

JC 1

LATE

From: [D.Goto](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC-1 Support
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 11:49:02 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Margaret Masunaga for over 50 years. She comes from a family culture where education and hard work was a top priority. Margaret was one to work while going to school, never taking vacations and always put her work and education first.

Margaret consistently has a very positive attitude in everything she does. She also is a very diligent and conscientious person.

I hope you vote to confirm Margaret Masunaga as District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Douglas Goto
104 Quail Ridge Way
Mickleton, NJ 08056

From: Reizo@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: reizo@aol.com
Subject: Testimony in Support of the Appointment of Margaret Masunaga From Darolyn Lendio
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 1:33:43 PM

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor -

I respectfully submit this testimony in unequivocal support of Margaret Masunaga for the position of State District Court Judge. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity as a professional colleague of Mrs. Masunaga, a friend and fellow government attorney.

I have known Margaret for over 30 years. We started out our careers as associate attorneys at the Goodsill firm. I worked for several months in the Kona office of the Goodsill firm then headed by Richard Ishida. I met and had the privilege of working with Margaret handling state district court matters and litigation matters. She was an enthusiastic, professional, caring attorney with deep ties to the Kona and Hawaii Island community. She exhibited an unwavering commitment to her community that is unsurpassed in my decades as a practicing attorney. Her professionalism, ability to communicate with local community clients and judiciary staff was clearly beneficial to her practice. In her practice of law in Kona, I personally saw her deep commitment to the good of the community and her abilities, not only legal but practical, to assist in the resolution of disputes and deal with difficult legal issues which often were filled with emotion by the parties involved. She always exhibited professionalism and diligence, but was heads above others in her caring for the situation of her clients and the community at large.

As we progressed through our careers, she became a government attorney who committed herself to helping children via the child support efforts in her community. She was legally strong at seeking out persons who neglected child support responsibilities. She was extraordinary in her efforts to help the children of Kona. In my own experience in this area, her commitment to this effort was indeed impressive. It was not an "easy" area in which to practice, but she was firmly committed to this effort and helped so many in that journey.

I have admired her fortitude and drive in this regard as her personal tragedy could have debilitated her, but it is my humble opinion that because of her personal tragedy, she became even more committed to helping children during this period of her career. I am forever impacted by what she taught me as a woman and a mother and how she has channeled her feelings toward making the lives of children just a little bit better.

What is startling to me is the process by which now the HSBA Board has rated her "unqualified". I was disappointed to hear of this ranking as my personal and professional experience is absolutely counter to the findings of the HSBA Board. I had submitted comments to the HSBA Board and asked that I be contacted if there were any questions with regard to Margaret's appointment. I did not receive an inquiry or contact.

Ironically, Margaret and I also built our professional and personal relationship while working on behalf of the HSBA in the Young Lawyers Division. For over a decade, we committed our spare time to our profession as young lawyers and tried to extend the community service to our state via our efforts on the Board of the Young Lawyers Division. Margaret especially has been elected as the HSBA Delegate to the American Bar Association, committing her talents to the furtherance of the HSBA on a national level. Here efforts for the advancement of women is especially notable.

Further, I respectfully urge this Committee to give great deference to the process already in place which screens and qualifies these State District Court candidates. Not only are they screened and qualified by the Judicial Selection Commission, but the Chief Justice himself interviews ALL candidates on the short list, does his own due diligence on ALL the candidates on the short list, and KNOWS what is best for the court in that particular district. This Committee has given Chief Justice Recktenwald the task of running the court system in Hawaii and he should be allowed to do so within his reasonable judgment. Given this process established by law, I believe great deference should be given to the vetting of the candidates on the short list by the Chief Justice unless there is clear and convincing evidence that both levels of

screening and qualification made such egregious errors of judgment, there were previously unknown factual basis, or there was a serious violation of the law.

As this Committee indicated in the discussion on prior candidates, not seeing and knowing those persons who are making accusations or lodging allegations against a candidate is clearly a violation of our own constitutional rights and privileges. This fundamental constitutional right and privilege will continue to plague the process by which the HSBA vets judicial candidates. As a member of that group, I urge our HSBA leaders to address this constitutional flaw. There is a task group that is studying this process and I urge our own HSBA leadership to suspend this internal process until such time findings and conclusions can be rendered by the task group. The inherent unfairness of the process flies in the face of what we all believe to be the foundation of our laws.

The bases by which those who now object to her appointment are still vaguely unknown. She took criminal law in law school as we were all required to do. She has had experience in hunting down deadbeat parents in paying child support. She is intelligent and knows the penal code in general. She, like any attorney, studies and interprets the laws to apply to the facts of any situation, dispute, behavior or incident. On both the civil and the criminal side, the ability of an intelligent lawyer who cares about the people who appear before her, who takes seriously the oath that she has taken, who has committed herself to her community, and who has proven her professionalism, ethics and dedication to her community, is by far overwhelming proof of her qualifications. The Chief Justice interviewed ALL of the candidates and chose Margaret. An excellent and good choice for the Kona and Hawaii Island community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further. I thank this Committee for its consideration and respectfully request that it support the appointment of Margaret Masunaga as State District Court Judge.

Mahalo,

Darolyn H. Lendio
808.783.7268
reizo@aol.com

MARR JONES & WANG

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

Labor and Employment Law

October 19, 2014

Via e-mail (JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Testimony in support of Judicial Nominee
Margaret K. Masunaga
Hearing Date: Monday, October 20, 2014
Hearing Time: 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016**

Dear Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in support of the confirmation of Margaret K. Masunaga for the position of District Judge, Third Circuit.

Since joining Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel in 1988, I have known Margaret as a colleague and friend. During those early years, although practicing in different venues, I recall that our caseload involved, in addition to civil litigation matters, the handling of state district court matters, such as debt collection and summary possession cases. Margaret always displayed eagerness, enthusiasm, diligence, and, was acutely aware of the importance of being able to communicate with and relate to local clients and establish good relationships with court personnel.

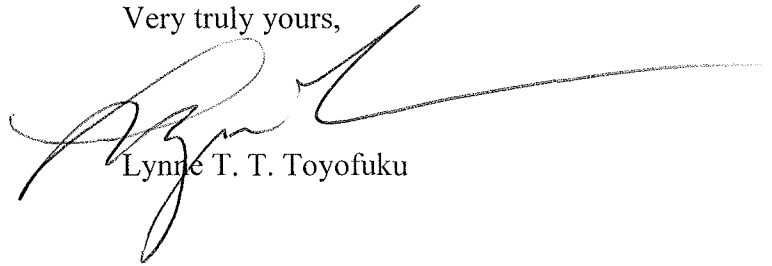
While we have taken different paths in the law, I have kept in touch with Margaret personally and professionally and have admired her lifelong dedication and deep commitment to public service, her Kona community, and to her profession.

No one else I know has devoted herself so extensively to her community as a government attorney and through providing pro bono services. For over fifteen years, she fought compassionately for children of Kona by seeking out parents who neglected child support responsibilities. For her dedication and efforts, she has received accolades and been recognized by the Hawaii State Bar Association, the ABA, and local community and government groups. She also has contributed to her profession by her involvement with the HSBA throughout her career as well as a delegate to the ABA.

In my humble opinion, her unwavering commitment to and deep knowledge of her Kona community, coupled with her commitment to the legal profession and her undisputed legal experience in both private and public sectors, make her a perfect choice for the position. Chief Justice Recktenwald, in nominating Margaret, came to this conclusion too. I am confident that the Chief Justice, who is the administrative head of Hawaii's Judiciary, knowing the needs of the district court in Kona, and after careful and thorough review of the candidates for the position, including lengthy interviews and his own due diligence, decided that Margaret was the best qualified for the position. His decision should be given great deference and should be supported. The vague and unspecified concerns raised by the HSBA should not impede confirmation of Margaret. She is an excellent choice and I am confident that she will serve the Judiciary well in Kona.

I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Margaret Masunaga for the position of District Court Judge, Third Circuit. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne T. T. Toyofuku', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lynne T. T. Toyofuku

LTTT/kn

From: [David Perkins](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [Judge David Perkins](#)
Subject: JC-1 Strong Support of Judicial Nominee of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 7:58:36 PM

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

I am honored to respectfully submit my strong support for attorney Margaret Masunaga for the position of State District Court Judge. I am submitting this letter as my testimony since I cannot be there in person. The testimony is being given in capacities as professional colleague, former government attorney, friend and judge.

I have known Margaret for over 23 years. I have had the privilege of working with Margaret on several American Bar Association matters (ABA) as young lawyers as well as matters within the ABA after we aged out of young lawyers.

I have had the honor of serving with her in the ABA House of Delegates, where I have seen her prepare for and argue and present matters before the House of Delegates. The entire time that I have known Margaret she has constantly shown her deep commitment to our profession and a drive and desire to make the profession better by being more inclusive and accessible to all people. Margaret does not judge people by their color, status in life, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or any of the other artificial barriers that attempt to separate people. Margaret is blind to these barriers just like lady justice. Margaret has an unwavering desire to make not just her immediate community better but all those communities that she touches.

I have worked as a government attorney representing various local governmental agencies, worked as a Referee in Juvenile Court for 17 years presiding over neglect and abuse cases as well as delinquency cases and most recently I have been sitting as a judge in 36th District Court for the State of Michigan. During my time on the bench I have seen my share of both good and bad lawyers. Margaret is a good lawyer. I know that Margaret has the professionalism, temperament and an intellectual love of the law to be a great judge!! I know that as a judge Margaret shall be dedicated to the law, treat all litigants with compassion and fairness and will not hesitate to make the tough decisions that she will face as district court judge. I also know that she will have the ability to expeditiously resolve matters on her docket.

It is for the above statements that I without hesitation or reservation give my support for Margaret Masunaga as a District Court Judge for the State of Hawaii. I welcome any questions and an opportunity to further discuss this matter.

I may be contacted at the following numbers :313-965-8128 (W) ; 313-283-1117(c).

I thank you and your committee in advance for your consideration and respectfully request your support for the appointment of Margaret Masunaga for District Court Judge.

Sincerely

Hon. David A. Perkins
Judge 36th District Court

Testimony of
COLLEEN HANABUSA
Re: JC 1
Nomination of MARGARET K. MASUNAGA
to the District Court of the Third Circuit
State of Hawai'i

October 19, 2014

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The honorable Mailes S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair and
the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Room 016 of the State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

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

I submit my testimony, in my personal capacity, in strong support of the nomination of MARGARET K. MASUNAGA to the District Court of the Third Circuit of the State of Hawai'i.

As someone who has served with all of you as a member of the Hawai'i State Legislature, I appreciate the decision you must make; especially in light of the Hawai'i State Bar Association's (HSBA) position that Margaret Masunaga is "unqualified for the position of District Court Judge, Third Circuit."

I must begin with a disclosure, that Ms. Masunaga's daughter, Colette, is an employee in my Washington D.C. office. What I do wish to make clear to you, however, is that my first meeting with Colette was as a testifier for her mother when Margaret was reappointed to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. Some of you may remember Colette when she submitted testimony for Judge Elizabeth Strance. I referenced her testimony when I rose in support of Betsy Strance. Colette is part of my office because she left an impression upon me when she was but an early teenager.

During my tenure as a member of the Hawai'i State Senate, we had issues with the HSBA and how it rates nominees. Recall that the rating system was highly qualified, qualified and unqualified. I had such problems with the rating system that I participated in an American Judicature Society study of HSBA's system. I am also aware that the HSBA has taken very seriously the opinions of the Senate as evidenced by the testimony submitted by President Calvin Young. I have great respect for Mr. Young and, of course, the HSBA's Executive Director, Patricia Mau Shimizu. I also do not take lightly what the HSBA's Board did to arrive at its decision. My support is not to be construed as a slight on the HSBA.

Notwithstanding, I am here in support of this nomination because I have come to truly appreciate what the Constitutional obligations of government are. The Judicial Selection Commission (JSC) is mandated to present a list of no less than four and no more than 6 candidates to the appointing authority. (Article IV Sections 3&4) The appointing authority then selects and sends its message to this body for consent and confirmation. The JSC has, as a part of its Constitutional obligation, the requirement to adopt rules that shall have the full force and effect of law.

The JSC's Rules states that it shall consider the applicants, "background, professional skills, and character, and may give consideration to the following qualities.

- (1) integrity and moral courage
- (2) legal ability and experience
- (3) intelligence and wisdom
- (4) compassion and fairness
- (5) diligence and decisiveness
- (6) judicial temperament
- (7) such other qualities that the commission deems appropriate"

There are no such rules for the appointing authority or this consenting body. I contend it is because their decisions are ultimately accountable to those who elect them to serve.

We know that this Senate has agreed and disagreed with not only the HSBA but with the JSC and the appointing authority. This is because it is the structure created to balance all interests. I know that the HSBA's rating, when agreed to, has been part of many speeches. I also know that when this body has disagreed with the HSBA or the appointing authority, it has not hesitated to ignore or strongly disagree with both or either. That is how it should be.

The HSBA provides input; it is up to each Senator to determine how much weight any testimony should be given.

This nomination is for a district court judgeship. I remember one Judge who chose to serve in the District Court who was someone that I had cases against and a person whom I respected. He has the distinction, I believe, of being the only person who was appointed and served, then resigned due to family obligations, then again sought (after his children were grown) the position of the District Court Judgeship again. I asked him, "why?" He told me it is because he felt the district court is where most people will have their first and only experience with the judicial system. He wanted to be a positive part of that experience and truly enjoyed that calendar. Having served there, he could say what that calendar was like.

I found it significant that the HSBA acknowledged Margaret's exemplary history of public services, including service to the HSBA, the West Hawai'i Bar, and the American Bar Association. I note that she has been an advocate, nationally and internationally, for women's rights and against domestic violence, critical and major issues in the forefront, nationally and locally. The HSBA went on to note that there is no question about her integrity, temperament, health or financial responsibility.

However, the HSBA did raise questions about her "legal knowledge, diligence, ability to fill the responsibilities and duties of the position, and professional experience in legal practice and in civil and criminal proceedings and trials." At the outset, I find it of importance that judicial temperament is not an issue. This criterion has been a concept that no one can universally define but is used in opposition to a candidate. For me, judicial temperament would be of importance in a district court judgeship.

I would also like to believe that the appointing authority, the Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, wants to ensure that his district court system, which is probably the most stressed in Hawaii's judiciary, has someone who will be able to fill the responsibilities and duties of that position. He probably believes, as I do, that Margaret does have the skills that are at issue for the HSBA.

We all have strengths and weaknesses. That is why I believe that JSC Rules, which have the full force and effect of law, includes that category "7" which simply states, "such other qualities that the commission deems appropriate." This is to acknowledge that when a decision is made, the JSC may find some quality not listed which may sway a decision. Such a quality could be a person's commitment to the Bar and the community which should support that she will be compassionate, fair and have the moral courage to do what is just.

For the above stated reasons, I respectfully ask that this Committee vote to consent to the nomination of Margret K. Masunaga and to so recommend to the Senate as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Very truly yours,

Colleen Hanabusa

From: [Brit Barker Pittullo](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Re: Margaret Masunaga for District Court Judge
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:22:21 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a deputy prosecuting attorney in the Kona office for the County of Hawaii. I have had the pleasure of knowing Margaret Masunaga for the past year. She has always encouraged me to try new things and accomplish new goals.

Prior to my arrival in Hawaii, I was a practicing California attorney, focusing primarily in the area of family law. Due to my relocation to Hawaii I transitioned my practice area from family law to criminal law. Most of my days are spent in the same District Court that Ms. Masunaga would be presiding over if confirmed. The District Court in Kona is a high volume courthouse which will require the presiding judge to efficiently move proceedings.

I have not had the pleasure of having any personal experiences with Ms. Masunaga in the courtroom. My exposure to her legal expertise has been limited to conversations on legal theory and sharing experiences of her years of practice. Much of the work Ms. Masunaga has done is of a confidential nature in closed court proceedings.

Based on my interactions with Ms. Masunaga I am confident in affirming that Ms. Masunaga's experience has provided her the necessary tools in order to learn and succeed as a part of the Judiciary in District Court.

I am confident that Ms. Masunaga will be a positive member of the judiciary.

Sincerely,

Brit Barker Pittullo

Attorney at Law

BBP.Esq.HI@gmail.com

(909) 912-2517

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Thank you!

From: [Cynthia Nojima](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 1, Nomination of Margaret Masunaga Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii; October 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:57:06 PM

October 19, 2014

Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC 1, Nomination of Margaret Masunaga
Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing: October 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Cynthia Nojima. I submit this letter as an individual and a member of the Hawaii State Bar who strongly supports the nomination of Margaret Masunaga as Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I was born and raised in the State of Hawaii and I am a resident of this State.

I have been a member of the Hawaii State Bar for nearly 30 years.

I have known Ms. Masunaga longer than that. When I first met Ms. Masunaga, I was still in law school and a summer associate with Goodsill Anderson & Quinn (now known as Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel). At the time, Ms. Masunaga was a legal secretary in our Kona office. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Masunaga made the difficult decision to leave Kona to pursue a law degree while her husband remained at home.

After graduating from law school and passing the Hawaii bar exam, Ms. Masunaga joined Goodsill's Kona office. At that time, her practice was in the areas of civil litigation, real estate and business law.

After several years, Ms. Masunaga left private practice to join the County of Hawaii's Department of Corporation Counsel, where her practice focused on family law. In that capacity, Ms. Masunaga assisted families in West Hawaii with child support and other issues arising from paternity and divorce cases. Most of Ms. Masunaga's professional life has been in this area, although she spent some time providing legal assistance to the County's Planning Office. Ms. Masunaga has spent most of her adult life dedicated to public service and service to the Hawaii Bar.

I believe Ms. Masunaga's professional experience and personal attributes will enable her to superbly fulfill the requirements

of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

I was an associate and partner with the Goodsill law firm for nearly 13 years. Since that time, I have been an attorney for the City and I am currently a federal government lawyer. I have appeared in Honolulu District Court, as well as other courts, on numerous occasions. I understand that State district court judges preside over a wide variety of cases. Further, based on my own observations, I believe State district court judges need to be smart, flexible, organized and patient.

I know Ms. Masunaga to have all of these attributes. She is smart and, when called for, flexible and creative. She is efficient and organized. When circumstances require, she is patient. When she is unfamiliar with an issue, she studies up on it.

Ms. Masunaga has experience in civil practice and government law. She has vast experience in the area of family law. She has provided counsel to "ordinary" citizens, as well as public officials. I think the skills developed while working in this practice area will be extremely useful in the State district court environment where many parties may be experiencing the legal system and a courtroom for the first or second time.

While much of Ms. Masunaga's work experience has been in the area of family law, I am certain that her intelligence, diligence and ability to organize her thoughts and workload will enable her to competently and efficiently deal with the other types of cases put before her as well.

I respectfully request that the Committee favorably consider Ms. Masunaga's nomination to the State district court bench.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Ms. Masunaga's ability to fulfill the duties of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for this opportunity address the Committee to express my support for Ms. Masunaga.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia M. Nojima
(808) 551-8419
msnojima@hawaii.rr.com

From: nikki.muranaka@gmail.com
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC-1 Strong Support for Margaret Masunaga
Date: Monday, October 20, 2014 3:45:05 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of Margaret Masunaga in that she will be able to fulfill the position of a judge.

Margaret is my auntie, my mother's sister. Auntie Margaret has worked hard her whole life. She worked while going through college, has dedicated her life as a public servant, and has over 25 years of working as an attorney in both public and private capacities. She has always taken great pride in her work and does whatever necessary to fulfill her job duties. She is thorough, diligent, and an extremely dedicated person.

I hope my strong support in favor of Margaret Masunaga for the judge position is heard and taken into consideration for this morning's hearing.

With gratitude,

Nikki Taura
Teacher at El Dorado Elementary
San Francisco, CA

From: [Ilene M. Korey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC-1 consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Monday, October 20, 2014 8:45:30 AM

Subject: JC-1 consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

To the Honorable C Clayton Hee, Chair and the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

I write to voice support for confirmation of the appointment of Margaret K. Masunaga to District Court by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald.

I have known Ms. Masunaga in a professional setting through the bar associations and public service for over twenty years. In that time, I have had the privilege of seeing her commitment to the community through her practice of law. Her efforts in that regard not only show her commitment to public service, but also demonstrate her dedication to hard work, diligence and thoroughness in her legal practice and career. Many of the public service programs inherently cross into the the practice of law where I have been able to observe the wide and deep legal expertise Ms. Masunaga possesses. Indeed, the accolades she has received over the years are not limited to public service but also transcend into the application of her legal knowledge.

Over her years working with the County and Corporation counsel, she has handled civil and family law quasi-criminal matters as well as appellate briefings. There are few attorneys that I know that can competently handle the legal proficiency of these cross-sections of the practice, let alone manage to write appeals and continue to manage the work load and her court calendar. Her ability to adapt, learn the law in new areas, handle her case load, and continue to serve the community by volunteering demonstrates a ready ability to handle challenges of management and a court calendar.

I have been practicing law for thirty years in an international practice working in complex civil matters from which I have been involved in dozens of jury trials and arbitrations involving hundreds of millions of dollars. The jurisdiction where I primarily work is considered to have filings of one of the heaviest case loads in the country, with approximately, 40,000 pending cases. I offer this legal experience and background to depict the litigation background from which I have gained experience and insight into the qualifications necessary for the judiciary. With that background, I believe that Ms. Masunaga merits Senate Committee for confirmation of the appointment of Margaret K. Masunaga to District Court by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald.

There is no question that Ms. Masunaga possesses the judicial temperament, ability, and background to handle the District Court's case load. Having worked both in civil and criminal law, Ms. Masunaga exemplifies the legal experience depth with the diligence, and integrity desirable for the position. The State of Hawaii would benefit greatly from the integrity and legal prowess she brings to the District Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ilene M. Korey | *Partner*
Clausen Miller P.C. | 10 S. LaSalle St. Chicago, IL 60603
312-606-7831 | ikorey@clausen.com | www.clausen.com



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MARGARET MASUNAGA

SENATE JUDICIARY JC1

OCTOBER 20, 2014

JUDICIARY CHAIR CLAYTON HEE,

VICE CHAIR MAILE SHIMABUKURO

Senate Judiciary Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

My name is Jay T. Kimura and I support Margaret Masunaga as the next District Court Judge for the Third Circuit in Kona.

I have known Margaret Masunaga for over 30 years and believe that she possesses the necessary education, experience and integrity to district court judge.

As a former prosecutor I know the Chief Justice had a difficult decision with many former prosecutors applying for this position. I know the Chief Justice's decision was made after interviewing all the candidates and seeking input from the Bar. I believe that his decision reflects not only the court experience but the total experience of Ms. Masunaga in improving the delivery of legal services in the community.

While I disagree with the findings of the Bar Committee, I respect their decision. While some may take a narrow view of the district court trial experience of Ms. Masunaga, I believe that her total experience in the legal profession more than qualifies her for this position. I believe that she has the potential to be a fair and competent district judge and would be an asset to the judiciary.

Her involvement in pursuing the first persistent non support case with Deputy Prosecutor Gerald Garcia and her involvement in having the first persistent non support case presented to a Federal Grand Jury are notable.

I humbly request that the Judiciary Committee approve her nomination.