

LAUBACH
& FRENZ
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, L.L.L.C.

LATE TESTIMONY

June 20, 2016

VIA EMAIL

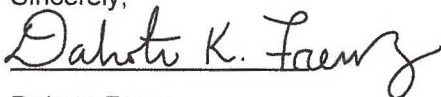
Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agran and Members of the Senate Judiciary Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Dakota Frenz

Michelle Kanani Laubach is my law partner at Laubach & Frenz AAL for just over three years now. I have known Kanani for approximately ten years now. As former Deputy Prosecutors together, she took me under her wing and shared with me all she had learned from her time on Oahu at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office; effectively helping me be the best and most prepared attorney I could be. Kanani is an amazing attorney and confirming her as District/Family Court Judge would ensure that our new District/Family Court Judge is both respected by the legal community and more importantly, that our District/Family Court Judge will be respectful to all participants both attorneys and defendant's, that come before the bench. I have yet to meet an attorney that is as prepared and ready for all hearings as Kanani always is. She works endless hours in preparation for her hearings and/or trials. She is meticulous and passionate about all that she does. I have no doubt that she will do exactly that should she be confirmed. While it will mean an immediate business change for our law firm, it would be selfish of me to seek the appointment of anyone other than her as any other option would be unfortunate for our legal community and at the end of the day, ensuring that a fair, knowledgeable and professional judge be appointed outweighs all. I sincerely hope that you consider Michelle Kanani Laubach for this appointment. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dakota Frenz

From: LISA JOBES
To: JDL Testimony
Subject: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:41:17 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

It is my extreme honor to offer my full and unconditional support of Michelle Kanani Laubach for the vacancy in the District Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii).

I have known Michelle Kanani Laubach professionally for approximately 12 years. I have always known Kanani to be a passionate prosecutor, yet a compassionate defense attorney. She is one of the only attorneys throughout my career that I have seen consistently ethical, responsible, and diligent in her duties in court. She has a very conscientious style and it tends to leave no doubts as to the facts of her cases. I can attest that Kanani has consistently gone over and beyond being prepared and thorough in her research to provide all in court, the facts of her cases.

Kanani is not only well-known, but well-liked with a solid reputation in our community as an active, and caring participant in numerous charitable events with a willingness to help out others in her community throughout the year. I have known Kanani to be very well-balanced as she is also a caring and loving mother and wife.

I believe, Michelle Kanani Laubach is needed and necessary in the Hilo Courts with her consistent and ethical style of navigating through conflicts. I have the utmost respect for her integrity and wisdom to face the challenges of Justice. She has the ability to see all sides of a situation before ruling.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Okazaki Jobes,

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: Martin Bento
To: JDL Testimony
Subject: Letter in Support of Michelle Kanani Laubach
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 10:37:21 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Martin H. Bento, Esq.

This letter is in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach’s judicial nomination to fill a vacancy at the Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have been practicing law in Hawaii for the past fifteen years in the District, Family and Circuit Courts and I strongly support the nomination of Michelle Kanani Laubach for an appointment as a Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Ms. Laubach’s professionalism as a deputy prosecutor in Honolulu and also in private practice in Hilo, along with her legal knowledge, clear judgement, and consistent approach-ability, have made her a valued and respected member of the Hawaii County Bar.

Throughout her career, Ms. Laubach has demonstrated the legal ability and temperament essential to fulfill the duties and obligations of a Family Court Judge. Ms. Laubach’s experience as a trial attorney, her understanding of the rules of evidence and procedural rules in combination with her desire to serve the people of the Third Circuit make her an excellent candidate for the position of Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Martin H. Bento, Esq.

Martin H. Bento, Esq.
The Law Offices of Martin H. Bento, LLLC

June 20, 2016

To : Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re : JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From : Regino R. Saldares

I would like to provide my support for the confirmation of Ms. Michelle Kanani Laubach. I was pleased to hear that Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald has appointed Ms. Laubach to fill a vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawai'i).

I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Laubach for approximately a decade, which mainly has been on a professional level. I first knew her as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, while I was a police officer. It was obvious that she was devoted to the judicial system from the amount of effort that she provided. The one thing that does separate her from others is her passion for the judicial system. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, she was always enthusiastic discussing facts about our cases, yet was open-minded as she looked at all sides of the cases.

In 2007 there was one case in particular which I was the lead Detective on that she was assigned to as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. The charges consisted of Attempted Murder, Kidnapping, and other related charges. The passion that she displayed on that case motivated me to perform at a higher level, and I have used that to inspire me till this day.

Being a judge is obviously very difficult, and is an important position. I believe Ms. Laubach possesses the knowledge, experience, temperament, and integrity required for the position. Should she be confirmed by the Senate, Ms. Laubach will be a great benefit to the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

HARRISON & MATSUOKA

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June 20, 2016

Via: Web: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & LABOR

Chair: Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Vice Chair: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Pending Referral to JDL: M. KANANI LAUBACH

Honorable Senators: Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on the Judiciary and Labor.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to offer testimony **in strident support of the confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, M. KANANI LAUBACH.**

I am writing this letter on behalf of Michelle "Kanani" Laubach, Esq. who has been appointed by the Honorable Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald for the judicial vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Kanani since approximately December 2003, when she was hired as a Honolulu Prosecutor. I have observed her professionally on many occasions while she was at both the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's office and at the Hilo Prosecutor's office. I have had matters with her in both locations. I have also had the pleasure,



Chair: Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
June 20, 2016
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since she entered private practice in approximately 2012, of observing her work as a defense attorney. I have always been impressed with her intelligence, common sense, sense of fairness, dedication and strong work ethic. She is always cheerful and pleasant. I have never seen her angry or upset.

I have also had the opportunity of interacting with Kanani on various HSBA committees. Through these interactions, I have gained additional insight and admiration for Kanani. Kanani has a deeply held sense of community. She has also shown a profound reverence for our system of justice. In our many discussions I have come away with an impression of an individual who has an innate respect for the rights of individuals in our unique island community.

Rule 11 of the Rules of the Judicial Selection Commission requires the Judicial Selection Commission to look at the following qualities in its selection process: integrity, moral courage, legal ability, experience, intelligence, compassion, fairness, diligence, decisiveness and judicial temperament. I have the sincere belief that Kanani possesses an abundance of each and every one of these important attributes.

In addition to the above qualities, it is my opinion that a judicial candidate must also possess the desire to work hard, to show humility and kindness, and at the same time to have the fortitude to withstand public criticism so as to carry-out the necessary justice in Hawaii's courtrooms.

Finally, it is my belief that you should appoint only those individuals who will provide each and every member of the public a level playing field. Again, I genuinely believe that Kanani possesses this important characteristic.

I have spoken with other individuals who know Kanani and they all concur in the above assessment. She has an excellent reputation amongst her peers in the legal community. She is also known to treat everyone, clients, judges and opponents alike with decency and respect.

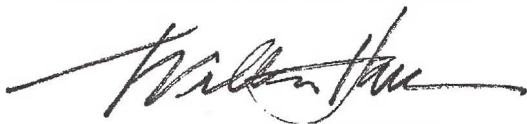
In short, it is my abiding belief that Kanani would make an excellent Judge. I therefore highly recommend Kanani for the vacant District Family Court Judgeship.

Chair: Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
June 20, 2016
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If you have any further questions or need any further elaboration, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

HARRISON & MATSUOKA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

WILLIAM A. HARRISON



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-933-1050

LATE TESTIMONY

Date: June 21, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No, 2016-2

From: Brandee Menino, Chief Executive Officer

I would like to extend my strong support for the Appointment of Ms. Michelle Laubach as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit (Hawaii Island). I have personally known Ms. Laubach for over twenty (20) years and have known her to be fair, just, and community minded. Hawaii Island is her home, her community; a community in which she loves and raises her children.

Many families are facing hard and trying times in our community and often face adversity. Ms. Laubach takes the time to listen and guide people to necessary community resources to improve their situation.

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Hope Services Hawaii, an affiliate non-profit organization of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii... an agency that works to end homelessness in our community. Ms. Michelle Laubach has a long standing reputation to strive for justice and making things pono. Ms. Laubach is the right choice for our community.

Again, I am in strong support for Michelle Laubach as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit (Hawaii Island). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 933-6013.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino
Chief Executive Officer
HOPE Services Hawaii, Inc.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [bentonp911](#)
To: [JDJ Testimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justices Appointment Order No. 2016.
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:55:21 PM

To: Senate Chair, Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 - Chief Justices Appointment Order No. 2016

From: Benton Bolos, Detective (Retired) Hawaii County Police Department

I have recently received news about your consideration of Ms. Kanani Laubach for appointment.

As a Detective with the Hawaii County Police Department, I was fortunate to have worked along side with her on a few cases.

During that time I did get to know her very well.

If she is appointed, Ms. Laubach will certainly be an asset to the Judicial system and the people it serves.

She is knowledgeable of its laws and combine this with her excellent work ethic and integrity, she will not disappoint.

You will find that her decision making will be firm, fair and impartial.

This is exactly what our community needs. Especially now...when our justice system is under close scrutiny by the very people we are serving.

I am hopeful my comments will help in making your decision for Kanani Laubach's appointment.

Aloha