

GM 36

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, CALEB MILLIKEN, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.



REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony of Representative Nicole Lowen
House District 6, State of Hawai'i
Before the

Senate Committee on Human Services
August 29, 2017 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 016

In consideration of
Governor's Message 36
Submitted for consideration and confirmation as
Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gubernatorial nominee, Caleb Milliken

August 28, 2017

To Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Caleb Milliken to the Commission on Fatherhood.

The mission of the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children.

As cofounder of Boys to Men Hawaii, a group mentoring program that provides a community of male role models for high-risk and fatherless teenage boys, Mr. Milliken has already demonstrated a high level of commitment to the mission of the Commission on Fatherhood. As director of the West Hawaii Fatherhood Initiative, Mr. Milliken remains actively engaged in supporting fathers in the community, hosting regular Fatherhood support group meetings and organizing parenting classes focused on helping fathers.

In addition, Mr. Milliken's professional and personal experience make him an exemplary nominee for the Commission.

I humbly ask that you support confirmation of Caleb Milliken to the Commission on Fatherhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole E. Lowen".

Representative Nicole Lowen
House District 6

Feleai Tau

From: Kawika Riley <kawikariley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:33 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Bhanot, Pankaj; Korenaga, Katherine; Taum-Deenik, Malia
Subject: Testimony for August 29 Fatherhood Commission Hearing

Testimony for the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 2:45 pm. Hearing on nominees for the State Commission on Fatherhood (GM 15 & GM 36)

Aloha Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Kawika Riley, and I am a sitting member of the Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood (Commission). It is my pleasure to testify in support of both of the individuals being considered by the committee today. In my testimony below I will briefly outline my reasons for support of each individual, in the order in which the committee has listed their GMs.

The Commission on Fatherhood was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature, and is codified in H.R.S. 577E. Through Act 190 (Session Laws 2007) it has been a permanent state commission since 2007. Its purpose is to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children, with an emphasis on helping the state support and uplift the role of fatherhood in our communities.

David Mattos is being considered for the Commission's Maui seat, which he currently holds as an interim appointee. David agreed to serve in this position when the previous Maui Commissioner had to relocate in order to care for family on the U.S. Continent. The former Maui Commissioner recommended Mr. Mattos based on the nominee's professional qualifications and interest in helping the state improve its policies and practices towards fathers and families. Since his interim appointment I have found him eager to do the work of the Commission. Day-to-day Mr. Mattos is the Program Supervisor and Facilitator for Kāne Connections, within Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Commissioners with on the ground experience such as his are important to our Commission, and I hope that the Committee will approve of his nomination, so we may continue to benefit from his passion and experience.

Caleb Milliken is being considered for the Commission's Hawai'i Island seat, which is currently vacant. Like the previously mentioned nominee, Mr. Milliken has on the ground experience supporting fathers and families, and currently serves as the Director of the West Hawai'i -based Fatherhood Initiative at Family Support Hawai'i. Previously, Mr. Milliken was the Executive Director for Boys to Men Hawai'i, a nonprofit that provides mentorship and support for teenage boys to help them develop healthy habits, self-esteem, and the resilience needed to transition into adulthood. While I have not worked with Mr. Milliken, we have had several conversations, and I believe he will be a great addition to the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that these men are interested in volunteer service on the Commission, especially given the wealth of practical experience they bring to the table. I ask the Committee to approve their nominations in a timely fashion, to allow for Senate approval during this special session. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.