



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CHAMBERS OF  
J. MICHAEL SEABRIGHT  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

DISTRICT OF HAWAII  
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, C-435  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850-0435

TELEPHONE  
(808) 541-1804  
FACSIMILE  
(808) 541-1851

April 14, 2015

Mr. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chairperson, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
415 S. Berentania St., Rm. 221  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813


Dear Mr. Keith-Agaran:

I write in support of Willie Domingo's nomination to serve as a State of Hawaii District Court judge. I have known Willie for well over 20 years, and have always found him to fairly, but zealously, represent the best interests of his clients. And there is simply no doubt that Willie possesses the ethical standards we demand in our judges.

Willie has tried some very difficult cases in my court, always showing the highest degree of professionalism. And I am equally confident that Willie possesses the temperament that we seek in our judges. He always treats others with respect, whether the court or opposing counsel. In short, I am confident that Willie would make an excellent addition to our judiciary.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

  
J. Michael Seabright  
United States District Judge

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,  
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
and Labor**

April 15, 2015

JC 6: Nomination of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is a privilege for me to support William M. Domingo's nomination to be a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. He is an exceptional nominee who has demonstrated his qualities as a trial lawyer and a community leader. I have known Mr. Domingo for over thirty years. He has devoted most of his career to public service, first as a State Deputy Public Defender, then as a Federal Public Defender. In these positions and as an attorney in the private practice of law, he has distinguished himself by trying complex and difficult cases in both the state and federal courts.

Mr. Domingo has shown exceptional compassion for the indigent clients we serve and has been a tireless advocate for justice on behalf of every person he has represented. He is always well-prepared and is a forceful and passionate litigator. He has also been a community leader as shown by his active involvement with the Wesley Foundation and the Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Domingo has excellent judicial demeanor and possesses the rare quality of making everyone he meets feel extremely comfortable around him in a short period of time. He comes from humble beginnings and has true compassion for the less fortunate in our community. I am honored to fully support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

**Testimony of Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender  
State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

April 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

RE: JC 6: Nomination of Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to recommend that William M. Domingo be confirmed as the next judge of the District Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Willie Domingo was the first law student I met as a 1L back in August, 1984. I was in the UH bookstore picking out my textbooks when he approached me and introduced himself as a 3L. He was very friendly and took the time out during the school year to make sure I was okay.

Willie and I became colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender in 1987. We have had a thirty-year long friendship. I can honestly and unequivocally support Willie Domingo's nomination for judgeship.

Willie has a lot to offer the Judiciary. He is an asset to the community, as noted by his service on the boards of the Kalihi YMCA and Susannah Wesley Community Center. I serve on the Penal Rules Committee with Willie, and have come to appreciate his vast legal knowledge and common sense approach to problem solving. In his capacity as a district court judge, he will be able to relate to the public as the "people person" that he is.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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

1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-2080, FACSIMILE: (808) 586-2222

**JOHN M. TONAKI**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**WILLIAM C. BAGASOL**  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

April 14, 2015

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable , Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
417 S. King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: JC6 Submitting for the consideration and confirmation to the District Judge, First  
Circuit Court, Judicial Nominee William M. Domingo

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM C. BAGASOL, DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER,  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting this written testimony in strong support for the nomination of  
William M. Domingo.

I have known Mr. Domingo for over 31 years both as a dear friend and a mentor. I have  
known him as a fellow attorney for over 27 years. During such time, Mr. Domingo has always  
distinguished himself on many levels.

Excellent Temperament. He has always been a great listener. Without question the man  
has extraordinary people skills. Mr. Domingo is patient, open-minded and even-handed in his  
dealing with all people.

He is highly intelligent. I have always admired his incredible wit and quick mind.  
Throughout the decades many of us can bear witness to his keen intellect on a variety of subject  
matters.

Experienced trial lawyer. Mr. Domingo brings a wealth of experience to the bench. His many years as a litigator in the both the federal and state courts, in both the public sector and private practice will serve him well as District Court Judge.

Without question he has the necessary skills, knowledge and abilities to be a great Judge. Mr. Domingo is a man that has long standing love and involvement in community. In addition, I consider him a person with the highest integrity.

What makes Mr. Domingo even more special are his inner qualities. He is a compassionate individual who has never forgotten his roots, the values of his upbringing and humble beginnings in the heart of Kalihi. By all accounts he is not just a very good lawyer, but a wonderful human being. More importantly, Willie, as he is affectionately called, is a man deeply committed to his very beautiful family.

Based upon these foregoing reasons, I unequivocally support Mr. William Domingo's nomination as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

/s/ William C. Bagasol

William C. Bagasol

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO  
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: J.C. 6 – Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee William M. Domingo


Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am respectfully writing in strong support of judicial nominee William Domingo for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

As a prior Circuit Court of the First Circuit law clerk, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and Deputy Attorney General, I have had the pleasure of working with Willie. He is an intelligent, hard-working, dedicated, fair, and respectful attorney who I also believe has the compassion, integrity, demeanor, and thoughtfulness sought in judicial nominees. He is very comfortable in the legal profession and is accomplished in a variety of legal areas. Willie is also a good person with a strong sense of family values. I am therefore honored to submit this letter in support of his nomination.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao



Testimony of the  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
relating to the nomination of

**WILLIAM M. DOMINGO**  
**District Court Judge, First Circuit**

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

From: Gregory Markham  
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the nomination of William M. Domingo for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, after learning that Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald had nominated Mr. Domingo to the bench, the HSBA began its judicial nomination review process. The HSBA membership was notified of the nomination and was asked to comment.

Simultaneous to these actions, a Subcommittee of three (3) HSBA Board members was appointed and asked to review the comments received (identifying information is removed unless the attorney authorized disclosure); contact references provided by the nominee and others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications; and review documentation provided by the nominee.

A Special HSBA Board meeting was scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> to consider the judicial nomination of Mr. Domingo and to interview the nominee.

Prior to the April 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the HSBA President-elect, Executive Director, and I met with Mr. Domingo on April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the HSBA nomination procedure and to apprise him of the Subcommittee's findings, and of any areas of concern that may be raised during the Special Board meeting.

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## **TESTIMONY**

Nomination of William M. Domingo

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On April 9<sup>th</sup> the HSBA Board met and reviewed documentation submitted by Mr. Domingo and information from all of the references provided by the nominee. Comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected a strong endorsement of Mr. Domingo in all categories of the HSBA criteria which includes:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

And after completion of questioning and dialog relating to his background, personal and professional experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the HSBA Board found Mr. Domingo to be **QUALIFIED**.

Mr. Domingo's prior service in the Attorney General's Office, the State Public Defender's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office and in his own private practice of law reflect decades of advocacy and trial practice and corroborates the HSBA Board's decision in finding him **QUALIFIED**. In addition, his history of community activities reflects a commitment to public service, and will provide the Filipino community with another positive role model to emulate.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of this Committee.

**From:** [Kevin Takata](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** JC 6; Hearing April 15, 2015  
**Date:** Monday, April 06, 2015 11:08:31 AM

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Dear Chair Keith-Agaran:

I support the nomination of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit. Although he and I have stood on opposite sides of the courtroom, he as a criminal defense attorney and I as a deputy prosecutor, he has gained my respect and friendship for his integrity, knowledge of the law, and just being a good person. Mr. Domingo is a fine litigator and that experience is essential to a judge. Just as important are fairness and compassion, both of which he possesses. Mr. Domingo will be a tremendous asset to the Judiciary and I urge his swift confirmation.

*Kevin K. Takata*

First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Kaua'i  
3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210  
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
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**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Michael A. Dahilig**  
Director of Planning

**Gary K. Heu**  
Managing Director

**Dee M. Crowell**  
Deputy Director of Planning

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

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Kapule Building, Suite A-473  
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MR. WILLIAM DOMINGO  
TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
JC6**

Before the Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 9:00 am

By Michael A. Dahilig

Honorable Members of the Senate:

I provide this testimony in **SUPPORT** of William Domingo's appointment to serve as a judge on the bench of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Domingo in many capacities – a mentor, a fellow member of the bar and a colleague on a non-profit board.

I affectionately refer to Mr. Domingo as "Manong Willie" not only as is custom in Filipino tradition, but that his integrity, demeanor and skill demand of me to honor and respect him as one of the pillars of our local community in this way. He demands fairness in group situations, and lends his empathetic ear to those needing advice or just to be listened to. He respects the views of others and takes time to listen before passing judgment. His exhibition of such temperament in group and individual situations should give the senate confidence in the manner he would conduct himself as a judge.

Mr. Domingo possesses the requisite qualifications to be appointed to this judicial post. He has a wide and deep range of courtroom experience, including both at the state and federal levels. Having this knowledge helps support the quick-pace nature of district court business. He is a competent attorney and has earned the respect of many other members of the bar.

I humbly ask the Committee to forward a recommendation to the full Senate to advise and consent to his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**AFRO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII**  
**1188 Bishop Street, Suite 1909**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

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**Rustam A. Barbee**  
**President**  
**Tel. 524-4406**  
**Fax: 524-4306**

**Sandra A. Simms**  
**Vice President**

**William A. Harrison**  
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April 14, 2015

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chairperson, Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Judiciary and Labor Committee Members  
State Capital Building  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Confirmation of William M. Domingo---Hearing April 15, 2015

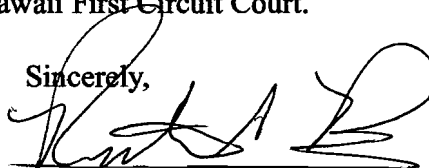
Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Afro- American Lawyers Association of Hawaii writes in support of confirming Attorney William M. Domingo as District Court Judge for the First Circuit Court.

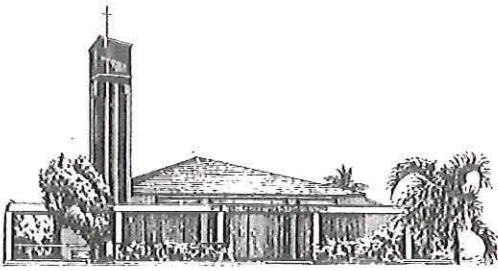
Attorney Domingo is a highly esteemed and respected attorney, having practiced law for 30 plus years in the Hawaii Supreme Court, First Circuit Court, Federal District Court and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Attorney Domingo possesses all the qualities needed to be a fair and respected jurist: legal knowledge and acumen, judicial comportsment, compassion, wisdom and experience.. Moreover, he is highly respected by our members who have had the opportunity to practice law alongside him for many years. In addition to the strengths mentioned above, Attorney Domingo will also bring a trial lawyer's perspective to the bench due to his intimate knowledge of the day to day workings and practices in the courtroom.

Our Association wholeheartedly endorses confirmation of Attorney William M. Domingo as District Court Judge for the Hawaii First Circuit Court.

Sincerely,



**RUSTAM A. BARBEE**  
**President, AALA**



James A. White, Senior Pastor  
Joseph Siofele, Associate Pastor

## **AIEA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**99-101 LAULIMA STREET, AIEA HAWAII 96701**

**PHONE: (808) 488-5354**

**E-MAIL: [aumc@aumc.us](mailto:aumc@aumc.us)**

**WEB: [aieaumc.com](http://aieaumc.com)**

April 14, 2015

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of JC6, Appointment of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing date: April 15, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

Aloha from Aiea!

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write this letter of support on behalf of William M. Domingo's appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit. I've had the privilege of knowing "Willie" for 25 years. We met at the University of Hawaii, while I was a student, and involved in the United Methodist Church's "Wesley Foundation" Campus Ministry. Willie was one of the alumni who chose to come back to Wesley every Friday night to lead music, play volleyball, and support the younger college students. From the very start of our relationship, Willie has always been one who puts the needs of others ahead of his own.

Willie is rooted & grounded in Hawaii. He loves the people, the community, and the lifestyle that we've worked so hard to create here in the islands. That's what made him such a good public defender for close to two decades. He's hardworking, honest, fair, and compassionate. He's a man who advocates for justice, yet understands the challenging complexities of life in our racially diverse state. He's a person of deep faith who is able to use his faith to inform & shape his worldview, while at the same time taking into account the fact that not everyone shares that same view.

On a personal note, my wife and I have long admired the way Willie and his wife have raised their three children. They've done it right! Jessica, Aaron & Rachel are all outstanding young adults & citizens. We've striven to emulate, as parents, the example that Willie & Trish have provided as parents. I know that Willie has the law background necessary to be an effective judge. Add to that the track record he has as a parent, friend, and community supporter, I have no doubts whatsoever that he will be a fine asset to the State of Hawaii! I heartily endorse his appointment (and I urge you to do the same!).

Peace,

Rev. James A. White  
Senior Pastor

# Filipino American Citizens League

P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

**In strong support of JC6**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 15, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years.

As vice president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to strongly support the nomination of William Domingo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I have known Mr. Domingo since he was an undergraduate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). I can speak to his character and commitment to civic engagement. In his youth, Mr. Domingo was never one to shirk responsibilities to build the capacity of Filipino leadership to address barriers to equal opportunities and access to youth services, higher education, and immigrant services. He stepped up to the plate to serve as president of the Filipino Students Association as an undergraduate, and later served as president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association. He served on boards for the Kalihi YMCA, Susannah Wesley Community Center. He also devoted himself to youth sports teams with his daughters and community service through his church.

In addition, his humble background of being raised by immigrant parents, and his grassroots experiences and relationships of growing up in Kalihi also shaped his deep understanding and critical analysis of the historical precedents, socio-economic, and cultural determinants that may impact individuals whose lives are entwined in the criminal justice system of Hawaii. As a result, Mr. Domingo is not only patient, level-headed, and compassionate, but also competent, well-organized, and fair.

In closing, Mr. Domingo brings decades of court experience to this position. He has the energy, drive and rigor to carry out the duties of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma



HEARING SCHEDULED APRIL 15 @ 9am

To: Chair Gil Keith-Agaran, Maile Shimabukuro and members

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Amy Agbayani, co-chair

Subject: JC6: Nomination of William Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit

It is with great pride and humility that I express strong and positive support for William Domingo to the District Court on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR). HFCR seeks to promote the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for equality and social justice. We support the rights of individuals to receive equal treatment and fairness.

William Domingo has a proven track record as a community leader and lawyer. I am confident he will be fair and a hard working Circuit judge who will make wise judgments. He is

intelligent, has integrity and appreciates the history of our state and issues facing families and communities.

William Domingo was one of my students at the University of Hawaii Operation Manong program over 30 years ago. I fondly remember his engaging personality, enthusiasm and competence as one of our bilingual tutors working with recently arrived immigrant non-native English public school students. He worked very well with the young students he tutored and was a leader with his college peers. Mr. Domingo was selected to be with the UH law school pre-admission program and once given the chance at a legal education, Mr. Domingo not only kept up with other students who entered with higher grades, but he excelled as a student and as a lawyer in private practice and with the federal government. I have kept in touch with him over the years and am aware of his excellent reputation among lawyers for his legal expertise and sound judgments. I am also very grateful for his active and continuing leadership in educational community service projects and mentoring youth from various backgrounds.

I would like to present one very important dimension for you to consider appointments to the judiciary. I do not have current information of the ethnic/race or gender background among judges or applicants but it is obvious that Filipinos are one of the groups under-represented among lawyers and judges. Appointing a very competent applicant who adds to the diversity of judges and who meets and exceeds the qualifications for this vacancy will be of great benefit to the

judiciary, our state and our future. I share the belief that programs, decisions and processes are better when groups are adequately represented and there is a diversity of backgrounds, opinions and experiences. Diversity and inclusion should be a compelling and critical beneficial dimension for the judiciary and all public decision-making institutions. The 2010 US census shows Filipinos are the second largest ethnic/race group in Hawaii: Caucasian/White (25% single race and 42% more than one race); Filipinos (15% single race and 25% more than one); Native Hawaiian (6% one race and 21% more than one race) and Japanese (14% one race and 23% more than one race). Nearly half of all public school children are Hawaiian (28%) and Filipino (21%). At the University of Hawaii, Filipinos are 13% systemwide, 10% of undergraduates and 4% graduate students. At Richardson School of Law, Filipinos are only 4%. Our courts should strive to represent our multicultural and multi-ethnic state.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my assessment of William Domingo and respectfully request you support his nomination to the District Court.

Amy Agbayani

**In strong support of JC6**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 15, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaron, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Deanna Espinas, Board Member, Hawai'i Plantation Village Museum

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years.

My name is Deanna Espinas. I strongly support Governor David Ige's Judicial Nominee, William M. Domingo, for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I serve as a board member of the Hawai'i Plantation Village Museum, as well as actively participate in various Filipino civic and community advocacy groups. Like him, I also participated in Methodist youth leadership activities, which ingrained strong values of stewardship for healthy families and communities. I recently retired from a career in the Hawai'i State Department of Public Safety, where I headed our statewide prison library program. I developed and implemented a Read-to-Me program for both women and men who were incarcerated, in order for their children to be read bedtime stories from books their parents selected and tape recorded.

Given that, I have followed the criminal law practice and career of Mr. Domingo very closely. I believe he is fair, fit and ready to serve as a judge to the District Court of the First Circuit. He is compassionate, and at the same time impartial in applying the full consequences of laws intended to protect people and property. His humble beginnings living in the low income community of Kalihi and raised by hardworking immigrant parents give him insight into the socio-economic determinants that influence decisions made by people who come before the courts.

Furthermore, for greater equity and justice, and when all qualifications are met, I believe it is imperative that judges in our judicial system reflect the same demographic proportions of our diverse and multi-cultural people of Hawai'i. It is not right that our millennial generation of Native Hawaiians and Filipinos are over-represented in our public schools and prisons, but under-represented in our State colleges and university.

In closing, I want to thank Governor Ige for selecting his Judicial Nominee, Mr. William M. Domingo. Thank you for your consideration to approve his much-needed confirmation.

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas, Board Member, Hawai'i Plantation Village Museum



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Bryan P. Andaya  
Chief Operating Officer and Vice President

April 13, 2015

Testimony in **Strong Support of JC6 William Domingo - JDL 4/15/15 9:00 a.m. Rm 016**

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Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the entire L & L 'Ohana, our 190 franchisees, and our co-founder Eddie Flores, Jr., I am proud to submit testimony in **strong support of JC6 appointing William Domingo** as Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known William for about ten years. I first met William through my volunteer work in the legal community in the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA). As busy as he was with his practice, William served as president of HFLA when I first joined the organization as a new attorney. He struck me as mild-mannered, patient, compassionate, with a true commitment to the legal and broader community. William served as an excellent role model for new attorneys like me that law is not just about clients but also about the community and giving back. As an attorney who practiced for almost 8 years prior to joining L & L, I will say William's character and temperament is exactly what is needed as a judge.

In addition, William's dedication to public service and compassion for the people is unquestionable. William's leadership of HFLA at a crucial time when the HFLA had been inactive for many years testifies to his dedication to public service. He bravely took the helm of HFLA, inspired other lawyers like me to serve, and built the HFLA virtually from scratch. Today, the HFLA remains a thriving organization that gives both new and more experienced attorneys not only valuable resources but a genuine sense of community and service to the public.

Indeed, Filipinos continue to be underrepresented in the legal profession and on the bench. I truly believe the legal profession and the bench must reflect the diversity of Hawaii if they want to earn the respect of Hawaii's people, which is fundamental to having a solid judicial system.

William's leadership and passion has certainly inspired me and many of my colleagues to improve this situation by being available as resources and role models to new attorneys, law students and those aspiring to enter the legal profession while providing opportunities to serve the public. I have no doubt William will continue this work on the bench and continue to be a great role model. I am so proud William is now joining the bench so he can continue to inspire as he has inspired me.

For these reasons, we **strongly support** William Domingo's nomination.

Very truly yours,

Bryan Andaya

The University Plaza  
931 University Ave., #202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 951-9888  
Fax: (808) 951-0888

[www.hawaiianbarbecue.com](http://www.hawaiianbarbecue.com)



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*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

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*Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON*

### **In strong support of JC6**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

April 15, 2015, 9 a.m., Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDA, President, NAMI

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years.

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. I am submitting our strong support for William M. Domingo's confirmation, as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

Mr. Domingo offers our judicial system his excellent competency in legal affairs. But even as important is his strength of character, his depth of knowledge, intellect, and robust critical thinking from many necessary vantage points, including the vibrant diversity lens of his Filipino heritage, humble beginnings, sensitivities to complex class differences, and more.

We in the Filipino community are proud and comforted that Mr. Domingo is being considered for this esteemed post. He is known for his admired traits of trustworthiness, patience, humility, and hard work. He will serve all the people of Hawai'i with the utmost integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



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Senate Committee on Judiciary

April 15, 2015, 9 a.m., Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Alex Vergara, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Subject: In strong support of JC 6

My name is Alex Vergara. As president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, I am honored to strongly support the nomination of William Domingo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

In my role as a minister, I have known Mr. Domingo's parents, who were active members of the Aldersgate Methodist Church, before he was born. I had the pleasure of watching him and his brother Samuel grow up in the footsteps of their parents to a life of community service. One became a Methodist minister; the other a lawyer. "Willy's" passion to make our community a better place started very early when he took on leadership roles as a youth adviser for our church. He had so much talent and energy to organize youth activities through sports and music. His goal was to uplift and fortify Kalihi families to become change agents from within in order to mitigate the poverty and crime that continue to surround people's daily lives from one generation to another.

Today, Willy still uses his guitar and any type of ball to create a joyful moment that would build into that common ground to seek social justice through problem solving. I watched him persist through higher education to add to his tool box for social change legal tools, credentials, and experience. He served on social service boards in Kalihi and scaled up his outreach efforts from our Kalihi community to a statewide youth leadership network called Sariling Gawa, which instills ethnic pride and offers mentoring for Filipino youth to become civically engaged in their own communities.

In closing, Willy's character is impeccable. His professional practice as a lawyer demonstrates his competence in law, integrity, and impartiality. He respects and upholds the difference between the law, our U.S. constitution, and his personal religious beliefs. He honors diversity. He is humble, hard working, and virtuous. OFCC is very proud to support his confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Sincerely,

Alex Vergara, OFCC President

**LAW OFFICES OF ALFREDO EVANGELISTA**  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

April 10, 2015

**Via Electronic Mail to [JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

The Hon. Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
and Hon. Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
State Capitol  
417 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: William M. Domingo

---

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of William M. Domingo as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Domingo since 1985 when I was an associate attorney at the Schutter Cayetano Playdon Pavey law firm and Mr. Domingo was a summer associate. Throughout the years, I have maintained contact with him and watched his career grow. Many times I would consult with him on criminal law matters and I always found his advice to be sage.

In addition, I have worked with him on a number of community activities, in particular the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, of which he served as president.

I believe that through my long association with Mr. Domingo, I can attest that he has all the necessary qualities that are important for a judge: integrity, legal ability, intelligence, compassion, diligence, and judicial temperament.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

**LAW OFFICES OF ALFREDO EVANGELISTA**  
**A Limited Liability Law Company**

  
**Alfredo G. Evangelista**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC6 on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 12:42:31 PM

---

**JC6**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for JDL on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Armitage	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known William (Willie) Domingo since undergraduate school at U.H. We both spent down time at the Wesley Center on campus. After that we were in law school together. We have remained friends and colleagues ever since. Willie is eminently qualified by knowledge, experience, dedication to public service, and a strong sense of personal integrity to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a district court judge. His temperament is without question exactly what we want and need in the judiciary for Hawaii, and especially in District Court. Willie has a way about him that puts everyone at ease. He is kind and patient. He listens. Most attorneys, especially those who work in the criminal bar, have those who like them, and those who do not, mostly due to the adversarial nature of our profession. Willie is not like most attorneys. Everyone likes working with Willie, defense counsel and prosecutors alike. That is a very rare quality and should be cherished and promoted. I am not at all concerned that Willie has little civil law experience. He is a quick study, and diligent and professional enough to learn about any area of law that comes before him before making a decision. Willie Domingo has my total support for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**In strong support of JC6**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Clement C. Bautista, Director, UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services  
Past President, Japanese-American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter

RE: Testimony Supporting the Consideration and Confirmation of Judicial Nominee,  
WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, to the District Court of the First Circuit, for a term to expire in  
six years.

As director of the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, I enthusiastically support the nomination of William Domingo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. The UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, aka Operation Manong, has provided outreach, advocacy and support services for minority, immigrant, underserved and, now, undocumented students in Hawaii for over four decades. We continue to seek ways to alleviate or eliminate the barriers facing many of our students pursuing their dreams through higher education.

Although I have known Mr. Domingo only since graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law, I had come to learn that, as a UHM undergraduate, he was a tutor with Operation Manong and had served as president of the UHM Filipino American Student Association. In both capacities, Mr. Domingo was able to experience first-hand the issues and challenges experienced by minorities seeking equity in education. Since becoming a lawyer he would later serve as president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association and on the boards for the Kalihi YMCA and the Susannah Wesley Community Center.

Mr. Domingo's humble but proud background of being raised in Kalihi by immigrant parents has also shaped his understanding of the historical, socioeconomic and cultural determinants impacting individuals in Hawaii whose lives are entwined in the criminal justice system. His appointments as a public defender on both the Federal and State levels attest not only to his competence, but also to his patience, fairness and compassion.

Mr. Domingo will serve the First Circuit District Court with distinction and sound judgment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

Clement C. Bautista

**From:** [Daisy Lynn Hartsfield](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** JC6, April 15th hearing  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 3:00:08 AM

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re: Confirmation Hearing for William Domingo

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am writing to you all to express my support for William Domingo's nomination to be a District Court Judge to the First Circuit and humbly request that his nomination be confirmed.

I have been a practicing attorney in Hawaii for over ten years. I first met Mr. Domingo when I started my career at the Public Defender's Office. I came to know Mr. Domingo better when I became involved with the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association. Throughout my legal career, Mr. Domingo has been a mentor who has shared his knowledge and personal experiences freely with me. He has also been an exceptional role model to me and many others. He gives of his time to help the community. When I was legal counsel for the Oahu Filipino Community Council, Mr. Domingo was willing to be the keynote speaker at most recent annual convention. His speech inspired members to better work together to achieve a shared goal.

As an attorney, I have appeared before various courts statewide and made numerous appearances before a variety of judges in civil and criminal matters. Therefore, I know the value of appearing before a judge that is prepared, even-tempered, and knowledgeable about the laws and court rules. More importantly however, having been a former law clerk, I appreciate the ability of a judge who is willing to educate others. Judges do more than preside over matters and make decisions. They have to be able to effectively communicate and build positive relationships with others. They need to be efficient with their calendars. They need to hold themselves to a higher standard based on their position and role in the Judiciary. Mr. Domingo can do all those things.

I know that Mr. Domingo possesses all the qualities necessary to be an excellent judge. He has the legal knowledge, experience, and integrity to make decisions based on the law and not what is popular. He will have the decorum to treat who appear before him with respect and has the temperament to be either compassionate or firm, when appropriate. I am confident that with Mr. Domingo's positive character traits, diligent work ethic, and broad legal knowledge that he will be a judge that will make everyone proud. Finally, Mr. Domingo would also add even more diversity to the bench. He is a local, Filipino "boy", with a public school education who has earned the respect of his peers and has worked hard for what he deserves.

For all of the above reasons, I ask that respectfully request that you all vote to confirm Mr.

Domingo's nomination for District Court judge in the First Circuit Court. Thank you for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daisy Hartsfield, Esq.

**Law Office of Daisy Lynn B. Hartsfield**

P.O. Box 970446

Waipahu, HI 96797-0446

Phone: [\(808\) 224-8367](tel:(808)224-8367)

Fax: [\(808\) 676-4925](tel:(808)676-4925)

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC6 on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 8:40:14 AM

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**JC6**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for JDL on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daphne Barbee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators, I am writing in support of Mr. William Domingo's nomination to the District Court of Hawaii. Mr. Domingo is an accomplished trial attorney with the highest integrity. He has worked for the Federal Public Defender's office and in private practice. His reputation is stellar. He has an innate desire to see that justice is done for all people, regardless of race, sex, national origin or how much money a person has. Please confirm his nomination. Thank you. Attorney Daphne E. Barbee

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [David Klein](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** William Domingo Confirmation Hearing for District Court Judge JC6/April 15th hearing  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2015 1:32:45 PM

---

Chairperson Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Judiciary and Labor Committee

**Re: William Domingo  
Confirmation Hearing for District Court Judge  
JC6/April 15th hearing**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Senator Keith-Agaran,

I understand that Mr. William Domingo is scheduled for confirmation hearing on April 15, 2015.

I am an attorney and have known Mr. Domingo, professionally and socially, for more than ten years. He is conscientious, hard working, respectful and compassionate. Mr. Domingo is the epitome of the candidate that should be confirmed as a District Court Judge.

The now retired Honorable James E. Duffy, Jr., has stated that "good judicial temperament is . . . a matter of commitment to be the embodiment of justice by showing respect to all one interacts with."

(<http://www.courts.state.hi.us/docs/docs5/jtamosrta050204.pdf> - retrieved 4/10/15)

Using this definition, Mr. Domingo has the judicial temperament that would be an asset to the Judiciary and to our community.

Sincerely yours,

David Klein



April 13, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NO. 6 (JC6)

CHIEF JUSTICE NOMINEE, **WILLIAM M. DOMINGO**  
AS COURT JUDGE TO THE  
DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

APRIL 15, 2015  
9:00 A.M. ROOM 016

The Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the confirmation of Mr. William M. Domingo as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Domingo for over 30 years when we were law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law (Law School). He epitomizes CJ Richardson's vision for the Law School: to provide an affordable legal education for local students who will ultimately give back to their community.

Mr. Domingo has committed his legal practice to defending the rights of those who could not otherwise afford a legal defense or were entitled to the best legal defense to protect their constitutional rights. He has served in both the Federal and State sectors as a public defender and as a Deputy Assistant Public Defender as well as in private practice doing legal defense work. Willie is respected by all sectors of the legal community and his integrity and character is above reproach. Mr. Domingo has the temperament of calm but firmness to hear the legal issues and argument and render a just and fair decision.

It is with great confidence and pride (to support my classmate) to respectfully ask that Mr. William Domingo's nomination receive consent by your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Mr. Domingo's nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Principal

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of JC6, Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2015-1 (Appointment of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit)

Hearing information

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald has appointed William M. Domingo, better known as Willie, to the District Court of First Circuit (Oahu). As a friend of over forty years, I know that he has the character, record of community involvement, and temperament to be an excellent judge.

Our friendship began when we were in college at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Then, as now, he displayed a generosity of spirit, strong competitive drive, broad knowledge base, and great sense of humor. After college, we have stayed close friends and that has enabled me to stay in touch with his career and community involvement.

As a long-time friend, I am well acquainted with his family. His wife, Trisha, is a nurse with the St. Francis Healthcare System. Both of their daughters, Jessica and Rachel, have served as captains of the University of Hawai'i soccer team. Jessica is an attorney and Rachel is pursuing an advanced degree in education. Their son, Aaron, was an Eagle Scout and is an entrepreneur and professional musician.

In service to his community, Willie is a board member of the Kalihi YMCA and the Susanna Wesley Community Center. For both organizations, he has served as Board President, which demonstrates his dedication and ability to lead. As an administrator for the past thirty years of Wai'anae Coast Early Childhood Services, I can attest to the tremendous value board members, especially Presidents, have added to accomplishing our mission.

In conclusion, Willie's love of life, family, and fellow man have enabled him to sustain a high standard of excellence for thriving in his career, raising beautiful children, and serving his community. There is no one that I hold in higher regard than William M. Domingo and ask your support of his confirmation as District Court Judge of First Circuit (Oahu).

April 13, 2015

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: *JC6 – Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term of six years.*

Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate:

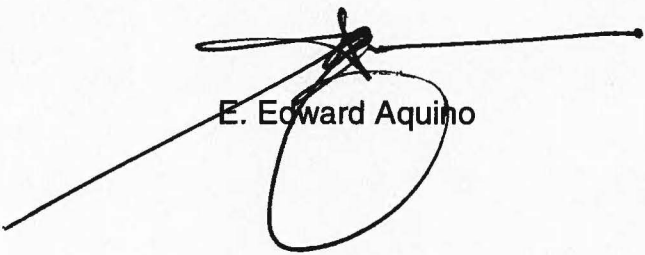
I am writing in strong support of William M. Domingo's nomination to serve as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I first met Mr. Domingo in 1999, when I joined the Office of the Public Defender and, since then, I have come to know him very well on a professional and personal level.

In working alongside, Mr. Domingo, I have always found him to be honest, patient and compassionate when dealing with others. In his legal practice, Mr. Domingo has a very keen understanding of the law and how it affects people. What is most impressive is his commitment to ensuring justice.

On a personal level, Mr. Domingo has served as a mentor over the years by encouraging and challenging me to get involved with the youth and the community through various civic organizations. Mr. Domingo has also served as a role model for my wife and I, by being a devoted husband to his wife, Patricia, and being a great father to Jessica, Aaron and Rachel.

Mr. Domingo would make an outstanding District Court Judge and I urge you to confirm his nomination to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,



E. Edward Aquino

**From:** [Elizabeth Kent](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Myself](#)  
**Subject:** JC 6; April 15 Hearing (William Domingo)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:08:21 PM

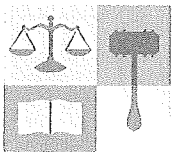
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Aloha,

It is my pleasure to urge your confirmation of William Domingo as a District Court judge. I have known Willie for over thirty years. He has all the qualities we hope for in a judge: smart, good work ethic, humility, and common sense. Willie will be an excellent addition to the bench.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Kent



LAW OFFICES OF FRANZ D. JUAN LLC

P.O. Box 110  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
Tel. No.: (808) 488-5660 email: donjuanesq@yahoo.com

Franz D. Juan, CPA  
Attorney at Law

April 11, 2015

Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Honorable Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senate, State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: William M. Domingo, Esq.

Dear Honorable Senator Keith-Agaran,

I have personally known William M. Domingo, Esq. since 2004. He has been a steadfast attorney with a solid foundation of ideals and values. He has been a mentor to me in my own legal practice often taking time to introduce me to other attorneys and judges. He strongly advocates civility and common courtesy amongst the members of our profession.

When coming across him in any of the Courts in Hawaii, I notice his demeanor as always being approachable. Other attorneys, whether colleagues or adversaries, can be seen having a collegial conversation with him. Any case arguments made by him appear legally sound and are always handled in a professional manner and display the proper respect to the Court room proceedings and Court personnel.

Most admirable about Mr. Domingo is the approach that he takes with arguments. Always being a patient and careful listener, Mr. Domingo is humble to any individual that he speaks with. With his years of experience and knowledge, I have never come across him as being anything more than a public servant. His experience, expertise, and accomplishments are many yet his humility and passion supersedes each one of them. His support of the community at large is cemented in his volunteerism as well as in his various contributions.

It is with neither hesitation nor reservation that I strongly support William S. Domingo's application to serve the Courts of the State of Hawaii as a Honolulu District Court Judge. Thank you for considering my letter of recommendation and praise of him.

Respectfully,  
LAW OFFICES OF FRANZ D. JUAN LLC

  
Franz D. Juan

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing to the District Court of the First Circuit  
Judicial Nominee, William M. Domingo

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

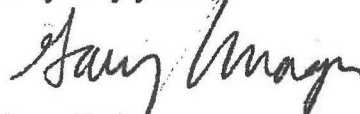
I am submitting written testimony to express my support of the appointment of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Domingo for over 20 years, when we were both deputies representing opposing sides in the 1990s. Since then, I have grown to respect, as well as admire Mr. Domingo for his dedication to public service, his hard work, honesty, courage, intelligence, and vast experience.

I have not personally gone to trial against Mr. Domingo but have settled a number of cases over the years. The most recent case we resolved was a Medicaid fraud case involving false billing for transportation services in 2010. Mr. Domingo quickly and thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the evidence and the charges, and weighed the state's case against his client and we were able to come to a reasonable, fair, and just resolution without wasting the court's and government's time and resources. I am aware of Mr. Domingo's reputation of being a zealous advocate who is unafraid of trying cases even those where the odds are against him. But he is also an attorney who is able to resolve conflict amicably and reasonably. He is well-liked and respected by many. I am sure his resumé speaks for itself as far as his legal experience, knowledge of the law, and courtroom procedures.

Mr. Domingo is a balanced and confident individual who would be able to handle any situation that could arise in the courtroom. That, together with his wisdom, life experiences, and compassion will make him an excellent judge. I believe he will be an asset to the Judiciary

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Very truly yours,



Gary K. Senaga

# GILBERT C. DOLES

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
A LAW CORPORATION

CENTURY SQUARE  
1188 BISHOP ST., SUITE 1405  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TEL: (808) 521-0900  
FAX: (808) 545-5560

**April 14, 2015**

Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran      Email: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**Re:    TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF JC6**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the**  
**District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee**  
**WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years**  
**Hearing Date: April 15, 2015**  
**Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.**

---

Dear Honorable Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is both a pleasure and a privilege that I present this letter in strong support of William M. Domingo, Esq., upon his recent selection by the Honorable Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald to fill the vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit in Honolulu.

For the past 40 years, I have known Mr. Domingo as “Willie”, on both personal and professional levels. Based upon my long standing relationship with Willie, I am able to attest to his personal and professional character as being of the highest quality.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Willie graduated from Wallace Rider Farrington High School in 1974 and continued his undergraduate studies at the University of Hawaii (“UH Manoa”) where he graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Philippine Studies. While at the UH Manoa, Willie was President of the Filipino Students Association. In 1985, Willie graduated from William S. Richardson School of Law (“WSRSL”) where he also served as President of the Filipino Law Student Association.

Since 1985, Willie has been a licensed attorney in good standing in the State of Hawaii. Of his 30 years as an attorney, over 28 of those years were spent in criminal defense of individuals charged with offenses ranging from minor traffic infractions to more serious matters such as felony murder, drug conspiracies, white collar corruption, and various types of violent crimes. Willie’s vast experience as a criminal defense attorney has been in both the state and federal levels as a public defender and since 2005, as a private attorney in solo practice.

**Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran**  
**Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro**  
**Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**April 14, 2015**  
**Page Two**

Clearly, Willie has the requisite trial experience and knowledge to enable him to dispatch the duties and responsibilities and handle the heavy caseload of a District Court Judge in Honolulu's First Circuit. As a seasoned and highly experienced trial attorney, Willie has been involved in over 80 jury trials.

Willie's vast trial experience and commitment to the law profession have inspired him to volunteer his time and acumen as Grand Jury Counsel, First Circuit Court, and as a Lecturer at WSRSL evidence classes. Other volunteer activities have included the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association for which Willie served several terms as its President. From 2008 to 2010, he was named as one of Hawaii's Super Lawyers in the area of Criminal Defense.

In the community, Willie has been involved in both the Kalihi YMCA and Susannah Wesley Community Center in the capacities of Board Member and President. He is also a Founder, Board Member, and Past President of the Sariling Gawa Youth Council, Inc. On a personal level, Willie has also served as: (1) Mock Trial Coach at his alma mater, Farrington High School; (2) Assistant Scout Master, Troop 201 Boys Scouts of America; and, (3) AYSO soccer coach. Willie is an active and contributing member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Clearly, Willie's educational training, background, and experience as a criminal trial attorney would serve him quite well as Honolulu's next District Court Judge. In his professional career, he has established himself as a successful and highly experienced legal advocate in the courtroom who is extremely familiar with the Hawaii rules of civil and penal procedure, Hawaii circuit court rules, and Hawaii rules of evidence. His familiarity with these rules would enable him to render appropriate decisions and rulings on a timely, legally-grounded, fair-minded, and objective basis.

Overall, I have found Willie to be a thoughtful, well-respected, and responsible individual, whose honesty and integrity are noted and appreciated by his colleagues, peers, judges, and other members of both the legal and non-legal community. Not only has Willie succeeded in his legal career, it is quite evident that he realizes the value and importance of public service by his involvement and commitment as a volunteer and lecturer in various legal, non-legal, private, and public venues, as well as, a volunteer youth sports coach and Boys Scouts leader.

**Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran**  
**Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro**  
**Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
**April 14, 2015**  
**Page Three**

Of particular note is the fact that Willie's professional accomplishments and volunteer work in his community serve to underscore the importance of the impact he has had, and will continue to have, hopefully as a District Court Judge, as a successful and influential role model to all, especially those in our Filipino community in Hawaii.

Therefore, it is without reservation that I would strongly support and urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor's confirmation of my friend and colleague, William M. Domingo, Esq., to be Honolulu's next District Court Judge.

Thank you for your time and attention. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at (808) 521-0900 or (808) 864-4440.

Very truly yours,



GILBERT C. DOLES  
Attorney at Law

GCD

cc: William M. Domingo, Esq.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for JC6 on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 8:35:00 AM

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**JC6**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for JDL on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Keith Shigetomi](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** William Domingo  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 4:46:22 PM

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Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I am writing to support the confirmation of William Domingo as District Court Judge (JC6, 4/15/15 hearing). I have known Mr. Domingo for over 30 years. I met him while we were both young attorneys working at the Office of the Public Defender. Since that time I have come to know that he is person of integrity and compassion. He is more concerned about what is right than what is popular. He is able to see the good in every person. Professionally, Mr. Domingo has exhibited his knowledge and understanding of the law. He has been an effective attorney for decades. Simply put, he is a tremendous choice to sit in District Court which is in many ways the "people's court." I urge the confirmation of William Domingo as district court judge. Thank you for your kind consideration.  
Keith S. Shigetomi

Sent from my iPhone

Senator Gil S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

Senate of the State of Hawai'i

Lance D. Collins, Ph.D  
Law Office of Lance D. Collins

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Support J.C. 6, Confirmation of William M. Domingo to District Court Judge

My name is Lance D. Collins. I am an attorney in private practice. I strongly support the appointment of William M. Domingo to the office of judge of the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Mr. Domingo for a decade. I first met Mr. Domingo upon admission to the bar. As president of the Hawai'i Filipino Lawyers Association, he made an extraordinary effort to invite all new Filipino-American admittees to the annual dinner of the Association to honor our achievement of admission to the bar. I say extraordinary because unlike my other Filipino-American colleagues in the bar, I do not have many family members in Hawai'i, I do not carry a Filipino surname and I was not an officer of the Filipino Law Student Association during law school. Nevertheless, Mr. Domingo found me as soon as I was admitted to practice and encouraged me to attend the annual dinner in Honolulu. Mr. Domingo would regularly keep in touch with me throughout the years while he was president. On several occasions, he made the time to speak to high school students who "shadowed" me for the career day projects in Honolulu.

In my professional familiarity with his work, Mr. Domingo has the knowledge and familiarity with the law and its spirit to decide cases. He also has the right temperament to serve as a judge in a manner that will instill confidence in the judicial system as a whole. I feel strongly that he will be fair and leave litigants with the belief that they were given "their day in court" even when he might rule against them.

Mahalo.

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of JC6, Appointment of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing information

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

Dear Chairpersons Keith-Agaran and Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Leslie Ringuette and I am writing in support of William Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known him for over 30 years, starting when we were both students at the University of Hawaii. William has the background and character to be a compassionate and effective judge, whom the people of Hawaii deserve.

William Domingo is the son of Filipino immigrants who grew up in Kalihi. Over the years I have known him as a husband, father, Boy Scout leader, member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and lawyer. I have seen him interact with people of all ethnic groups and socio-economic classes. In every case, he demonstrated the people skills to put others at ease and interact skillfully. As a judge, he will bring these same skills as he relates to fellow judges, lawyers, defendants and witnesses, and members of the public. In addition, he has the ability to get to the heart of a matter very quickly, while at the same time viewing it from multiple perspectives. All of these qualities will help him as he ensures justice is served in our state.

The best kind of judge is one who can combine compassion, firmness and fairness to any case he handles. William Domingo has the personal qualities to be that kind of judge. He understands the difficulties and challenges people face in life, at the same time he does not hesitate to hold his children, his friends, and colleagues responsible for their words and actions.

He is someone with the integrity and experience, who is ready to be a judge in the First Circuit Court.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify in support of William Domingo's nomination. Please give him your confirmation in service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Leslie Ringuette

# A S U N C I O N

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In strong support of JC6  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 15, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Lito M. Asuncion, Board Advisor, Sariling Gawa Youth Council  
Mildred M. Asuncion, Board Secretary, Sariling Gawa Youth Council

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,  
Judicial Nominee WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years

As his personal friends and colleagues in the community, we whole-heartedly and strongly support the confirmation of William M. Domingo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

We have known William since the mid-1970s when we were student workers for the Operation Manong Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During our college years, William excelled as a young leader as evidenced by his passion and commitment in serving as a hands-on type of officer in our Filipino-American Students Association in which we coordinated cultural and social events. Through his involvement in community and legal issues as well as through his undergraduate experiences, he became inspired to obtain his law degree at the University of Hawaii William Richardson School of Law.

Thirty-five years ago, the three of us became the primary co-founders of a non-profit community organization called Sariling Gawa Youth Council that promotes leadership, civic responsibility, and individual empowerment among Filipino-American youths in Hawaii. William continues to be a dedicated board member and serves as a pro-bono legal adviser for the organization.

In all the years that we have collaborated on projects and activities, we have witnessed William's ability to use his intelligence and intuition to handle the trials and triumphs of working with people in a variety of situations that involve personal relationships, community involvement, and business circumstances. His counsel and actions are objective and delivered with mature composure; we highly respect and have great faith in his opinions.

As a board member of Sariling Gawa, William's extensive knowledge of the law and his years of law experience has been invaluable in guiding our organization to make wise and law-abiding decisions as well as to facilitate our understanding of contracts and legal literature that are presented to us. During our organization's annual state youth conference, William has demonstrated proper decorum and a profound work ethic in all stages of planning and implementation while serving under countless volunteer hours; this substantiates his lifelong commitment to community service.

In addition, his effective communication skills and appropriate sense of humor balanced with his strength of conviction and commitment to the law exemplify our belief that William possesses the qualities and characteristics of a fair and impartial judge. He is a good role model and a recognized member of our community. William would be a tremendous asset in the District Court of the First Circuit and has our strongest support.

Date: April 14, 2015

To: Judiciary and Labor Committee Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan

Re: JC6 (Hearing Date: April 15, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.)

Senator Keith-Aragan:

This letter is in support of the nomination of William M. Domingo to the the District Court bench.

I have known Mr. Domingo for over 25 years (since 1989) when we were both employed at the Office of the State Public Defender.

Over the years, I have observed that Mr. Domingo possesses superior skills with respect to client relations, trial practice, legal knowledge, and court procedure. From my perspective, Mr. Domingo has always conducted himself in a very professional, ethical, and orderly manner.

Most important, with respect to serving as a Judge, I would characterize Mr. Domingo's overall demeanor as calm and respectful. He is a fairly quiet and methodical individual. Mr. Domingo is a very good listener - giving everyone ample attention to make sure he fully understands what each person is trying to convey. But he is also very efficient and is able to focus on the true issues at hand.

He would be an asset to the Judiciary and the public that it serves.

Thank you very much,

Lowell H. Kurashige  
Attorney at Law  
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 1706  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-548-4455

**From:** [Mario Ramil](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** JC 6 Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, for a term to expire in six years  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 7:30:01 AM

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**To:** The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**Fr:** Mario R. Ramil  
94-1150 Moolelo Street  
Waipahu, HI. 96797

## SUPPORT

**Re:** April 15, 2015, WILLIAM M. DOMINGO, District Court of the First Circuit, JC 6, Testimony for Advise and Consent

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of WILLIAM M. DOMINGO to the District Court of the First Circuit. Because I have known William Domingo for over 25 years, it gives me great pleasure and pride to submit this letter of support.

Because I have known him all these years and I count him as one of my very good friends, I have no hesitation in vouching for his integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability and his professional experience.

William Domingo has nearly 30 years of experience as an attorney after his graduation from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Prior to managing his own law practice, he was an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the District of Hawaii and a Hawaii State Public Defender, as well as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

William Domingo's public service to the community is equally as impressive. He is past president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, board member and past president of the Kalihi YMCA and Susannah Wesley Community Center, and a Mock Trial Coach at Farrington High School.

I congratulate Chief Justice Recktenwald for William's appointment and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm his nomination.

Mario R. Ramil

**From:** [Kahikino Noa Dettweiler-Pavia](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC6  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 9:48:18 AM

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Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of JC 6, confirming the appointment of William M. Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit by Chief Justice Recktenwald. I have known Mr. Domingo as a colleague and friend for the past 10 years. His knowledge of the law and ability to apply it fairly and practically is unquestionable. Throughout my legal career, I have looked up to him as a professional and personal mentor. Mr. Domingo possesses all of the experience and qualities necessary to bring honor to the district court bench and execute the duties of a judge faithfully. His appointment bodes exceptionally well for the future of our judiciary.

Sincerely,

Noa Dettweiler-Pavia, Esq.

**From:** [Renee Nip](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Confirmation of Willie Domingo to District Court-JC6 and April 15, 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 2:09:50 PM

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I write in support of Willie Domingo's Confirmation as Judge to the District Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Willie since our days as law students at the William Richardson School of Law in the 1980's. He has always exhibited personal qualities of honesty, fairness, compassion and hard work as a fellow lawyer and as a friend.

I believe Willie will be a tremendous asset and respected judge if he is selected to serve as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Renee Blondin-Nip, Esq.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR

HEARING DATE: April 15, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JC6 – WILLIAM M. DOMINGO  
NOMINATION TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY: REYNALDO D. GRAULTY, RETIRED CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong support of William M. Domingo's appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit bench.

Mr. Domingo has practiced law in this jurisdiction since 1985. A graduate of the UH Richardson School of Law, he served many years as a public defender and after that, diligently served his clients in the private practice of law. In his practice, he became familiar with many areas of law and practice.

While on the bench, as a public defender, Mr. Domingo appeared before me on several occasions. He was always well-prepared and even-keeled. I believe that his experience, his intellect and his temperament will serve him well on the bench.

If confirmed, I am confident he will serve the Judiciary and the people of Hawaii admirably as a District Court judge for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on his nomination.

# **RICHARD K. MINATOYA**

TESTIMONY

ON

JC 6 - NOMINATION OF WILLIAM M. DOMINGO  
JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Chair  
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro  
Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Minatoya, and I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui, but I am providing this testimony as a private individual. I STRONGLY SUPPORT JC 6, the nomination of WILLIAM M. DOMINGO as Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

As a member of the Judiciary's Permanent Committee on Hawaii Rules of Penal Procedure and Circuit Court Criminal Rules, had the opportunity to work with Mr. Domingo over a period of several years. I always found Mr. Domingo to be very personable, conscientious, and knowledgeable about criminal legal matters. I truly believe that Mr. Domingo with be a great asset to the district court bench.

I ask that the committee recommends CONFIRMATION to the full Senate.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**From:** [Ronald Higashi](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for William M Domingo to fill the vacancy in District Court of the First Circuit  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 7:38:46 AM

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To: The Honorable **Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair**  
**Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

From: Ronald M Higashi, Executive Director  
Susannah Wesley Community Center

Subject: Support for the Appointment of William M Domingo to fill the vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit

My name is Ronald M Higashi. I am the Executive Director of Susannah Wesley Community Center located in Kalihi, Oahu. I speak in support of the appointment of Mr. William M Domingo to fill the vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Domingo's character is of the highest integrity. I have known Mr. Domingo for almost forty years. Through this period of time he has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and a passion for helping the most vulnerable members of our community. He wants to and has "make a difference" in the lives of community residents, and to community organizations and agencies.

Mr. Domingo comes from very humble beginnings growing up in Kalihi Valley in a "blue collar" family and community. I first met him while he was a CETA worker assigned to our agency to work with our youth. It was during this period that I first took notice of Mr. Domingo outstanding leadership skills, energy, and passion.

He talked frequently of wanted to becoming a lawyer and be able to contribute to his community. We were all very pleased that he was accepted and graduated from the University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law.

We recruited Mr. Domingo as a board member shortly after. Along with the Kalihi YMCA, he had been an integral part of both agencies and our Kalihi community for over thirty years. He has serviced as President of both organizations and has lead both organization during their major capital campaigns. He has always available to support both organizations to provide his expertise.

Mr. Domingo also works with and helps many other organizations in our community. He recently delivered the keynote address at the Oahu Filipino Community Council at the June 2014 annual convention

Mr. Domingo is a great role model for future youth. Again I support Mr. Domingo without reservations. Please contact me if you have any questions.



**Ronald M Higashi, Executive Director**  
**Susannah Wesley Community Center**  
**1117 Kaili Street**  
**Honolulu Hawaii 96819**  
**808 847 7191 DL**  
**808 847 0989 Fax**  
**[rhigashi@susannahwesley.org](mailto:rhigashi@susannahwesley.org)**

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC6 on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 7:58:42 PM

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**JC6**

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for JDL on Apr 15, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
simeon r. acoba jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Willie Domingo for the position of district court judge. He is an experienced trial attorney and so knows courtroom rules and procedures that he will have to apply and enforce. He has a reputation for being a person of integrity who will treat everyone equally and fairly. He has the ability to relate to everyone and is respectful of all persons--an attribute that is so important at the district court level where most of the public comes into contact with the court system. Finally he has the even and temperate manner that is so necessary to judicial demeanor. He will be an exceptional judge.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 13, 2015

Sen. Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chairman  
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: William Domingo Confirmation Hearing on April 15, 2015,  
9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran:

I am writing in strong support of William Domingo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known William Domingo for the more than 20 years both in a professional and personal capacity. William Domingo is an honest, hard working and highly respected trial attorney who has dedicated his career to serving the public. Based on his knowledge and experience, William Domingo is well qualified to be a district court judge.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 586-1160.

Sincerely,

Susan Y. N. Won

LAW OFFICE OF  
**TIMOTHY E. RAKIETEN**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
P.O. BOX 37003  
HONOULU, HAWAII 96837  
TELEPHONE: 808-429-5195  
FAX: 808-545-8040  
E – MAIL: [trakieten@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:trakieten@hawaiiantel.net)

February 4, 2015

Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald  
Supreme Court of Hawai'i  
417 S. King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Support of William M. Domingo for District Court Judge

Dear Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald,

I am writing you to express my complete support for the appointment of Mr. William M. Domingo as District Court Judge in the First Circuit Court.

I have known Mr. Domingo for 23 years since 1992 when I became a Deputy Public Defender and Mr. Domingo was already practicing law in the Felony Trial Division of the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Domingo is someone whom I have always respected and admired both as an attorney and as a person, and I am honored to call him my friend and colleague.

Mr. Domingo has the experience, wisdom, character and many other qualities that I believe would make him an excellent judge. He is a very experienced trial attorney having practiced at both the State and Federal Public Defender's Offices, as well as currently having his own successful law practice. He is very good at identifying the legal issues in a case, and is knowledgeable of the law and the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence and Penal Procedure and their applicability to the issues. He is a straightforward man of integrity with a sharp mind and a big heart who is a caring, effective and strong advocate for his clients. He is also a well rounded individual who is a musician for example, as well as family-oriented. Mr. Domingo is humble and has a even temperament, and I believe he would treat everyone that would appear before him as a judge fairly and impartially.

I have no doubt whatsoever that Mr. Domingo would be a great judge and I strongly support his nomination and respectfully urge you to select him for the position. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this letter. If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ TIMOTHY E. RAKIETEN  
TIMOTHY E. RAKIETEN

cc: Mr. William M. Domingo

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Support for nomination of Willie Domingo as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit**

Senator Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in strong support for the nomination of Willie Domingo as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

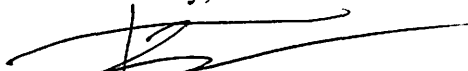
I am a trial lawyer who practices in the Hawai'i civil and criminal justice systems. I first met Willie Domingo when I joined the Office of the Public Defender as a deputy public defender. Willie handled some of the office's most complex cases. Yet even when he was in the midst of a difficult trial, he always devoted time to aid the professional growth of the younger attorneys. I consider myself a better attorney by not only observing Willie in the courtroom, but through his wise advice. New attorneys often cut their teeth in the state's district courts. I believe that as a District Court judge, Willie will accomplish what he did with countless attorneys over the years – that is, make them better lawyers. This will be invaluable to the competent and ethical practice of law in our state.

Willie does not tackle issues with preconceived ideas or biases. His background provides him with a vast reservoir of perspective (perhaps the most underrated of judicial traits). I believe that Willie will undertake his judicial responsibilities by listening to the competing viewpoints and employing a balanced, common sense approach to decision-making. Willie is exceptionally even keeled and will quickly display the type of judicial temperament that many judges take years to develop.

Willie Domingo is above all a good parent and husband. I have known his children since their early childhood. Jessica, Aaron, and Rachel are wonderful young adults, who possess the solid values of their parents. Of his many successes, his children top the list.

Chief Justice Recktenwald has made a wise decision. I cannot think of a more ideal nomination for the District Court of the First Circuit than Willie Domingo.

Sincerely,



Todd Eddins

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of JC6, Appointment of William M.  
Domingo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing information

Date: April 15, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

We respectfully submit testimony strongly supporting the above nomination. We have had the great privilege of friendship with Mr. Domingo for nearly 40 years when we originally met at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a United Methodist Church student campus ministry. We cannot say enough of his fine character and integrity. As public school teachers, we can attest to his years of service and devotion to his family and community.

Should anything have happened to us or our brother, William and his wife agreed to be the legal guardians of our two sons some twenty years ago. We believe our request of them says it all.

Sincerely,  
Robert and Vickie Hayakawa

THE LAW OFFICE OF

**WALTER J. RODBY**

733 BISHOP STREET, MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2302  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE NO.: (808)545-5490  
CELLULAR NO.: (808)232-6313  
FACSIMILE NO.: (808) 536-4988  
EMAIL: ATTORNEYRODBY@MSN.COM

April 13, 2015

Email: JDJLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran - Chairman  
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Confirmation of Judicial William M. Domingo  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran:

My name is Walter J. Rodby and I write this letter to express my complete support of William M. Domingo for the confirmation to the bench of the District Court of the First Circuit for the State of Hawaii.

I first met Mr. Domingo shortly after being hired by now Supreme Court Justice Pollack. Mr. Domingo was already a seasoned attorney and I, on the other hand, was as green as a Granny Smith apple. Through the years, I came to admire Mr. Domingo for his candor, honesty and integrity. I say this because I knew Mr. Domingo first as a mentor, and later as a colleague, always ready and willing to advise and provide information and knowledge on how to best deal with issues.

Furthermore, I have personally seen how Mr. Domingo has always treated others with the utmost fairness and impartiality.

However, I believe that Mr. Domingo's greatest attribute is his intelligence, wit, and absolute dedication to the legal process. I have no doubt that if selected Mr. Domingo will make a fine addition to the bench, bringing to the court the professionalism and skill necessary for the proper administration of justice.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,

  
WALTER J. RODBY

**From:** [William](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Nomination of William Domingo to the Honolulu District Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 9:25:43 AM

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Reference: JCG hearing April 15, 2015 re: The nomination of William Domingo to the Honolulu District Court bench.

Dear Chair Hawaii State Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaron and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of my friend and fellow attorney William Domingo who has been nominated to a judgeship with the Honolulu District Court. I have known William Domingo for the past 28 years, and can say with complete confidence that he is a person well suited to the district court bench. He possesses an innate sense of fairness, a firm understanding of procedure and law, and most importantly a desire to see that justice is served. I feel that his personal and professional backgrounds will give him a great advantage in handling all types of cases, as well as, litigants and attorneys that come before him. The Judiciary will gain a great asset upon the confirmation of William Domingo to the Honolulu District Court bench.

Sincerely,  
William M. Bento