

CHERYL E. INOUYE

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S. Beretania St., Room 216  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

RE: Nomination to the Hawai'i Paroling Authority

Mahalo for your congratulatory letter and request for a written statement, which I have attached.

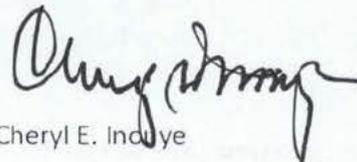
I am committed to being an effective board member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA), if confirmed. I hold a master's in social work degree and have used that training during my entire career in various capacities in the criminal justice system. My work has been grounded in strong values cultivated by family and mentors to strive to uphold the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct for myself and subordinates. This serves not only as a reflection of myself, but also of the departments I work for.

I am passionate about improving the lives of justice-involved clients, whether it be through direct services, through managerial actions, or through policy decisions. I have invested in my work and have made impactful and lasting contributions in each of the places I worked.

If confirmed, I would bring the same level of enthusiasm and quality of work to HPA. I am committed to expanding my knowledge and experience as a board member, and to learning to be an effective board member.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cheryl E. Inouye

Attach.

**1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?**

My entire career has been focused on finding meaningful employment opportunities and improving the lives of others. While the criminal justice system was not in my initial trajectory plans, an opportunity presented itself when I first launched my career and I discovered that working with this population is not only needed but fulfilling. I served briefly on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA) and am currently serving on an interim basis. I am confident that with my knowledge, skills, and abilities, I will be able to make meaningful contributions while gaining tremendous job satisfaction.

**2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?**

The role of the HPA is defined by statute under chapter 353 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). HPA serves as the central paroling authority for the State and its primary statutory duties and functions are as follows: to determine minimum terms of imprisonment for all committed offenders whose sentencing does not prohibit parole; to grant or deny parole to these offenders with specified conditions; to supervise those on parole; to revoke or suspend parole for violations; and to perform parole discharges.

HPA is also required to interpret the parole program to the public to develop a broad base of public understanding and support. This function is critical in that it includes the offender's support network which is a protective factor in transitioning the offender into the community. By engaging and educating the support network, the offender is more likely to succeed while on supervision and when parole supervision expires.

HPA also provides parole legislation recommendations to the Legislature and parole administration recommendations to the governor. As parole experts, HPA can identify system gaps, internal and external, and make appropriate legislative recommendations.

Considering these statutory requirements, HPA's functions present inherent risks to the community, and it is thus incumbent for HPA to have the protection of the public at the forefront of all their activities. With a goal of public safety, the underlying principles that support HPA's functions should focus on repairing the harm caused

by offenders and making the offender, the victim, and the community whole. This is accomplished, in part, by preparing the offender to leave the system in a better situation than when they first entered, by being victim-centered when making decisions, and by encouraging offenders to become contributing members of the community.

3. **Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.**

Knowledge/Expertise:

As a result of my work experience in various capacities in adult probation for 35 years, one and a half years on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, and four years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I have a good working knowledge of Hawai'i's criminal justice system, the penal code, and various other sections of the HRS. I am familiar with the purposes of incarceration and factors to consider when recommending imposing or withholding imprisonment. My work history required knowledge of, access to, and application of law enforcement records while adhering to strict confidentiality protocols. I am familiar with treatment services in the community, those commonly accessed by offenders such as mental health and substance abuse treatment. In probation, I was assigned to develop and oversee the first units to specialize in managing sex offenders and high-risk substance abusers.

Since 2002 and except for brief periods of retirement, I have participated in implementing and/or applying the National Institute of Corrections' eight effective principles for recidivism reduction, which is led by the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions, of which HPA is a part. I was fortunate to have served as the Judiciary's representative on the training subcommittee for 15 years, and the Prosecutor's representative for four years. As part of this endeavor, I became intimately familiar with offender risk assessment, motivational interviewing, cognitive-behavioral treatment, and case planning.

Skills:

My various work experiences have helped to hone my interviewing, writing, and analytical skills. Working with offenders who are often defensive, hostile, deceptive, and even ingratiating, requires communication skills to quickly develop rapport and a working alliance. Analytical skills were particularly important in producing presentence reports and providing sentencing recommendations, and in decision-making for probation and parole supervision outcomes. Problem solving and critical thinking skills were honed throughout my career to minimize liability exposure to my previous employers so that decisions were defensible and consistent with policies and procedures, and with case law.

My work experience as a supervisor and administrator honed other skill sets, such as supervisory, organizational, program development, system and procedural analysis and grant-writing. Serving on intra-office and interagency committees required good interpersonal skills such as collaborating, effectively communicating a position, and reaching consensus among stakeholders.

**4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

I hope to be of value to HPA. This could take many forms, such as integrating my knowledge and experience with HPA processes, being a collaborative and responsible team member, being diligent in preparing for hearings, and taking the initiative to improve policies and practices, among others.

**5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?**

My work in various capacities with the Judiciary over 35 years was guided by the knowledge that my performance and conduct would serve as a reflection of the Judiciary, and it was under this principled belief that I strove toward high standards of professional and ethical conduct and required the same of my subordinates. Lives are entrusted in our care, and we cannot abuse or nonchalantly exercise the authority to affect peoples' liberties. I took this position seriously.

I am positive and have a good learning attitude. I am open to feedback as demonstrated by a customer/probationer satisfaction survey I initiated to assess

their perceptions of their assigned probation officer in terms of their skills and abilities in guiding them toward change.

I am caring and passionate about working with the criminal justice population. While I had committed to working for just three years in the field until an opening occurred in my social work specialty of gerontology, my intense interest in this area made it my career path. This population is generally underserved, disadvantaged, and challenged.

**6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Hawai'i Paroling Authority?**

My previous experience as an HPA board member between July 2019 and December 2020 provides HPA an opportunity to onboard a member with minimal need for training and a flattened learning curve. There is a proven record of work performance, adherence to the goals of public safety and rehabilitation, and strong moral and ethical conduct.

**7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Hawai'i Paroling Authority How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

It is possible that a conflict may arise if the person appearing before the board, or the person's victim, is someone to whom I am acquainted with or related. In such situations, the chair would be informed and recusal would be initiated. It is far more prudent to avoid any perception of impropriety.

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



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

GENE DEMELLO JR.  
CHAIRMAN

MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
LINDA L. RICH  
CHERYL E. INOUE  
VACANT  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ADMINISTRATOR

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 624  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CHERYL INOUE

by  
Gene DeMello Jr, Chairman  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 3:00 PM  
Conference Room No. 016

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in very strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Cheryl Inouye to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), for a term ending June 30, 2029.

Ms. Inouye has served the board well since her interim appointment on October 15, 2025. She previously served as a board member from 2019 through 2020, before leaving to serve as Senior Advisor to Honolulu Prosecutor Steven Alm. She completed her tenure with the Prosecutor's Office on October 30, 2024.

In addition, Ms. Inouye served on the Sex Offender Management Team, managing the state's first sex offender and drug specialized probation units. She also served as a member of the statewide Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), co-developer of Hope Probation, and appointed member of many correctional and judicial commissions.

Ms. Inouye brings a wealth of experience and credentials to make appropriate decisions that are compatible with the welfare of the community and individual offenders. Her extensive experience with community-based supervision practices and institutional knowledge of judiciary and correctional practices will be a great asset to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. I strongly urge the Committee to recommend this qualified nominee for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of the Governor's Message No. 624 for gubernatorial nominee Ms. Cheryl Inouye.

JOSH 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  
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GENE DEMELLO JR.  
CHAIRMAN

MILTON H. KOTSUBO  
LINDA L. RICH  
CHERYL E. INOUE  
VACANT  
MEMBERS

COREY J. REINCKE  
ADMINISTRATOR

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 624  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHERYL INOUE

by  
Corey J. Reincke, Administrator  
Hawaii Paroling Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
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Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 3:00 PM  
Conference Room No, 016

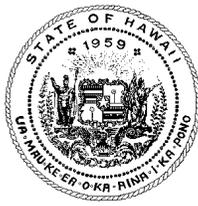
Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

As the Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), I am providing testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Governor Green's nomination for Ms. Cheryl Inouye to serve as a member on the parole board with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

Ms. Inouye's experience as an Administrator with Adult Probation, her previous membership on the parole board from 2019 through 2020, and now currently sitting on the board since October 2025, are of great benefit to the Hawaii Paroling Authority. Her experiences will contribute immensely to the decision-making of fixing of minimum term of imprisonment, parole consideration, parole violation, and other board related matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 624 for the consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cheryl Inouye as a gubernatorial nominee with the Hawaii Paroling Authority.

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



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima  
a Ho'oponopono Ola*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Vacant**  
Deputy Director  
Correctional Institutions

**Sanna Muñoz**  
Deputy Director  
Rehabilitation Services  
and  
Programs

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 624  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
PAROLING AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHERYL INOUYE.

By  
Tommy Johnson, Director

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

Wednesday, Marh 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Via Video Conference

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Cheryl Inouye, as a board member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA), for a term ending June 30, 2029. Ms. Inouye worked in our state's judicial system for decades, at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, and previously served on the Parole Board from 2019-2020.

Ms. Inouye's vast experience working in the criminal justice system, including her previous experience as a member of the Parole Board, makes her the ideal candidate to join the HPA. She clearly possesses in-depth knowledge of HPA board operations, well-honed decision-making skills, and interpersonal skills required of the position.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this superbly qualified nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No.624 and Ms. Inouye.

**GM624 Cheryl Inouye for Hawaii Paroling Authority**  
**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Senator Carol Fukinaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, Mar 11 2026: 3:00 : Room 016 Videoconference

**IN SUPPORT**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS.*

*My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader with the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, providing support for services for substance use disorder and mental health disorders for adolescents and adults as well as recovery oriented services, harm reduction, and transitional housing including case management, and withdrawal management. HSAC services help all people from all islands.*

We have known Cheryl Inouye for almost 30 years, and most recently with the Prosecutor's Office to develop services for drug addicts to choose treatment instead of jail. This is a great effort towards moving into medical services to help address criminality and drug addiction.

As a MSW, Ms. Inouye has worked for HPA in a part time position previously as well as has many years under various Adult Client Supervisors. She has been involved in a decisional role for parole and reductions of sentencing terms.

Cheryl understands public safety processes which can be complex, and has good intentions towards reducing recidivism and fostering recovery. Having experience before with the HPA, we believe she will be a valuable contributing member.

**We highly recommend Cheryl Inouye for the Hawaii Paroling Authority**

TESTIMONY ON GM 624 RELATING TO SUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE  
CHERYL INOUE

BY

Edmund "FRED" Hyun

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military  
Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Christopher Lee, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members

My name is Edmund "Fred" Hyun, and I write in unequivocal support of Cheryl Inouye to serve as a board member of the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA). As the former HPA Chair and retired 3rd Circuit Branch Administrator, Pre-Trial Intake Services, I can personally attest to Ms. Inouye's outstanding professional character, unwavering integrity, and exceptional capabilities. Ms. Inouye's experience with the Probation (Judiciary), Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, and the HPA equips her to make well-informed, valuable decisions for both the incarcerated population and the community at large.

Finding a prospective HPA board member with a proven track record in Hawaii's criminal justice system remains a significant challenge.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Cheryl Inouye.