



TESTIMONY
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

James S. Kawashima
District Court Judge, First Circuit (JC 2)

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

FROM: Jodi Kimura Yi
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol

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

The HSBA Board of Directors evaluates the qualifications of persons appointed for judicial office, the position of Hawaii U.S. Attorney and the position of Hawaii State Attorney General. We follow a multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review Subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President, which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Kawashima on June 13th to discuss the Subcommittee's findings. On June 14th, Mr. Kawashima was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Kawashima was reviewed and all of the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected a strong endorsement of Mr. Kawashima in the categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

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

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialog and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the HSBA Board found Mr. Kawashima to be **QUALIFIED**.

Mr. Kawashima's diverse career as a businessman, teacher and attorney with varied civil and criminal practice has provided this nominee with valued professional skills. His over 5 years as a per diem judge assigned to all of the courtrooms in Honolulu District Court have provided additional experience for a positive transition to a full-time jurist. Legal professionals submitting comments on the appointment highlighted the nominee's documentation of procedures and his willingness to share the documentation with colleagues. In addition, Mr. Kawashima's expertise in technology and software application will be useful to the Judiciary as evidenced with his development of an electronic master calendar for the Honolulu District Court. Based on the above, and after due deliberations, the HSBA Board found Mr. Kawashima **QUALIFIED** for the position which he has been appointed to and seeks.

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

June 16, 2016

Dennis W. Chong Kee
Direct Line: (808) 521-9209
Direct Fax: (808) 540-5025
E-mail: dchongkee@cades.com

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

Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit
State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my written comments and recommendation in support of James S. Kawashima, who is a nominee for a judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

I have known Mr. Kawashima since 1971, when we both started kindergarten together at 'Iolani School. We continued to be classmates at 'Iolani for the next 13 years until we both graduated from high school in 1984. During that time, I had many opportunities to observe Mr. Kawashima's work ethic, study habits, and treatment of his peers. I also had the opportunity to observe the family values that were instilled in him and that he lived by from an early age. The work ethic and study habits I observed were impeccable and were qualities that myself and other classmates aspired to achieve. He was always respectful of his classmates. He was a trusted friend and colleague who understood and shared the value systems that result from growing up in in this community. In the more than forty-five years that I have known Mr. Kawashima, he has proven to be someone who is sharp, honest, practical, and fair. I believe these traits will serve him and the judiciary well.

Mr. Kawashima's legal experience and competence is enhanced, I believe, by being the son of a long-time attorney and former Hawaii State Bar President, James Kawashima. Through his own legal experience and through the experiences of his father, I believe he has the utmost familiarity with the practice of law in this community, and the values that are important in this

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, et al.

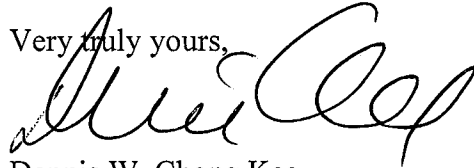
June 16, 2016

Page 2

community, and I believe these traits will serve him well as a member of the bench. I have no doubt that he will treat those that appear before him with the utmost respect and fairness. Furthermore, I believe that people appearing before him will feel that they have been treated respectfully and fairly because of his personality and because of his familiarity our community's customs and values. This will in turn serve to promote confidence in our State's judicial system.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments. If there is any additional information I can provide that may be helpful, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. Chong Kee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" being the most prominent.

Dennis W. Chong Kee

for

CADES SCHUTTE

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20 June 2016

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

re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I send the strongest possible recommendation of James Kawashima for the position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known and worked with Jim for 10 years as a teacher in the Punahou SAT/ACT Prep program. Our cadre of teachers has admired Jim for his excellent leadership, brilliant inspiration, and sense of fun in the classroom environment.

Besides being an outstanding person, father, and friend, Jim is a remarkable colleague in a teaching environment. I worked with Jim as a teacher in the Punahou School, program where Jim was the creator of this unique program for students who want to prepare for the Sat and ACT exams. While there are a number of prep courses, of course, his SAT/ACT Prep program provides cutting edge technology involving the use of remote devices that give the students instant feed back on their practice.

The program benefitted from his well organized presentation of pertinent material: using slides and video clips to make a mathematical or grammatical point, mesmerizing while teaching hundreds of students though the last dozen years. Although his materials are pertinent, he continuously reviewed and updated the content, never content with resting on previous material. Students and colleagues alike respond to his bright mind as much as his ability to be very fun.

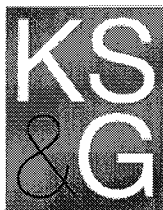
During class, Jim often startled his students with a magic trick in which he would deftly and subtly slip in the presentation. He is an absolute natural in front of teenagers and just as effective with their parents. These are not always easy groups to engage.

As a Spanish teacher, Class Dean and College Counselor for forty-three years (now retired, but continuing to teach at Punahou) I have plenty of experience recognizing a natural talent. Jim is a gem in every capacity. I have told him frequently he should always be a teacher.

He has never let me down.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dias Tannehill
Language Department Chair, Dean, College Counselor
Punahou School Faculty (Retired)



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

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Burt T. Lau*
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Larry L. Myers*

*A Law Corporation

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I would like to recommend and support the appointment of James S. Kawashima as a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Kawashima, since he was a child and have watched his development. He has shown courage in his practice of the law, is a person of integrity, is legally well founded, has the proper judicial temperament and he has shown a commitment to the community in which he will serve. For all of these reasons and despite the fact that I have never appeared in his Court as a per diem judge, I am comfortable with my recommendation which is made without reservation.

Very truly yours,

BERT KOBAYASHI, JR.

for
KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA

From: [Cara Ching-Senaha](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: lawoffice@jskawashima.com
Subject: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii -- Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 2:56:31 AM

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support of James S. Kawashima for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Jim personally and professionally for more than sixteen years - during that time, Jim was the emcee at our wedding, a trusted work colleague, and always a dear friend.

When Jim and I worked together some years ago, we were both Hawaii transplants practicing employment law at a large national firm in San Francisco. As you can imagine, the legal practice in California can be contentious at times. Throughout, Jim exhibited an unparalleled work ethic, keen intellect, and skillful diplomacy to get to the heart of each dispute without escalating tensions between the parties. It takes a special kind of attorney and person to calmly and fairly evaluate the key points of disagreement and to rise above the rancor to identify an effective solution upon which all parties agree.

It is also takes a special kind of attorney and person to do so with great integrity, wit, and compassion. Jim Kawashima is that kind of attorney and person. I have the utmost confidence that Jim will be an excellent jurist for the State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,

Cara Ching-Senaha

Attorney at Law (Hawaii JD 06466, Cal. SBN 129467)

LYNNAE LEE & ASSOCIATES

Lynnae Lee, Esq.
Curtis Kam, Esq.

Yacht Harbor Professional Center, 1620 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 510, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Phone: (808) 237-4100 ~ Fax: (808) 237-4101 ~ E-mail: LLAInfo@LLA-HawaiiLaw.com

Debi Goto-Hirokawa
Shayne Tobar

June 19, 2016

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

RE: JC2 – James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of
Hawaii, Hearing Date: June 21, 2016

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

In consideration of your busy schedules, I'll be brief. I have known Jim Kawashima for most of his adult life, and for the entirety of his professional career. I feel he is an exemplary choice for District Judge for two simple reasons; first of all, it's a job he's really good at it, and secondly, it's a job he really wants to do. If you have the time, I'll elaborate.

As to competence, Jim is the beneficiary of the one of the best educations this country provides. The lessons he learned carried over into his work; and whether as a prosecutor, civil attorney in private practice, or a per diem judge, he was always arrived over-prepared, having anticipated any problems that might arise. Jim manages to be right, without thinking he's always right, which is a good thing in a judge, to my way of thinking. Add to this his history of excellence in both criminal and civil matters, and that's pretty much the whole package.

As to his judicial temperament, Jim is prepared--I probably mentioned that already--so he's hard to fool. I've seen attorneys bluff judges, claiming legal authority when they don't know, or don't have any. That only works if the judge thinks he knows less than the bluffer. Not really a problem that Jim has. Jim also has no problem keeping emotions out of the picture, even when the occasional *pro se* litigant is taunting him directly, or angrily defying the authority of the court. Jim has met these occasions with restraint, and a considerable amount of patience. While his legal prowess comes from his education and experience, the patience, I think, was taught to him by his twin girls.

Thank you for the opportunity to bother the committee with my opinions. I hope they will be of some use to you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Kam

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Howard G. McPherson
Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom
Deborah A. Johnson

June 17, 2016

VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ref. JC2

Hearing: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

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

RE: JC2 Support for James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit,
State of Hawaii

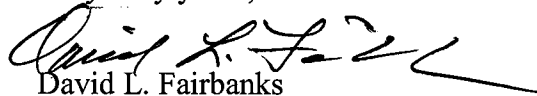
Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of James S. Kawashima for the position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I am a partner in the law firm of Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks and have known Mr. Kawashima on a professional level since he was admitted to practice in Hawaii in 1992. He is very intelligent, has developed excellent legal skills and is not afraid of hard work. Mr. Kawashima is fair, a good listener, and very respectful of other people which are very important qualities for good judicial temperament and a good jurist. As you know, Mr. Kawashima has served as a per diem District Court Judge presiding over criminal cases for over 5 years, so his "learning curve" as a judge will be significantly shorter.

In my opinion, he has all of the qualities, characteristics and legal ability to be an excellent judge and will be a credit to the judiciary.

If you have any questions or if I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


David L. Fairbanks

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OUR REFERENCE NO.:
901-30

June 20, 2016

VIA E-MAIL

JDLTESTIMONY@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

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

Re: **JC2 – Recommendation** for James S. Kawashima, Judge of the District Court of
the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i; Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran, Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I am the Chair of Carlsmith Ball LLP's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group. I do not know James S. Kawashima on a social level. However, I did have the opportunity to meet and work with him many years ago as young lawyers representing co-defendants on civil matters. I also appeared before him when he served as a per diem District Court Judge. I find Mr. Kawashima to possess the appropriate intellect, skill set and temperament to serve as a District Court Judge. Accordingly, I recommend that Mr. Kawashima be confirmed as a judge. I trust he will serve Hawaii as a fine jurist for many years.

Sincerely,

/S/ Duane R. Miyashiro

4846-0163-8963.1.000901-00030

June 20, 2016

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

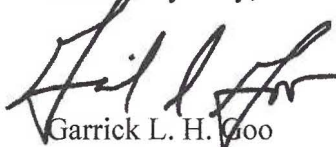
Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is my honor and distinct pleasure to write in emphatic support of the appointment of James S. Kawashima as a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Jim for over thirty-five years as a good friend, professional colleague, and legal advisor. Jim exemplifies on every level the qualities essential for a superior jurist. His personal ethics and convictions are high and steadfast; Jim is one of only a very few that I know who I can rely on to stand firm on his convictions regardless of the pressures of opposing opinions or even public sentiment. Jim is a polished and engaging speaker, with a quick sense of humor that is typically self-deprecating. But one quality that makes Jim such a great friend and colleague to many is his unwavering dedication to his community, family, friends, and clients alike. Jim is one of the brightest attorneys in our community and he would make an outstanding and valuable addition to the District Court bench.

If you would like me to expand my thoughts on Jim's qualifications, please feel to contact me at any time.

Yours very truly,


Garrick L. H. Goo

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks
Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

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June 16, 2016

VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ref: JC2

Hearing: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

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

Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii - IN SUPPORT

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I write in SUPPORT of the confirmation of James S. Kawashima for the District Court of the First Circuit. I am a partner in the law firm of Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina and Fairbanks, and I have been licensed to practice law since 1993.

I have known Mr. Kawashima for over twenty years. He has consistently impressed me with his intelligence, breadth of legal knowledge and experience in both civil and criminal matters, and calm and thoughtful demeanor. He is a consummate professional attorney who represents his clients with vigor and principle but always with the utmost civility. His personality and deportment are ideally suited for judicial office, where he will be the interface between our judicial system and the public.

Mr. Kawashima is also dedicated to public service and education, as the wide scope of his civic and educational activities attest. I have also known him to be a devoted and loyal family man who expertly balances his work and home life without detriment to either.

I wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Kawashima possesses all of the necessary skills and characteristics to be an outstanding Judge, will be an excellent addition to our esteemed

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
June 16, 2016
Page 2 of 2

Judiciary, and I can recommend his confirmation without reservation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of the confirmation of James S. Kawashima as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Komeya', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey K. S. Komeya

June 19, 2016

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

Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

This letter is in support of James S. Kawashima for the position of Judge, District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Jim for forty years in both a professional and social capacity. I have worked with Jim at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

Jim is an outstanding attorney who has an excellent understanding of court procedures, rules of evidence, statutes, and case law. He is well respected by fellow attorneys. Jim is a person of the highest integrity and exercises good discretion.

Jim's professionalism, extensive legal experience and dedication make him an ideal individual for the position of judge. I highly recommend that James S. Kawashima be considered and confirmed as a judge for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 988-3414.

Sincerely,


Heith M. Kaneshige

From: [Jason Fleming MD](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016 7:12:44 AM

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

re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support of James S. Kawashima for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am a Board-Certified Emergency Physician and Medical Director for an Emergency Department in Honolulu. I am Past President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. I have also been, for decades, a part-time Summer School instructor at Punahou School as well as Clinical Faculty at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I have known Mr. Kawashima for over 20 years.

Mr. Kawashima is a responsible, dedicated gentleman who loves the law and the legal reasoning process. He listens to all sides of a story before making his reasoned decisions. He can be counted on to clarify a complex situation with fairness and intelligence. I do not think you can find a better candidate willing to serve.

Mr. Kawashima has the ability to be fair and impartial, and the requisite legal skills to be an excellent judge. I am confident that as a member of the judiciary, Mr. Kawashima will serve with distinction.

Please advise and consent to JC2, naming James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance at all, please contact me at .

Sincerely,

Jason Fleming, MD

From: [Jeff Hawk](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:28:12 PM

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in strong support of James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I believe he has the knowledge, experience and temperament to be a fine judge.

I have known Mr. Kawashima for nearly 10 years. I have been most impressed by his intellect. He is one of the smartest people that I have met - ever. At the same time, he is easy going and easy to talk to. I think the Judiciary would be lucky to have him on the bench.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Jeffrey A. Hawk

Mr. Jeffrey A. Hawk, Esq.
The Law Offices of Hawk Sing & Ignacio

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

June 21, 2016

JC2: Nomination of James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Kawashima for about twenty years on a professional basis. He spent a number of years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney where he gained a reputation for his tenacity as an advocate and his superb preparation of his cases. While Jim was a formidable opponent in court and a zealous advocate for his position, he always maintained an understanding of the critical role he played in the criminal justice system and never over-stepped any ethical boundaries.

Most recently, Jim has served as a per diem district court judge. In this position, he has demonstrated a solid understanding of the Hawaii criminal laws and the rules of evidence. I believe he will be a good trial judge who will always be mindful of his duty to see that justice is served in each case.

I must add that I have known his family for many years. Jim's father, James Kawashima, who is the past chair of the Judicial Selection Commission and one of Hawaii's true deans of its trial bar has given many years of service to the Judiciary and our community. I mention this only because I know the heavy responsibility of a judge in our community has been instilled in Jim, the nominee, through his upbringing. It is with pleasure that I support his nomination.

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

June 20, 2016

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Legislator, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 221
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: James S. Kawashima

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I would respectfully urge you to confirm the appointment of James S. Kawshima to the District Court bench.

James has the intelligence and possesses the analytical ability to address and decide the issues which will be brought before him. He is decisive and has the appropriate judicial temperament. At the same time, James is firm and compassionate. These personal characteristics result in wise and just decisions. He has a great reputation as a per diem judge which reflects the consensus recognizing his judging abilities and strengths.

I wholeheartedly recommend that you confirm his appointment. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my letter of support.

Very truly yours,



JOHN T. KOMEIJI



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

June 18, 2016

Via Online Submission

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

Re: JC2 – JAMES S. KAWASHIMA District Court of the First Circuit, State of
Hawaii, Judicial Nominee - In Support
Hearing Date: June 20, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and
Committee Members:

I am writing in support of James S. Kawashima for the position of District Court
Judge of the First Circuit. I am a partner in the law firm of Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda.

While I have not had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kawashima, I know him to
be an intelligent and hard-working attorney. He also possesses the proper disposition,
even temperament and judgment necessary to make an excellent judge.

I am very confident that Mr. Kawashima will make a fine judge and serve the
Judiciary well.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 535-5744. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Nakasone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KENNETH M. NAKASONE

June 20, 2016

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

Re: JC2-James Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of
Hawaii

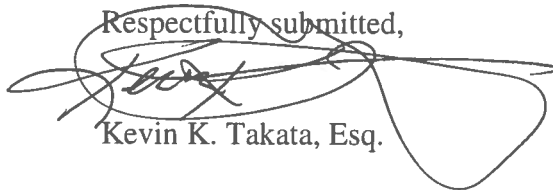
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I strongly support the nomination of James S. Kawashima to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Kawashima for many years, and have the utmost respect for his intelligence, knowledge of the law, integrity and fairness. We met at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

He has proven himself to be hard working, diligent, and thoughtful, and has garnered the respect of others in the legal community. His present position as a per diem judge has provided good training to segue to the bench. He would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Judiciary, and does not bring an agenda with him. Rather, he would be guided by the law, compassion for the plight of the less fortunate, and dedication to justice and fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K. Takata', is written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin K. Takata, Esq.

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks
Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

Paul F. Cronin
L. Richard Fried, Jr.
Gerald Y. Sekiya
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Howard G. McPherson
Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom
Deborah A. Johnson

June 17, 2016

VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ref. JC2

Hearing: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

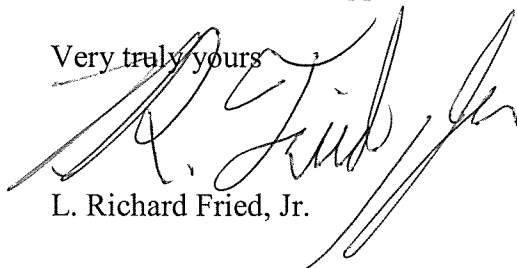
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC2 Support for James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First
Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I write in support of the nomination and confirmation of James Kawashima as District
Court Judge in the State of Hawaii. In my opinion, James is an excellent choice to be a member
of our judiciary. I urge your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Very truly yours



L. Richard Fried, Jr.



**ISLAND INSURANCE
COMPANIES**

June 17, 2016

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

Re: JC2 – James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of James S. Kawashima. I have known Jim for over twenty years. He is extremely bright, hard-working, and committed. He has done very well as a Per-diem Judge, and will continue to ably serve the people of Hawaii as a full-time Judge. He has an excellent knowledge of the law, is fair and impartial, and treats everyone with respect.

On a personal note, Jim is also a terrific father, husband, and family man. I have every confidence that he will be an excellent Judge.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 564-8580.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyle Y. Harada".

Lyle Y. Harada
Vice President
Island Insurance Company

JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

JC 2: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES S. KAWASHIMA, for a term to expire in six years.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF JAMES KAWASHIMA

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee:

I am pleased on my own behalf and on behalf of my law firm to submit testimony in support of the nomination of James Kawashima. I have known Mr. Kawashima for many years, both on a personal and professional basis. I have the absolute greatest confidence that Mr. Kawashima would be an excellent judge who will exercise the appropriate level of scholarship and judicial temperament that will make him an excellent contribution to our judiciary. I personally believe Jim is an extraordinarily bright and talented individual. He will be a great contribution to the judiciary. He is an extraordinarily warm, friendly, and thoughtful person and I'm certain that his impressive background and inspiring intellect will be a valuable part of his judicial performance. I urge the committee, without any hesitation whatsoever, to approve James Kawashima for the position for which he has been appointed with the Hawaii judiciary.

If there is any information I or other members of my firm can provide in support of Mr. Kawashima, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Davis

*Law Offices of
LESLIE R. KOP**
*1100 Ward Avenue, Suite 500
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814*

*Adrian Y. Chang
Randall Y. Kaya
Telephone: (808) 527-7736
Facsimile: (808) 527-7102*

*Laurie E. Keeno
Leslie R. Kop
Michael A. Lorusso
Brenda E. Morris*

June 20, 2016

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

**Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Testimony in Support
Hearing Date: June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.**

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my unqualified support on behalf of Mr. James S. Kawashima for his nomination as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have been practicing in the area of civil litigation for approximately 36 years in both the State and Federal Courts of the State of Hawaii and have had the honor and privilege of knowing Mr. Kawashima since I began my practice. It is without reservation that I fully support the nomination of Mr. Kawashima. Without question, Mr. Kawashima meets and in many instances exceeds all of the criteria utilized in reviewing judicial nominees.

I have had various opportunities to be involved in civil matters in which I was representing a defendant and Mr. Kawashima was representing a co-defendant. In all of those cases, Mr. Kawashima exhibited excellent writing skills and demonstrated his legal knowledge in Motions and Memorandums prepared for the Court. In addition, during the course of discovery, he conducted himself in a professional manner while representing his clients to the best of his abilities.

When Mr. Kawashima served as a per diem Judge, I had the opportunity to appear before him as well as to observe his handling of other matters prior to my case being called. Mr. Kawashima exhibited excellent judicial temperament; he was very patient and understanding

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
June 20, 2016
Page 2

to pro se individuals and was fair to both sides. It was clear that Mr. Kawashima had an understanding and was well-prepared with regard to all issues that were presented to him. I firmly believe that Mr. Kawashima will make an excellent District Court Judge.

Thank you again for this opportunity as I strongly support Mr. Kawashima's nomination as he would be an excellent addition to the District Court.

Very truly yours,



MICHAEL A. LORUSSO

DAVIS · LEVIN LIVINGSTON

A T T O R N E Y S

400 DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON PLACE
851 Fort Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4317

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TELEPHONE: (808) 524-7500

Fax: (808) 356-0418

MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON
mlivingston@DavisLevin.com

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

Maui: 877-7500

Hawai'i: 326-3200

Kaua'i: 245-6100

June 20, 2016

JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

Re: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

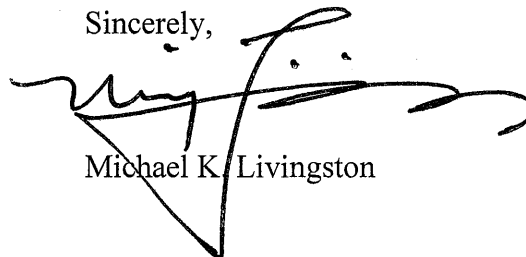
Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of James S. Kawashima for the position of Judge of the District Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I believe that Mr. Kawashima has the intellect, temperament, experience and work ethic to be a superb judge. In particular, I would direct your attention to Mr. Kawashima's extraordinarily broad experience: as a litigator (criminal prosecution and defense, civil plaintiff and defense, Hawaii and Mainland); as a Deputy Attorney General; as an adjunct professor of law; and as a businessman and entrepreneur; and as a per diem judge. It is difficult to imagine an attorney being better prepared than Mr. Kawashima to take on the enormous responsibility of a District Court Judgeship. I recommend Mr. Kawashima without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Livingston

From: [Stanell Koanui](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC2 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 1:11:21 PM

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator
Maile S.L. Shimabukuro Vice Chair and Members

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

re:

JC2 – James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00
a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

TESTIMONY

It is a genuine pleasure and honor for me to recommend James
Kawashima be confirmed as the next judge of the District Court
of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am an educator, with nineteen years of experience – currently
serving as the Director of The Toddler Program. I met James in
August of 2015 – while I served as Lead Teacher of The Keiki 3s
Program at Holy Nativity School. James and his wife Elaine
enrolled their twin daughters, Lily and Sophie into my class where
I had the opportunity to teach his children and engage with
James thru our parent-student class events and all school

programs.

There is a saying that *teaching is more than academics– it's about life experiences and skills*. I firmly believe that parents are the children's first teachers. As parents, James and Elaine were extremely dedicated to their daughters' education. They turned everyday life experiences into learning opportunities.

One moment where James exemplified his commitment to his family and the pursuance of joy was when he volunteered to do a magic show at our class family event. The children and their families were mesmerized and in awe during his performance. It was at that moment I realized James enjoyed being a father while his girls watched and beamed with pride.

Even though, I've only known James and the Kawashima 'ohana for a year – my relationship with them is life-long. James is the epitome of a great father who loves unconditionally, protects his family, spends quality time with his children, leads by example and is open-minded. I'm sure these are just some of the qualities needed to be a fair and effective judge.

With a Grateful Heart,

Mrs. Stanell Koanui

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks
Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

Paul F. Cronin
L. Richard Fried, Jr.
Gerald Y. Sekiya
Wayne K. Kekina
David L. Fairbanks
John D. Thomas, Jr.
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Sylvia J. Luke
Denise K. H. Kawatachi
Howard G. McPherson
Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom
Deborah A. Johnson

June 16, 2016

VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ref. JC2

Hearing: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

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

RE: JC2 Support for James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First
Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure that I add my name to the list of attorneys in support of James S. Kawashima as a Judge of the District Court for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I met James a few years ago in a case I was involved in and my impression of James was that he was an excellent and competent attorney. I am confident that he will be a valuable asset to the Judiciary and will uphold the high standards that all Hawaii judges maintain. I respectfully request that your committee confirm the appointment of James S. Kawashima for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours


Stuart A. Kaneko

June 12, 2016

**The Honorable Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu HI 96813**

RE: JC2 – James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Hearing Date: June 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senators Keith-Agaran, Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

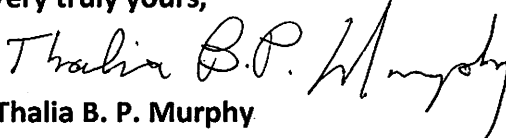
I am writing in support of the appointment of James S. Kawashima for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have been a practicing attorney in Honolulu for the past 32 years and I worked closely with Jim Kawashima from 1992 to 1996 when he served this community as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. In 1995 to 1996, I supervised Jim Kawashima when he was assigned to the sex assault team. More recently, I have appeared in front of him when he served as a per diem judge in the District Court.

Based on these experiences, I have had ample opportunity to observe Jim Kawashima practice law. When he was a deputy prosecutor, he displayed strong, legal acumen, fairness to all parties and professionalism. These same qualities are important for a member of the judiciary. Twenty years later, Jim Kawashima is still displaying these same attributes as a per diem judge. For example, no matter how heated the situation may become at a domestic violence preliminary hearing, he diffuses the situation with a calm yet firm demeanor.

In addition to his strong legal skills and solid judicial temperament, Jim Kawashima is a good man of high moral character. As a prosecutor, he was always above board and recognized the prosecutor's duty to do justice even if it meant dismissal of a case.

In short, Jim Kawashima has a tremendous work ethic. He is a good listener and he is an experienced trial attorney. All of these attributes will serve him well as a full time judge. I highly recommend his appointment to the judiciary.

Very truly yours,


Thalia B. P. Murphy