultural shifts among his staff as well as the community will need his exceptional leadership skills to make that happen.
- As a Director, Tommy Johnson has the understanding and experience to know that he needs the strong support of the Legislature's leaders in addition to the Governor. He knows that he will have to be both progressive in policies while conservative in spending.
- As evidenced by his long tenure, Tommy is committed to the values of Public Safety and remains visionary to what it could become. He is well positioned to address public policy to be more progressive in systemic developments as well as find ways to best utilize limited resources.

We fully support Tommy Johnson's nomination as Director of Public Safety.

*Aloha, Alan Johnson, President and CEO, Hina Mauka*

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 4:16:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jullie Aiko Manaole	Testifying for Ho'omana Pono, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aiko Manaole, I am submitting testimony in support of Tommy Johnson. As a Co-Manager of an advocacy for Native Hawaiians and Prisoners, I believe that Tommy knows the system well and knows what changes need to be made. I feel he will implement the correct changes to truly do better to help prisoners rehabilitate instead of encouraging or enabling re-incarcerate.. I hope my voice is heard and that the PEOPLE'S voice is heard instead of behind the scenes politics interfering with this advise & consent. Thank you

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

TIME: 3 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**COMMENTS ON GM 517 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY JOHNSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members Awa, Fukunaga and McKelvey,

I am offering comments today on behalf of the Women's Prison Project regarding your consideration of the appointment of Tommy Johnson to head the Department of Public Safety, which will split into two departments next year. Mr. Johnson's name has been submitted to head the newly named Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The Women's Prison Project was formed in 2021 to advocate for and help drive a paradigm shift in how our state treats justice-involved women. The Legislature has been at the forefront of driving that change since last year when you funded the new Women's Court, created the Women's Corrections Implementation Commission, funded the continuing education program and restorative justice circles for women at WCCC, and appropriated substantial funding for women's work furlough programs.

As you know, when the Legislature adjourns each year, the responsibility shifts to the department directors and the governor to carry out the intent of your fiscal decisions. DPS leadership in both the current and past administration has fallen short in this regard.

DPS opposed the creation of the Women's Corrections Implementation Commission, which is essential to driving the change we seek; it also has held up funding for both the continuing education and restorative justice circle programs, and has not allocated the \$1 million appropriated for women's work furlough programs as we believe the Legislature intended it to be used.

We want a leader for the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation who will be more than just a partner in the change the Legislature and the Women's Prison Project seek, but a key driver of that change.

Since WPP's founding in 2021, our members have interacted with Mr. Johnson when he was DPS Deputy Director during the last administration as well as during the past four months since he was nominated to be the Director. We have always appreciated the access he has provide to our group. At the same time, we do not believe that access alone is enough for us to recommend his confirmation without his public acknowledgement of the need for a paradigm shift in how our state, including DPS, treats justice-involved women, and a commitment to lead that change.

Hawaii currently incarcerates a larger percentage of women as part of its incarcerated population than any other state in our nation. The legislature has already made important foundational strides to flip that script so that in the not-too-distant future our state incarcerates the fewest women.

But in order to realize this vision, the next leader of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation must be committed to guaranteeing that the women at WCCC have the kind of educational and restorative justice programming as well as adequate dental, mental health and medical care, and comprehensive transition planning and preparation. These things are necessary to prepare them for success once they leave prison.

Committee Members, you are considering the one cabinet appointee among them all who will be in a position to bring about the kind of transformational change that positions Hawaii as a national leader in the corrections field and a model for other states.

Chair Wakai, the Women's Prison Project has tremendous respect for you based on our experience working with you on the issues of paradigm change for how justice-involved women are treated, as well as the recurring fiscal dark hole a 50% recidivism rate at WCCC creates for Hawaii's taxpayers.

We are confident that you will make the right decision on this appointment. Rather than stating a clear opinion in this regard, we hope it is helpful to tell you the kind of leader we would like to see and then leave it to you to determine if this appointee fits the bill.

Thank you very much for your ongoing openness to the Women's Prison Project and your leadership and collaboration on these issues of importance.

Linda Rich  
On behalf of Women's Prison Project





Randy Perreira, President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO  
Hawaii's Labor Unions

---

888 Mililani Street Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii'i  
Hawaii'i State Senate  
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs


Testimony by  
Hawaii'i State AFL-CIO  
April 5, 2023

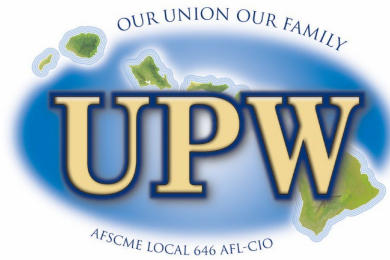
G.M. 517 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

The Hawaii'i State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate local unions and councils with over 68,000 members across both public and private sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Tommy Johnson to the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

The PSD continues to face persistent workforce challenges that have depleted workers' morale and eroded their confidence that this Nominee is the right person to lead PSD through these challenges. Worker burnout impacts not only the general welfare of workers, but also of inmates, nonprofit service providers, and the public. Until the known workforce issues are mitigated and resolved, the general welfare and future of all stakeholders in PSD remain tenuous.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony in **opposition** to Tommy Johnson's confirmation.

Respectfully,  
  
Randy Perreira  
President



**THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

**Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

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

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to GM517 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026**

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

On behalf of its members, United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) **opposes** GM517, which submits gubernatorial nominee, Mr. Tommy Johnson, for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (“PSD”).

UPW is the exclusive representative for Bargaining Unit 10, which includes approximately 1,200 adult correctional officers (“ACOs”) who are employed by the Department of Public Safety’s Corrections Division and work at the eight (8) community correctional centers and correctional facilities across the State of Hawaii.

As this committee is aware, PSD has been plagued with many issues for decades. Aging facilities, an outdated shift relief factor, serious prison overcrowding, severe security and safety issues, and an inoperable Electronic Medical Record (“EMR”) system are just a few of the significant concerns that the Department must address. However, the greatest concern for our members is the Department’s vacancy rate for authorized ACO positions, which toward the end of 2022 was nearly 30%.

These staffing shortages result in mandatory overtime which are commonly for 16- and 24-hour shifts. While not typical, 32- and 48-hour shifts are becoming more frequent. Such long shifts can significantly impact ACO safety, as well as inmate safety, when fatigue sets in and diminishes cognitive and physical functioning. Despite these challenges, ACOs can possibly face disciplinary action if they are unable to perform their assigned duties.

Additionally, mandatory overtime also makes it challenging for ACOs, because extended shifts conflict with the demands of their family lives. Assigned days off or vacation leave are regularly canceled if an ACO’s shift is extended due to unscheduled staff absences. As a result, ACOs can often miss important life events such as

**HEADQUARTERS** – 1426 North School Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914 ♦ Phone: (808) 847-2631

**HAWAII** – 362 East Lanikaula Street ♦ Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336 ♦ Phone: (808) 961-3424

**KAUAI** – 2970 Kele Street, Suite 213 ♦ Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1325 ♦ Phone: (808) 245-2412

**MAUI** – 841 Kolu Street ♦ Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436 ♦ Phone: (808) 244-0815

weddings, funerals, and planned family vacations because of mandatory overtime. Ultimately, this issue has resulted in alarmingly low morale for ACOs.

For the last two years, UPW has supported legislation that proposed to split off ACOs from Bargaining Unit 10 to create a new bargaining unit. We believe that creating a separate bargaining unit for ACOs, as was proposed by Senate Bill 1614 (SB1614) this session, will help to directly address the needs of ACOs with PSD, improve morale, and potentially improve the Department's recruitment and retention. During hearings that were scheduled for the bill, PSD provided written testimony in opposition. This demonstrates to UPW that Mr. Johnson is out of touch with the challenges and needs of Hawaii's ACOs.

During his short time as PSD's Director, we are not aware of any significant effort to address the staffing shortage, and we do not feel Mr. Johnson has demonstrated the ability to resolve these issues despite his many years within PSD. We understand that this committee's recommendation will heavily influence the Senate's decision to confirm Mr. Johnson. We humbly ask that you consider the concerns of Hawaii's ACOs when you make your recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 8:42:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO !!!

# LEE & MARTIN

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

March 28, 2023

Hawaii State Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Hawaii State Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol

Date and Time of Hearing:  
April 5, 2023  
3:00pm  
Conference Room 225

Subject: **Governor's Message No. 517**  
**Relating to the Appointment of Tommy Johnson**  
**as Director for the Department of Public Safety**

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

Please accept this letter of testimony in support of the appointment of Tommy Johnson for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

As you will undoubtedly discover yourselves from Mr. Johnson's resume and from other in-person and written testimonies, it would be extremely difficult to find someone who has had a more distinguished career in public service, but more importantly, someone who has participated in a number of PSD leadership positions, to include serving as the Administrator for the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

More importantly, with the bifurcation of PSD into the Department of Law Enforcement and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, a strong, competent leader is critical to ensure services to keep the public safe are unimpeded. Mr. Johnson's vision of creating a paradigm shift from a corrections model that is punitive, to one that is rehabilitative, is indicative of his empathy, compassion and commitment to the incarcerated. Given his professional aptitude and extensive level of experience in working at all levels in the Department of Public Safety, it would seem that the selection of Tommy Johnson to serve as its Director, would be in the best interests of the State of Hawaii.

On a personal note, having served in both the executive and legislative branches of government myself<sup>1</sup>, I have always had great admiration and appreciation for those individuals

---

<sup>1</sup> Chair and Presiding Officer (2011-2016, 2018)  
Honolulu City Council

Hawaii State Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Hawaii State Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
March 28, 2023  
Page 2 of 2

who have accepted the “call to serve” through public service appointments, in particular, those individuals that already are involved in challenging professional and personal endeavors.

In closing, knowing Tommy as well as I do, I am pleased that he has offered himself for service to our State and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration on his nomination as Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. Martin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ERNEST Y. MARTIN  
Attorney

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 4:04:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Audrey Hidano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM 517 relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Tommy Johnson for Director of Public Safety. Mr. Johnson possesses broad experience and expertise in this field and is a proven leader. Mr. Johnson is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of the administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of Governor's Message 517.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 11:03:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Foley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I support the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety. I have worked with Tommy when I appeared as an attorney before the Hawaii Paroling Authority and later, and more recently, as a Special Master for the Hawaii Supreme Court and chair of a federal court panel addressing COVID in Hawaii's jails and prisons.

I am intimately familiar with Hawaii's jails and prisons and the Department of Public Safety. I sued the state in 1984 due to unconstitutional jail and prison conditions on behalf of the ACLU and obtained a federal court consent decree which I monitored of 15 years, then returned to our jails and prisons as a retired judge assessing risks, addressing overcrowding, monitoring and reporting on COVID.

Additionally, I wrote the rules and regulation of the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Director of Public Safety is an incredibly difficult job. Our jails and prisons have been historically overcrowded and under resourced. An effective Director needs to be able to work well with wardens, department staff, law enforcement, the Judiciary, the Hawaii Paroling Authority and the Legislature. I believe Tommy is the best man for the job.

Tommy knows what is required to be an effective Director. I believe he has the leadership skills, knowledge, energy, commitment, honesty and integrity we need in that position.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:46:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen. Wakai, Vice Chair Sen. Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 10:03:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Sio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen. Wakai, Vice Chair Sen. Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I am in ***strong support*** of the confirmation of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director, of the Department of Public Safety.

In the brief time that I have known Mr. Johnson, I notice him to be a great leader with decision-making capabilities, very respectful and fair towards his peers and staff and very proactive in moving PSD in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

-Kathy Sio

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 8:26:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene DeMello Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Board Member with the Hawai'i Paroling Authority. I support Tommy Johnson for Director, Department of Public Safety.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 10:01:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Max Otani	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Tommy Johnson to be confirmed as the next Director of the Department of Public Safety. Tommy's career has given him experience at various levels of the correctional system and in capacities ranging from correctional officer to departmental director. In addition to his experience in corrections, Tommy played a major role in the design and planning of the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). We are in need of someone with the experience, knowledge and skill set that can that can have the DCR activated and ready in the next year.

I ask for your support and thank you for this opportunity to testifying.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 7:52:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
abraham kekipi-aurio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Abraham Kekipi-Aurio and I have been a Correctional Officer for 20 years with the department. I am testifying in **opposition** to Mr. Johnson's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

I do recognize that Mr. Johnson has dedicated many years to the department and thank him for his service but I also believe it is time for change. Over the years our facilities have been falling apart and we have been forced to work in unsafe conditions. This causes security and safety issues for both staff and inmates. It seems our voices over the years have been falling on deaf ears. Continuous staffing shortages and the resulting increase in assigning ACOs to long shifts have led to alarmingly low morale. While these are longstanding problems PSD has struggled with, I do not feel Mr. Johnson has demonstrated the ability to resolve these issues despite his many years within the Department.

I understand that this committee's recommendation will heavily influence the Senate's decision to confirm Mr. Johnson. I humbly ask that you consider the concerns of Hawaii's ACOs when you make your recommendation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Mr. Johnson's confirmation.

Abraham Kekipi-Aurio

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:25:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support the nomination of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety (“Department”) and urge your favorable consideration. I have the honor of working with Director Johnson when he was the Deputy Director of Corrections in 2020 through 2022. I worked alongside with him in my capacity as Deputy Director for Administration from 2020 to 2022 and was able to observe his work. Director Johnson is an exceptional choice for the Director position. He has the correctional experience, the leadership skills, and dedication to lead a challenging department.

Director Johnson is the most qualified person I know in the Hawaii correctional institution to date to lead PSD. He has served in various capacities within PSD and is the most knowledgeable about the core problems facing PSD. I have observed Director Johnson tackle many complicated correctional and public safety issues and successfully addressed them.

Director Johnson prioritizes rehabilitation and reentry. With his experience as the former Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Director Johnson understands the importance of reducing recidivism and empowering inmates to successfully transition from corrections to the community.

Finally, I know Director Johnson to be a hard-working, dedicated, and a committed leader. I have observed Director Johnson’s leadership style and I am confident that he can get results done, including reforming the Hawaii correctional system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**TESTIMONY ON THE  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
TOMMY JOHNSON**

**BY: ROSALINA AIPOPO**

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

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

**DATE: Wednesday, April 05, 2023**

**TIME: 3:00 p.m.**

**PLACE: State Capitol Rm 225**

**Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the committee:**

I am in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee Tommy Johnson as the Director for the Department of Public Safety (PSD). My name is Rosalina Aipopo and I have worked at PSD for 20+ years and have worked with Tommy Johnson for over 16 years. PSD needs a leader that is firm, direct, and fair. Also, a leader that will communicate what the vision and mission is, one that brings accountability and most importantly empowers our employees. Director Johnson encompasses all the leadership qualities I just mentioned to lead PSD.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide written testimony. I strongly encourage your Committee to confirm the appointment of Mr. Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Testimony on Governor's Message No. 517

Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety,  
Gubernatorial Nominee Tommy Johnson

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

I am writing in my personal capacity in strong support of the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

I am currently employed as the Private Secretary to the Deputy Director for Administration for PSD and have worked in this capacity for the past four years. During this period, I have witnessed Mr. Johnson's strong management and leadership skills while he was the Deputy Director for Corrections and now, in his current capacity as the Interim Director for PSD. Mr. Johnson is well respected, well-informed, thoughtful, and very experienced.

Mr. Johnson's dedication to public service and decades of experience in corrections will be great assets to PSD and the State. Given his decades of experience, decision-making ability, and diligence, I believe he is the appropriate person to lead PSD and its successful transition to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 517 and the confirmation of Tommy Johnson.

Sincerely,  
Patricia MQ Aguilar





I support the confirmation of Tommy Johnson (GM517) as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.



With Tommy Johnson as the Director, employees no longer come to work in fear. I believe that if public corruption is observed & reported by employees, the employee won't be shunned, gaslit (e.g., employee complaints won't be "unfounded" when reporting nepotism/cronyism or public corruption after only interviewing certain witnesses to skew the investigation—or "certain" investigators skewing the "outcome," employees won't be told their complaint is "2<sup>nd</sup> hand info" when reporting an inmate being held up by his neck, employees won't be told to steer contracts, etc.) when reporting concerns. I am hopeful that this Director will address reports of public corruption, etc. before it makes it to the media, HLRB, etc.



With Tommy Johnson as the Director, I believe that the communication among employees has greatly improved. At least this Director can look at you and say "Hi"—this Director can say "Thank You" ----and best of all, this Director can look at employees in their eyes (acknowledge you) and won't hesitate to email/call employees regarding work concerns, work projects, etc. Just saying "Hi" is a HUGE improvement from the previous Directors. It starts from the top –down, and if the Director can't even say "Hi," there is a problem. Director Johnson does not work in a silo and tries to be inclusive. Despite the existing cliques (where insecure employees guard their "territory" and trash colleagues to be promoted, etc.), Director Johnson encourages employees to "work together." Director Johnson's Deputy Directors are the most approachable Administrators that this Department has had in years. The previous Deputy Directors was nowhere to be found beyond their office and that vicinity...only communicating among themselves. For this Department to move forward, we need teamwork to run this Department, and it starts from the top---down.

Testimony of  
**CHRIS J. SADAYASU**  
to the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**GM 517**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director,  
Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON,  
for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

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

I support the appointment of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Johnson is a longtime public servant with over 25 years of service with the State of Hawai'i. He has held a number of leadership positions, including Administrator of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority and Deputy Director for Corrections with the Department of Public Safety. As the Hawai'i Paroling Authority Administrator, he was able to successfully reduce the number of persons re-incarcerated for parole violations without jeopardizing public safety and reduce the cost to the State to house parole violators in Hawai'i facilities. Mr. Johnson has several professional accolades, including being selected as the Department of Public Safety Manager of the Year. With his expertise in resource management, legislation, and strategic planning, Mr. Johnson will continue to be an asset to the State of Hawai'i in this key role.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Mr. Johnson's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 9:41:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark M. Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui Chair Senator Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Johnson is a committed public servant dedicated to the communities he is responsible for. His passion for people and the obligation he feels to make things pono for them is unmatched.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, to extend aloha.

Mark M. "Dutch" Hanohano, Sheriff

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:32:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramona Aipopo-Fuifui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:**

I'm in strong support of Tommy Johnson confirmation to Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 11:31:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pacita Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I support the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 11:54:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Kemmerlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante & Members of the Committee:

I am in strong support of the appointment of Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety. In my 26 years of service with the Department, I have seen appointees who wreaked havoc in the Department by pushing their own agendas and suffered alongside my colleagues as it happened. Tommy Johnson is a man that will right the wrongs of those who came before him. Mr. Johnson is a man of exceptional character and integrity. I have known Mr. Johnson for over 20 years and watched him endure and manage sensitive yet critical situations with the highest caliber of professionalism, compassion and fairness. Tommy Johnson's work ethic is rooted in strong moral fiber and incomparable determination to achieve success for the Department, the community and the citizens of the State of Hawai`i. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit written testimony.

**GM-517**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 12:05:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/5/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Ann Uperesa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do **NOT** confirm Mr. Tommy Johnson for the Director of the Department of Public Safety position. I feel that he is part of the "old boys network" and he does not possess the leadership skills, knowledge nor the integrity to bring this department back up to standards or better. His recent decisions in departmental dealings (appointments, investigations, favoritism) have shown that he lacks the ability to make decisions based on performance and merit.

We need a leader with fresh and new ideas that will lead and guide our department in a positive way and i strongly feel that Mr. Tommy Johnson lacks the foresight and understanding to be that leader.

Thank you for your time

**Michael S. Vincent**

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
OF

TOMMY JOHNSON

Gubernatorial Nominee as Director, Department of Public Safety

Before the Senate Committee on

Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Wednesday, April 5, 2023; 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Wakai, Vice Elefante, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

My personal or working relationship with Tommy has been very limited, but I believe he understands the needs of PSD and is capable of meeting the challenges facing PSD and the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of Tommy.

Michael S. Vincent



**Testimony of Anne K. Seymour**

**National Crime Victim/Survivor Advocate**

**Washington, DC**

**In Support of GM 517 - Tommy Johnson's Nomination to Director of the Department of Public Safety**

**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

**April 5, 2023**

By way of introduction, I have been a national advocate for crime victims and survivors for 39 years, working in all 50 states and around the world on issues related to crime survivor services, victims' rights, trauma-informed programs and policies, and restorative justice. It's been an honor for me to frequently work in Hawaii for nearly 30 years to address these and other important issues, and to get to work closely with **Tommy Johnson** across the span of my Hawaii activities.

I met Tommy over 20 years ago when he served with distinction as Hawaii's Administrator of the Paroling Authority, and then in leadership roles at the Department of Public Safety. To say that Tommy is a survivor-centered and trauma-informed corrections professional is an *understatement*. He was and remains the epitome of a corrections leader who demonstrates true concern for crime victims and survivors, in his words and action, and in policies and programs.

In 2008, Tommy secured Federal funding to establish Hawaii's Statewide Automated Victim Notification (SAVIN) Program. I was then brought in to conduct strategic planning to ensure that the SAVIN Program policies and service delivery model were truly collaborative across victim services, criminal justice and correctional agencies. Since the creation of the SAVIN program, tens of thousands of crime survivors, witnesses, law enforcement professionals, victim service professionals and concerned community members have been able to access timely, accurate information about the custody status of offenders.

Tommy was also intimately involved in the implementation of the Hawaii Crime Victim Compensation Commission's Restitution Recovery Project. Since its inception in 2003, the Project has collected over six million dollars of restitution payments. The Restitution Recovery Project is now our "national gold standard" in restitution management and was recognized as an exemplary program by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime in 2013.

Today, Tommy continues to work with the Crime Victim Compensation Commission, victim service professionals, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority to establish a corrections-based victim/survivor services program. Hawaii joins 49 other states and the District of Columbia with this centralized program that will offer trauma-informed wrap-around services for crime survivors, including information about and assistance in exercising their rights (including notification and restitution); direct services such as safety planning; and information about and referrals to community-based services that can help crime survivors reconstruct their lives in the aftermath of the crime. As always, Tommy and the other leaders of this program commit to

also focus on the accountability of those who cause harm to others, and to help them understand the often devastating psychological, physical, financial, social and spiritual impact that their actions have on their victims, and on the community.

While I truly wish I could testify on behalf of Tommy Johnson in person, I hope that my written testimony provides you with a solid foundation relevant to his qualifications to serve as Director of the Hawaii Department of Public Safety. I have great respect and admiration for Tommy's career-long tenure in the field of corrections that has set very high standards for ensuring that the needs of crime survivors and the community are consistently identified and collaboratively addressed. Tommy Johnson is a true asset to corrections, to crime victim/survivor services, and to the state of Hawaii as a whole.

Mahalo,

ANNE SEYMOUR  
National Crime Victim/Survivor Advocate  
Washington, DC  
[JusticeSister@outlook.com](mailto:JusticeSister@outlook.com)

Governor's Message 517 – Consideration and Confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tommy Johnson

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my full support for Mr. Tommy Johnson's appointment as the Director of Public Safety.

Nalani Myers

TESTIMONY OF  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 517

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TOMMY JOHNSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Tommy Johnson to serve as the Director for the State of Hawaii, Department of Public Safety.

Tommy has over 25 years of state service and has served for almost six years with the department, in the capacity of Deputy Director for Corrections and currently as the Director. His experience in managing the Corrections Division accorded him in-depth knowledge of the operations of department. He is knowledgeable of operations of jails and prisons and has extensive experience directing parole supervision operations. His abilities are complemented by his engaging personality, which will serve him well in a leadership position in public safety. I met Tommy while he was serving as the deputy director and recognized his passion for his work with the department. As such, I believe he is well qualified for the position of director.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Tommy Johnson's nomination to serve as Director of the Department of Public Safety and I urge the Committee to advise and consent.

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau  
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA  
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF  
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

**TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

In consideration of G.M. No. 517

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial nominee, Tommy Johnson

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 5, 2023

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety (PSD).

Mr. Johnson's leadership positions within the Department of Public Safety and in various correctional institutions makes him the ideal person to lead PSD. It has been a pleasure getting to know Mr. Johnson over the past several months. Through my many interactions with him, I can tell he is very passionate about PSD and am confident that he will do a great job as the Director of that department.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 517.

TESTIMONY OF  
KEITH A. REGAN  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023, 3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

GM517

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, I am providing testimony in support of GM517, the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as the Director, Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Johnson is a highly decorated and experienced leader who has proven his ability to manage, guide, and lead people, programs, and departments throughout his career. His distinguished military background, where he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for “outstanding service and leadership,” combined with his decades of public service in corrections-related positions have provided him with a strong foundation to serve as the department’s Director.

In his prior role as Deputy Director for Corrections, Mr. Johnson was tasked with managing and coordinating the actions and activities of a large staff (more than 1,900) while also overseeing the budget necessary to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives of the six divisions and offices under his perview. As part of his duties, he was also required to coordinate the legislative needs of his area which required him to have indepth knowledge of the current and future operational and budgetary needs of Public Safety’s Corrections responsibilities. This experience will serve him well as Director.

In addition to being knowledgeable and experienced, I have found Tommy to be open-minded, flexible, and collaborative. He has been willing to look past and breakdown the traditional silos that have limited department-to-department cooperation in the past. This is an essential trait as we move forward in an era where teamwork and cooperation are critical to developing innovative solutions.

Mr. Johnson’s extensive resume and many accomplishments make him an excellent candidate for the position of Director of the Department of Public Safety and, for these reasons, I humbly ask you to please support the confirmation of Tommy Johnson as the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

**Dennis M. Dunn**

**Kailua, Hawaii 96734**

[dennismdunn47@gmail.com](mailto:dennismdunn47@gmail.com)

RE: GM517

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, gubernatorial nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

HEARING: Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Good afternoon, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS. My name is Dennis Dunn, and I recently retired as Director of the Victim Witness Kokua Services in the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office after 44 years of service. Prior to that I was a volunteer Victim Advocate for People Against Rape. I am testifying today **in strong support of the nomination of Tommy Johnson as Director of the Department of Public Safety as indicated in GM 517.**

I have known Tommy for over 20 years in various roles and capacities with both the Department of Public Safety and the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA). Among Tommy's greatest achievements was the establishment of SAVIN, the Automated Victim Information and Notification System in 2012. Tommy was not only the primary driving force within the Department for establishment of the system, but he also helped to engineer a very effective multi media campaign to announce the program and promote its awareness among the public. His continued support throughout the intervening years and his participation in the SAVIN Governance Committee has helped to ensure its continued growth and improvement.

In his role as Administrator for HPA Tommy was always responsive to requests from crime victims and their advocates for education and transparency regarding the various procedures followed by the HPA. Much of the confidence and trust developed among victim advocates for the HPA is due in large part to Tommy's willingness to listen and address crime victims' concerns.

Having worked directly with Tommy on numerous occasions over the past 20+ years I have never encountered anyone who is more knowledgeable about Hawai'i's Correctional system and laws. In addition, whenever Tommy does not have the information at his finger tips he is always willing and reliable in getting the information requested. I have experienced Tommy as an individual of wisdom, honesty, and integrity. He is a model for what a public servant should be.

For all of the reasons stated above I offer you my unconditional endorsement for the nomination of Tommy Johnson as the Director for the Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo!

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: G.M. 517; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Public Safety, Gubernatorial Nominee, TOMMY JOHNSON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.**

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as a private citizen, in support of the confirmation of Tommy Johnson, as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Public Safety.

I have known Tommy for over ten years—through my work on various legislative matters—and through it all, he has always been consistently and exceptionally responsive, professional, and a team-player in every respect, even from Day One (i.e. when I was clearly still a “rookie” at the bottom of the totem pole, just trying to figure out how to do my job). No matter who he’s speaking with or working with, I have always known him to be a particularly steadfast and even-keeled leader, who is able to “play nicely” with all of the various stakeholders (including critics) to get things done, while also maintaining a sense of mission, a sense of community, and a sense of integrity.

One particularly complicated and longstanding matter comes to mind, in which our departments were initially at odds, until Tommy stepped-up to help us hammer-out bill language—line-by-line—that everyone could agree to. Throughout that process, and the weeks of follow-up thereafter (as in every other matter that I have worked on with him), Tommy was upfront and cooperative to the fullest extent possible, while also being appropriately careful and deliberate in his decision-making. And always even-keeled and respectful.

As the Department of Public Safety (“PSD”) enters a new phase of change and transition, I can think of no one who would be better equipped or better suited to lead the Department now, at this time, when rebuilding public trust and public confidence is of such utmost importance. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Tommy Johnson’s confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Tricia Nakamatsu