

# GM623

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHANNON CARRIER, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Commission on Fatherhood

Description:

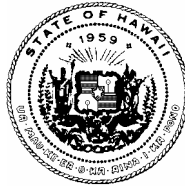
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TO: The Honorable Susan Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 623 Confirmation of Shannon Carrier to the Commission on  
Fatherhood**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 19, 2013; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Chair Chun-Oakland and members of the Committee:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) submits its testimony in support of Mr. Shannon Carrier's confirmation as a member of the State Fatherhood Commission. The Fatherhood Commission is administratively attached to the DHS. The mission of the Commission is to strengthen the role of fathers in their family. Mr. Carrier will be the Maui representative if he is confirmed.

Mr. Carrier's extensive background as a youth counselor, adolescent sex education program director, and as a former pastor (Oak Hill Church in Kaufman, TX) will be of value to the Fatherhood Commission. Mr. Carrier is currently employed as Fatherhood Involvement Coordinator with the Maui Family Support Services, a non-profit organization in Maui that helps families with family strengthening programs and activities. As program coordinator, Mr. Carrier is responsible for developing and implementing outreach plans to

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engage fathers, facilitating a safe nonjudgmental group for parenting teens and young adults, and providing education and support services for fathers and male care givers.

Mr. Carrier has also served in dual capacity as a head Pastor and District Youth Director of Oak Hill Church in Texas before moving to Maui. He then moved to Maui to take the position of Youth and College Director of the Grace Church in Maui.

I urge you to act favorably on his nomination and to recommend his confirmation to the Fatherhood Commission.

February 15, 2013

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Okland, Senator  
Chair, Senate Committee of Human Services  
And Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Okland and Members of the Senate,

It is my distinct pleasure to provide testimony on behalf of Governor Abercombie's nomination of Shannon Carrier to the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood.

Shannon Carrier is an excellent candidate for the Commission on Fatherhood and he will serve in this position with the utmost of integrity and commitment to the cause of improving Fatherhood in the State of Hawaii. Shannon has proven himself as a Father and as someone who supports, trains, edifies, coaches, and teaches the fathers of our state in being better fathers.

Over the past two years I have observed Shannon in various situations with children and without a doubt he has what it takes to communicate, nurture, and love the Keiki of Hawaii with the love of a father. He has counseled countless families and dads with their family situations and has always assisted these families in achieving positive outcomes.

Based on the above facts and my personal observation and contact with Shannon I do here by provide **positive testimony** on behalf of Shannon Carrier being part of the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood.

Respectfully,

*Alan D. Ostermiller*

Alan D. Ostermiller  
Father

**RE: GM623**  
**Testimony in Support of Shannon J. Carrier**  
**For the State Commission on Fatherhood**

To the Honorable Chair and Committee:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to **recommend** Shannon Carrier, a man of the highest integrity and love for his family, friends and community for the Commission on Fatherhood.

I have observed this amazing husband and father of four children demonstrate all the attributes of a good leader, provider, and protector so necessary in a stable family and society. As senior pastor of a local church in Kahului, Maui, Shannon has been instructing and mentoring men and women of all ages to become their best possible selves.

As Director of Ohana Support Services for Maui Family Support Services, Shannon has taken his 20 plus years of working with youth, individual adults and entire family units and began developing curriculum and programs to empower men to discover their identity, significance, and purpose as sons, husbands, and fathers.

I love the fire and passion I see and sense when Shannon is interacting with people who want to discover, grow and experience their full potential as members of their individual family and become positive contributors in their community as well.

Shannon's ability to listen with compassion and not with judgment provides a safe environment for team work and his moral excellence and sense of humor encourages even the weakest of heart to engage in life's challenges and believe for greatness.

Five years ago a father of 3 adorable children was in and out of jail and finally sentenced for drug related crime. Shannon and his wife never gave up on James (not real name), using some of their own resources to get James in helpful programs. When James was released on parole last year, Shannon started meeting with him weekly – just loving him like a father. About 2-months ago, I personally heard James say that the love, acceptance and encouragement he experienced in those times with Shannon gave him the hope he needed to keep believing in himself. Today James works part-time and attends community college and is fully united with his wife and 3 children.

Some men know about fathers – Shannon Carrier is a true father in every sense.

Sincerely,  
Leinaala T. Drummond  
Friend and Pastoral Team Leader



TESTIMONY  
OF  
SHANNON J. CARRIER  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN SERVICES  
ON  
February 19, 2013

G.M. 623

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to State Commission of Fatherhood, Gubernatorial Nominee, Shannon Carrier, for a term to expire on June 30, 2016.

Chair Oakland and members of the Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank our Governor Neil Abercrombie for his nomination. It is an honor and great privilege to be to serve on the Commission of Fatherhood. I would also like to say Mahalo to all who have submitted letters and provided testimony on my behalf.

It has been such an amazing opportunity to live and serve in Hawaii. As a father of 4 amazing daughters I know first-hand the importance of my role in their lives. For over 20 years I have had the honor working in partnership with fathers, children and families to strengthen their relationships. It has always been a passion of mine to see fathers introduced, restored and celebrated to a place of honor and respect in the community and home.

I believe that raising awareness of the impact and the importance of fatherhood involvement has on our children, fathers, families, and our island communities. We have an opportunity to address the challenges, negative consequences and in some instances damage connected with the lack of positive and consistent father involvement. This involvement means thoughtful consideration in pregnancy, prenatal involvement, those critical first five years, and throughout the life span. As our president Obama shared in his State of the Union address on Tuesday positive fatherhood involvement, support and resources for fathers, and policy and systems that support fathers is and should be a priority for the health of our children, families, and communities. My experience working with fathers they have shared that society, policies and practices as a whole reflect a lost of respect and acknowledgement of the important role of fathers and that this significantly tributes to the feelings of hopelessness and undervalue that the fathers I have worked with over these 20 years experience. Many dad that I talk to don't feel their role is important and the mother is the most important in developing healthy families.

I personally believe that at the core of all peoples regardless of social economic status, ethnicity, faith, or other cultural characteristics is valuing a strong, loving, involved father or men in a caregiving role. If we can somehow awaken and help others support, celebrate, discover, rediscover the importance and value of healthy father involvement in the family dynamics, we will see the tide turn on this critical issue

facing every nation on this planet. I also believe that Hawaii can be a model and inspiration to other states and nations to help strengthen the critical inner fabric that in far too many instances has been torn.

Because the issue of fatherhood involvement is so important to Maui Family Support Services, we allocated scarce resources so that I could attend a training in September 2012; this training made me aware that this wasn't an issue that only in Hawaii or the US but is actually happening around the globe.

In addition to our amazing strengths and blessings, I know we face challenges here in Hawaii and positive regular father involvement is among them; however I know that with new policies practices and support a broken link in fundamentally strong chain can once again support, ignite and restore strong families. Strong families lead to a stronger community and state. We can begin by building one family at a time by reaching and equipping fathers with knowledge, tools, resources, and support.

I am confident my experience working with fathers, children and families will help bring an important perspective and partnership to the Commission. My 20 years of work in a faith based environment partnered with my experience working in nonprofit social service agencies such as Maui Family Support Services brings a view point that works at the ground level in evaluating the needs and strengths of Hawaii's families.

Finally, I would like to thank this Committee for all the hard work you do on behalf of the families and citizens of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here and share with you today. Mahalo again for considering my nomination to the State Commission on Fatherhood. I also again thank to all those who submitted testimonies on my behalf and those that are here supporting me and Maui Family Support service and most importantly the fathers of Maui county today.

At this time, I am happy to answer any questions the Committee members may have.