

April 2, 2026

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 786: Nomination to the Crime Victim Compensation
Board for a Term ending June 30, 2030

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2026, acknowledging my nomination to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. As requested, I am submitting the following personal statement in response to the questions listed.

1) Strong democracies require active involvement from its citizens. Voting is primary, but public service is also important. Serving as a Commissioner on the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC) is an opportunity for me to actively contribute to our community in this way.

2) CVCC provides compensation for victims of violent crime to help pay un-reimbursed expenses for crime-related losses due to physical or mental injury or death. It also serves as a voice representing the interests and concerns of victims and survivors of violent crimes in government and in our community. As a Commissioner, I would help oversee and support the Commission in fulfilling its mandated purpose.

3 & 4) As an early advocate with the Hawaii Women's Political Caucus and as a former board member of several non-profit organizations (bio attached), I have gained experience and insight in guiding groups to effectively fulfill their goals and purpose. I look forward to participating in strengthening the Commission's outreach and advocacy both in Hawaii and with its national associations.

5 & 6) The qualities I would bring to the CVCC as Commissioner are 1) Clarity of its responsibility, 2) Commitment to its purpose and 3) enough Experience to help attain its goals and mission. In particular, serving as Board Chair for Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii during a time when multiple service organizations learned to collaborate rather than compete taught me the value of how to listen, how to guide, and how to stay on purpose in serving our greater community.

7) I do not perceive any conflict of interest issues arising from my service with the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. If there are any further questions I can clarify, please do let me know.

I look forward to this opportunity to be of service.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Kamae Byrne

Jo Kamae Byrne
Resume

Jo Kamae Byrne is currently President and Owner of Honolulu Information Service, Inc., dba HonInfo, a public records research company specializing in business transactional research and services in Hawaii for a nationwide clientele.

Founded in 1982, HonInfo offers a comprehensive range of public record research, document retrieval and corporate filing services for businesses in Hawaii and throughout the nation. From background searches to business filings and real property research, HonInfo covers a full range of transactional support services for businesses of all sizes. HonInfo is also engaged in Personal Development training focused on conscious leadership, management skills and team building competencies that embrace cultural awareness.

In addition to professional responsibilities, Jo Kamae Byrne has served our community for many years as an advocate and political activist. A summary of some of Jo's community service contributions and her professional history is listed below.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:

Commissioner, Crime Victim Compensation Commission – 2022 - 2025
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii
Member, 2003-2004 Honolulu City Council Leasehold Task Force
Member, Dept. of Public Safety Community Advisory Group for Gender Appropriate Programming
Vice Chair, Elections Appointment Panel
Chair, Advisory Commission on Housing & Community, City & County of Honolulu
Officer & Director, Hawaii Women's Political Caucus
Chair, Asian/Pacific Caucus of the National Women's Political Caucus

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Mentor – 2025 O'iwi Leadership Program – NHCC and People's Strategies Hawaii
Director & Chair of Govt Affairs Committee, NPRRA (National Public Records Research Association)
Director, Lanakila Pacific
Board President, Hawaiian Legacy Foundation
Board President, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii
Director & Government Affairs Chair, Goodwill Industries of Honolulu, Inc.
Secretary & Director, Better Business Bureau of Hawaii
Production Manager, Downtown Aloha Week Festival, Bon Dance Stage, 1986
Sunday School Teacher, Youth of Unity, Windward Unity Church
Director, Japanese Chamber of Commerce

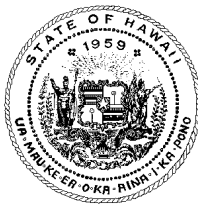
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

*Researcher and Administrator, Honolulu Information Service, Inc. – 1990 -1992; 1995 to present
*Lobbyist, Honolulu Board of Realtors –1992-1994
*Administrative Manager, Mountain Apple Company – (Music recording, concert production, talent management company) 1985 – 1989
*Administrative Manager, Director – Hawaiian Duplicator Corporation (office equipment sales and service) 1969 – 1983

PERSONAL PRACTICE:

Kumu Ka 'Uhane – (Spiritual teacher) – 1987 to present - Student of Nana Veary from 1972

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

Ke Komikina Uku Luaahi Kalaima

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 786

Consideration and Confirmation of Jo Byrne
to the Crime Victim Compensation Commission
by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, April 6, 2026; 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety 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 re-appointment of Jo Byrne to serve as a Commissioner, for a term to expire on June 30, 2030. In her first term, Ms Byrne has shown that she is knowledgeable and experienced in responding to the needs of crime victims and is committed to enhance the delivery of victim services to underserved victim populations. She has treated Commission clients, victims and survivors of violent crime, with dignity and respect.

The Commission is a quasi-judicial body that assists victims of violent crime by providing compensation for crime-related expenses. Commissioners hear appeals from administrative decisions ordering or denying compensation, set policy for the determination of compensation claims, and support the development of Commission projects.

The Commission also administers a Restitution Recovery Project, under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, to collect restitution from inmates and parolees and to disburse the collected funds to crime victims. The Commission has taken the lead to ensure that Hawai'i's mass violence response integrates the needs of victims, survivors, and the community into State and County Emergency response plans and incident command systems.

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

The Commission is grateful for Ms. Byrne's willingness to continue to serve as a Commissioner. She understands the Commission's mandate and the needs of crime victims who are often dealing with the trauma of their victimization. Ms. Byrne is very much aware of the impact of violent crime on victims and is a compassionate advocate for victims while ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect. She is highly qualified to be a Commissioner.

Ms. Byrne's background and experience in business and management has been invaluable to the Commission. Ms. Byrne has over thirty (30) years of business experience as the President and Owner of Honolulu Information Services, Inc., dba HonInfo. Ms. Byrne has served our community in various capacities for many years, including in leadership roles or as board members of various government, political, and community organizations such as Common Cause Hawai'i, the Department of Public Safety Community Advisory Group for Gender Appropriate Programming, both the National and Hawai'i Women's Policy Caucus', and the Better Business Bureau of Hawai'i.

Ms. Byrne's background and experience continue to be invaluable to the Commission's efforts to provide equitable and efficient services to Hawai'i's violent crime victims. The Commission looks forward to continuing to have Ms. Byrne's guidance as a Commissioner.

The Commission strongly urges you to confirm Mr. Byrne's re-appointment as a Commissioner for a term to expire on June 30, 2030.