

July 3, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

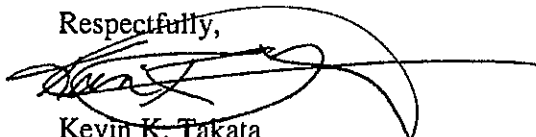
RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I strongly support the nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Yoo for many years, and have the utmost respect for her intelligence, knowledge of the law, integrity and fairness. We met at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney where I supervised her.

She has proved herself to be hard working, diligent, and thoughtful, and has garnered the respect of others in the legal community. Her present position as a deputy prosecuting attorney has provided good training to segue to the bench. She would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Judiciary, and does not bring an agenda with her. Rather, she would be guided by the law, compassion for the plight of the less fortunate, and dedication to justice and fairness.

Respectfully,

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

Kevin K. Takata
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice Division

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

July 9, 2018

JC1: Nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

This is to support Kristine Y. Yoo's nomination to be a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. Kristine is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney who has a wealth of trial experience. She is a vigorous advocate for her position in court but also is aware of her duty to ensure justice is served.

The consensus among Deputy Public Defenders who have tried cases against Kristine is that she is fair-minded and always well-prepared. She is responsive to their requests for information and frequently shows compassion for the accused even though it is her duty to prosecute them.

I believe that, given her experience before many different judges, Kristine is keenly aware of what makes a good judge and will use these experiences in formulating her own judicial philosophy and practice.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KALANI HIGH SCHOOL
4680 KALANIANA'OLE HIGHWAY
HONOLULU, HI 96821-1299

July 2, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

As Principal of Kalani High School, I am delighted to write this letter in support of Ms. Kristine Yoo's nomination to serve as district court judge. I believe her to be an excellent candidate for judgeship for she is an individual worthy of this honor to serve. During the past 6 years, I saw an individual that put her heart and soul into coaching Kalani High School's Mock Trial Team. I was privileged to see her help our Mock Trial students learn essential life skills such as public speaking and critical thinking while learning the art of forming a persuasive, cohesive argument. But she did more than just teach them about arguing a case, I saw an individual that was also interested in their development as caring individuals in today's global society.

Kristine had excellent rapport with our students. She showed a sincere interest in them as individuals while constantly searching for ways to make the case and the material more interesting and relevant to them. She had the ability to connect with students in ways that exemplifies her commitment to a learning environment that is nurturing and one that allows our students to reach their potential.

Furthermore, Kristine worked well with the other coaches. She is outgoing and exhibited a pleasant and friendly personality. Her appearance is beyond reproach and reflects her positive, optimistic attitude about life. Mock Trial is an extra-curricular activity at Kalani and we meet after school and on Saturdays. Our 'trials' are on week nights. Even with her busy schedule, Kristine did not disappoint – she was always there for our students.

During the past six years, Kristine has provided our students with positive guidance and meaningful opportunities to explore a career in law. Working with our students, she has given them the opportunity to experience arguing a case in a trial setting. Her commitment to our students communicates to me that Kristine cares about the whole child and that she is interested in helping them navigate their future. Kristine's passion for the law extends to many of those that she has touched who have chosen to pursue a career as an attorney.

There are countless other indicators that can be used to measure the impact this individual has made on the students in her charge and to the community at large. In the past 6 years, I am impressed with Kristine's commitment to excellence, her work ethic and her ability to bring the best out of people. I recommend Kristine without reservation for I believe that Kristine is an outstanding individual that is truly representative of the qualities that you seek to fill the vacancy in the District Court. Please feel free to call me if you need any additional information.

Cell : 772-9164

School : 305-0500

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell H. Otani".

Mitchell H. Otani
Principal
Kalani High



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

Kristine Y. Yoo
District Court Judge of the First Circuit (JC1)

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Howard K.K. Luke
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 224
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- 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 Ms. Yoo on June 27, 2018 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On June 28th, Ms. Yoo was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Yoo was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Ms. Yoo in all 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

Ms. Yoo's position as a Deputy in the Prosecutor's Office of the City and County of Honolulu for over 10 years has provided the Nominee with valuable trial and courtroom experience which should facilitate a smooth transition to the Bench. The Nominee's positions as an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and a California law firm have provided her with civil and family law experience.

Ms. Yoo has proven herself to be a legal community leader as she has served in leadership positions with the Hawaii Women Lawyers and the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. And finally as a member of an immigrant family, Ms. Yoo will serve as a role model for aspiring women and men, especially those in Hawaii's Korean community.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Kristine Y. Yoo to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

July 3, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Aloha!

I write this letter to support the confirmation of Ms. Kristine Yoo to serve as a District Court judge for the First Circuit. Ms. Yoo's exemplary career as a deputy prosecuting attorney at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for almost 15 years, along with her record as a volunteer for several non-profit entities demonstrate that she has the experience and qualification to excel as a circuit court judge. In addition to criminal law practice, Ms. Yoo's legal career includes law practice in a private law firm as well as in a public law sector.

Ms. Yoo has been actively involved in various community service works, especially serving the youths. She served as a surf mentor and a board secretary for Surfs Spirit Sessions for more than a decade, which is a non-profit mentoring program that allows at-risk youths an opportunity to connect with a trusted adult and learn to surf. She helped coach mock trial for Kalani High School from 2012 to 2017. She worked with public high school students to provide them an opportunity to experience arguing a case in a trial setting. She believes that working with our youths as they navigate their future is her way of giving back. She also served on fundraising committees for MA'O Farms and Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i for many years.

I have had a personal experience of volunteering with her for free legal clinic and other community services through the Korean American Bar Association. I, as an attorney, know and believe she will be a good judge because her experiences as a trial lawyer and a community volunteer will enable her to be a compassionate but impartial judge. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE & NERVELL

Amanda Chang

AMANDA S. CHANG
ASC: mo

Manage Hawaii, LLC.

1888 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 312
PMB 401
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Cellular Phone: (808) 393.1001
E-mail: dw@mnhi.org

July 3, 2018

To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

This letter's purpose is to state my admiration for Kristine Yoo and my whole hearted support for her becoming a District Judge.

I have known Kristine for about 13 years. During this time I have had the opportunity to watch Kristine become an indispensable member of the community.

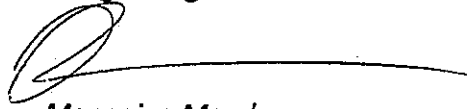
I met Kristine at a social function and started running into her at various venues. It seemed like she was everywhere. I would see her at weddings, charity events, continuing education opportunities, gatherings of close friends and the list goes on and on.

What became apparent as the years went by was that Kristine became entrenched in the Hawaii's society. When anybody needed a friend, advice, or help she was always there. She did not discriminate between the rich and poor; or connected and unconnected. She earned people's trust by being the person that was always where people needed her.

After she earned peoples trust, I saw her become a leader. She has gone from attending functions to leading them. People turn to her when they need an unbiased opinion; for legal advice; and to mend fences that have been damaged. When people want to energize the community they seek her support because if Kristine is behind a cause there is an assumption that the cause is worthwhile.

I feel that if Kristine becomes a District Judge it would be a natural progression for her. She is already a person the community turns to and trusts.

Aloha,
Doug Wong,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Managing Member
Manage Hawaii, LLC.

July 3, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in support of my former colleague and dear friend Kristine Yoo for nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Kristine when I was serving as the law clerk for the Honorable Steven S. Alm (retired) in 2007. Kristine was a deputy prosecutor, and happened to be the prosecuting attorney in the first felony trial I worked on. I was impressed at the time by her quick wit, obvious extensive trial knowledge, and her ability to work with other attorneys effectively, but most of all, with the respect and courtesy she showed everyone in the court room - from staff and opposing counsel to even me, the new law clerk.

During my time as a law clerk I was able to interact with and observe Kristine on a regular basis, and quickly saw why she was so well respected amongst her peers. She was always on time, prepared, and eager to tackle the day to get things done with a good attitude despite the multiple demands she had at any given time with her heavy case load. She was able to handle even the most challenging situations with the highest level of professionalism.

I've had the privilege of getting to know Kristine beyond just professionally over the years, and always admired her for her commitment to living her values, and genuine care for and support of others. This is evident not only in the way she treats her friends and family, but also in the extensive community volunteer work she is committed to with Surfrider Spirit Sessions, Kalani High School's mock trial team, and Legal Aid, to name just a few. No matter how busy she may be with a full time legal career and raising her young son, her commitment to her community and to helping others never waivers. It is for this reason, among many others, that I am confident Kristine will make an excellent judge.

I appreciate your time and consideration. If you have any questions or I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Jessica Morikone

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair **July 3, 2018**
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, Testimony in support of nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 am Conference Room 224

I write to you in support for Kristine Y. Yoo to fill the District Judge vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Kristine as a coworker for long time. I have witnessed firsthand her ability to create positive results. I am confident that the exceptional skills that Kristine exhibited as a prosecutor will serve the Courts well. She always stood as out as one that can get it done in a professional and timely manner. As a Trial Division Team Captain, she supervised a team of exceptionally skilled prosecuting attorneys, and was always a supporter of the team first. Kristine was one of the leaders that was worth working with.

At the time we worked together during Peter Carlisle administration she prosecuted homicides, violent assault and countless of felonies as well as countless misdemeanors. Her professionalism and the way she was always prepared impressed those that worked with her. She tried multiple high-profile cases that involved dealing with the media, which is always a challenge, and she handled that well. Kristine is careful, accurate and follows the rules of professional conduct and always respectful of the Court and the rights of victims, defendants, and witnesses. She will make a great District Court Judge.

Aloha Kakou,

James Fulton
2101 Nuuanu Ave. 1505
Honolulu, Hi 96817

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Rozelle A. Agag
Re: JC 1, TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO
Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I write in support of the appointment of **Kristine Yoo** to serve as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu).

I have known Ms. Yoo through her work with the Young Lawyers Division, Hawaii Women's Lawyers, and through the Honolulu Prosecutor's office. I know her as a community leader capable of leading seminars, conferences, and projects in concert with other board members. She is well respected in the legal community, she is an experienced and fair prosecutor, and most importantly, she cares about the community that she serves. She relates well with people and they trust her direct and honest input and feedback. These skills will translate well as a District Court Judge who must interface with the public on a daily basis.

Ms. Yoo has been a mentor to me on many levels. She has guided me as a prosecutor and helped me to grow as a trial attorney. As a deputy prosecutor, I valued her advice when charging crimes, negotiating settlements, preparing for trial, and the execution of trial. As a seasoned trial attorney who has successfully completed many felony jury trials, her expertise will be evident on the bench. While her background is prosecutorial in nature, I believe she will be a fair, reasonable and just judge to all those accused of a crime and to the attorneys who appear before her. She will also be a great role model for other women attorneys who seek to pursue their profession with integrity and purpose.

For these reasons I strongly support the appointment of Ms. Yoo to the District Court of the First Circuit.

THE LAW OFFICE OF

WALTER J. RODBY

733 BISHOP STREET, MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2302

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July 3, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol,
Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: -- Judicial Nomination of Christine Yoo 07/09/2018

Dear Senators:

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

I first met Ms. Yoo at the where we were trial attorneys, me at the Office of the Public Defender, and Ms. Yoo at the City Prosecutor's Office.

Through the years, I have come to admire Ms. Yoo for her candor, honesty, intelligence and her integrity.

I say this because I have known Ms. Yoo not only as a colleague, in the trenches, but as an opponent.

Through it all, Ms. Yoo has always treated others with the utmost respect, fairness and impartiality. She would make a fine addition to the District Family bench. Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Walter J. Rodby

**BAYS
LUNG
ROSE
HOLMA**

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Of Counsel:
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Jean K. Campbell

Jason N. Baha
(1957-2001)

July 2, 2018

Via E-Mail: jdctestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I write this letter in strong support of the nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo as District Court Judge for the State of Hawaii, First Circuit. I have known Kristine for over 15-years on a personal and professional basis. I have the highest respect for her as both a friend and colleague. She is extremely intelligent and compassionate. She has always done the right thing, and I have counted on her for advice on issues over the years. As a practicing attorney with over 15-years' experience, and having appeared before multiple judges in all courts in the State of Hawaii, I believe that Kristine will be an outstanding judge and will be a great asset to the Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 

Michael C. Carroll
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

MCC:arf

RUFO LAW GROUP
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY
1050 BISHOP ST., # 322
HONOLULU, HI 96813

LOCAL: (808) 852-RUFO
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WWW.RUFOLAWGROUP.COM

July 5, 2018

Via E-mail Only (JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of KRISTINE Y. YOO
Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senate Committee Chair Taniguchi:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Kristine Yoo for the position of District Court Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit. Thank you in advance for considering my letter.

I have known Kristine for over seven years, primarily in her role as Barrister in the American Inns of Court, Hon. James S. Burns Aloha Chapter. As a Barrister, she is one of the foot soldiers of the Inn, working behind the scenes on fact patterns, agendas, meeting organization, etc. At meetings, often being the only prosecutor present, she provides valuable insight based on her wealth of trial experience.

As a fellow foot soldier of the Inn, I have had the pleasure of working with Kristine side-by-side on matters related to the Inn. During our time in the trenches, so to speak, Kristine has confided that her primary motivation for being a member of the Inn is to mentor young students, as she benefited from guidance from others as a youngster herself. Kristine is not one to shy away from work or even do the bare minimum -- she volunteers for the toughest tasks and often carries more than her share of the load. She definitely has a "can-do," team attitude and it is obvious to all that she enjoys giving her time to the Inn.

I also run into Kristine and her young family at Lawyers League basketball games. This demonstrates to me that she strives to achieve balance in her life, which is important.

Thank you again for your time. If there is anything more I can do to help make the decision easier, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,


Sergio Rufo

Tom Heinrich

From: Bryant Zane <bruddahbeez@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 6:22 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Judicial Nominee, Kristine Y. Yoo, to the District Court of the First Circuit

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC1, Testimony in Support of Confirmation of the Judicial Nominee, Kristine Y. Yoo, to the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha, my name is Bryant Zane. I am an attorney in Honolulu and have been licensed in Hawai'i since 1996. I have been a Deputy Public Defender at the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i for 15 out of the last 16 years. Prior to that I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i for 4 1/2 years. I started my legal career as Law Clerk/Bailiff to the Honorable Riki May Amano, Judge (retired).

Over the course of Ms. Yoo's career as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have represented many defendants whom she has prosecuted. We have had several trials together as well. I have also gotten to know Ms. Yoo well socially over the years. From this experience, I make these comments and respectfully ask the Senate to confirm Kristine Y. Yoo, judicial nominee, to the District Court of the First Circuit

Ms. Yoo possesses the proper perspective and understanding to be an outstanding judge. In a phrase, "she gets it." She can fully appreciate both sides of an argument. She can empathize with a victim. She can be compassionate to a defendant.

Ms. Yoo has the appropriate temperament to be a judge. I have full confidence in her ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. She has done so routinely as a prosecutor. I would be shocked if Ms. Yoo ever lost her composure even under the worst circumstance.

As a prosecutor, Ms. Yoo has always been firm and fair. I would expect the same from her as a judge. She has never been sneaky or withheld information that could unfairly give her the edge. She never hides the shortcomings of her case. She has always been open and amenable to resolutions short of trial. Whenever I am assigned to a case to which Ms. Yoo is lead prosecutor, I know my client and I will be treated fairly and the case will be resolved fairly.

Ms. Yoo is needed on the bench. She has the necessary experience having tried numerous cases at the most serious levels. She has the right demeanor. She will ensure a litigant has their day in court whether pro se little guy or veteran legal giant. She has the right attitude. She efforts to leave her job, her community, this world a better place. This is evidenced by her role as Trials Division Team Captain at the Prosecutor's Office, her involvement in the development of New Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys and summer interns, coaching the Kalani High School mock trial team, her participation in professional groups such as American Inns of Court, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Pacific Century Fellows, Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation.

Please confirm Kristine Y. Yoo.

‘O wau iho nō me ke aloha,

Bryant Zane.

July 5, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC1 – Testimony in Support of Nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo
Hearing Date: Monday, July 9, 2018
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to support Kristine Yoo's nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit. Kristine and I met when she joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Since that time, I have watched her become an exceptional prosecutor and role model in the office. She is also a dedicated public servant, and committed to serving our community.

Kristine is an excellent prosecutor and excels in the courtroom. She has appeared in all district and circuit court courtrooms and handled all traffic, criminal and family court calendars. She litigated numerous bench and jury trials (including murders), learned the screening and charging process of criminal cases and is well-versed in criminal law, court rules and procedure. There is no doubt that she is capable of presiding in District Court on any calendar and is able to manage it effectively and efficiently.

Kristine also has the integrity, diligence and temperament to be a judge. She is well respected and liked by her colleagues and staff at the prosecutors, with law enforcement, defense attorneys and judges. She is kind and patient with victims and respectful to witnesses. She is professional, hard-working and always well-prepared in court.

Most important, Kristine is committed to helping our community. She has served on boards and volunteered with organizations that empower women and children. She cares about the environment. She is also knowledgeable about the issues that are most concerning for our community and has the knowledge and ability to problem-solve in any courtroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tana Kekina-Cabaniero

July 5, 2018

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
(via e-mail JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF
KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguichi,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Kristine Y. Yoo's nomination as District Judge, District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Yoo for over 12 years. We first met while working at the prosecutor's office in Honolulu, where we served together as trial prosecutors. There, I had near daily contact with Ms. Yoo for several years.

Ms. Yoo is an even-keeled trial lawyer. She has years of trial experience and understands the rules of evidence and their practical application in the courtroom. She is comfortable and confident in the courtroom. She always maintains her composure, treats adversaries with respect and dignity, and remains focused on accomplishing her objectives.

As a public servant, Ms. Yoo has served in positions requiring leadership, collaboration and decisiveness in adversarial environments, just as is required by a presiding judge in the courtroom. Ms. Yoo is held in high regard by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and currently sitting District and Circuit Court judges. She is a well-prepared, respected adversary.

Ms. Yoo will exceed all expectations as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. She is intelligent, creative, experienced, efficient, affable, well-spoken and quick on her feet. The brunt of Ms. Yoo's legal career has been in the courtroom, and that is where she belongs.

Sincerely,



Jon S. Jacobs

Tom Heinrich

From: Karen Wang-Pitts <ktwang_@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 1:03 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

July 5, 2018

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi and Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Kristine Yoo, J.D. Ms. Yoo has my unreserved endorsement for selection as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Ms. Yoo is an absolutely outstanding individual. I have known her for the past 13 years since moving to Oahu, and I feel honored to have her in my life as a good friend. Throughout this time period, Ms. Yoo has demonstrated her devotion to her family, friends, community, and profession.

As a daughter and sister, she supported her parents and brothers emotionally and financially. A few years ago she supported her younger brother by having him live in her apartment and helping him secure a job while he sorted out his life decisions. And now as a wife and mother to her young toddler son Trevor, she is always so organized, prepared for anything with healthy snacks and activities, and often takes him on numerous educational outings. She is a wonderful mom; very loving, but firm in disciplining her son.

As a friend she has always been a great listener as well as a trusted confidante and one who gives sound and solid advice. She is honest and down to earth. She always opens up her home and hosts amazing dinners on major holidays, and she cooks for crowds with love and enthusiasm. On one occasion she made a huge elaborate meal for our big group of friends and generously opened up her home to us when she had to leave for a family emergency.

Ms. Yoo has a passion for serving the community. She encouraged me to join her in volunteering for Surfrider Spirit Sessions with the Surfrider Foundation and she took it upon herself to go above and beyond by serving as part of the leadership. She was an excellent mentor and the often troubled teenage girls felt comfortable opening up to her about their struggles with meth addiction, as well as their personal issues. Ms. Yoo also encouraged me to participate in events such as the yearly Torch run in support of Special Olympics.

She is a highly adept professional with a good eye for detail. She is always clear, thorough, and accurate in her communication. Numerous people speak very highly of her.

Whenever Ms. Yoo interacts with people, either in person, through email, or on the phone, she demonstrates her politeness, friendliness, gentle manner, eloquence, intelligence, and patience. No matter how busy she is, Ms. Yoo is

always calm and kind with each individual she interacts with. I have never witnessed her say or do anything disrespectful or unfair, and she always keeps important aspects of people's lives confidential. She is sensitive to the needs of others and often sacrifices her own needs and wants for others' benefit. She is especially fun and skilled with children, and my own children, who are normally very shy and wary of strangers, are always drawn to her and laughing with her.

I am confident that she will be a valuable asset to your institution and to the community. I am a better person because of her friendship and I believe she will be a tremendous asset to your team.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Wang, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Optometrist

July 5, 2018

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO
Hearing Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

As someone who has known Ms. Yoo professionally for over ten years, I write this letter to offer my enthusiastic and wholehearted support for Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald's nomination of Kristine Yoo to serve on the District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Yoo's substantial public service, litigation experience, and commitment to making our community better, uniquely qualifies her for this position.

I first met Ms. Yoo in 2008 as a second year law school intern at the City and County of Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. Ms. Yoo was assigned as my "big sister." Her responsibility as a big sister was to make sure that I had someone to go to if I had any questions or needed guidance. She went above and beyond that role and really took me in under her wing. As a second year law student I was full of questions and excitement. Even with her heavy case load she always had time to answer my questions and made me feel welcome to come to her at any time.

As a law student, I became involved with Hawai'i Women Lawyers (HWL). During my third year of law school I was the student representative for HWL and Ms. Yoo served on the Board of Directors. After law school, it was through her encouragement that I continued on as a Board of Director. I have had the opportunity of working with Ms. Yoo on the Board of Directors of HWL now for over nine years. During my time serving with her on the Board of Directors I have seen firsthand how committed she is to community service work and empowering our community. As a director, she is strong, diligent, decisive, and compassionate.

I have also had the opportunity to work with Ms. Yoo on cases as opposing counsel. She is a zealous, ethical, and an experienced advocate. She understands the bigger picture and will always listen to your position even if she respectfully disagrees.

Ms. Yoo's combination of intellect, integrity, experience, and commitment to our community will make her an outstanding District Court Judge. I unconditionally support her nomination and urge you to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jacquelyn T. Esser
Jacquelyn T. Esser

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July 5, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

VIA Email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

**RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF
KRISTINE Y. YOO
HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 am, Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee members:

This letter is to highly recommend Kristine Y. Yoo for the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit.

I am a director/shareholder at Case Lombardi & Pettit and have practiced as an attorney for over twenty years, seven of which as the firm's managing director. While I have not worked directly with Ms. Yoo in my practice, I have consulted with her on questions relating to criminal and general litigation practice matters and have associated with her on Hawaii State Bar Association and public interest activities. She consistently offers good insight and judgment in dealings with others and looks at challenges as new opportunities. She is intelligent, well versed and knowledgeable in court proceedings and motions practice and has a straightforward reasoned approach, which is a considerable asset when dealing with very sensitive and difficult matters.

As a past president of the Hawaii Women Lawyers and current vice-president/president elect of the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and in serving on the boards and various committees of those organizations since 2000, I had the good fortune to work with Kristine over many years on numerous community activities. I have first-hand knowledge of Kristine's tireless worth ethic and team player attitude. She is highly organized and gladly accepts the advice and input of others, but is careful to remain accountable for her own conclusions and decisions. She is a reliable and positive volunteer and can always be counted on to show up, motivate others, and get the job done. She works to build morale and shows others that she values their time. Kristine is an active listener and has a knack for really hearing people. If she senses an issue, she addresses it tactfully and directly and has demonstrated herself to be a strong problem solver. Kristine has

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
July 5, 2018
Page 2

continually impressed me with her dedication to serving others. She has spent countless hours helping those in need and I have the highest respect for her commitment to public service.

Additionally, she is held in high regard by her peers and has a wonderful reputation as an honest and respected attorney with the highest ethics and integrity.

If you would like to speak to me directly or if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 547.5406.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comment and highly recommend Ms. Yoo for District Court. I am confident she would be a valuable addition to the Judiciary and would wholeheartedly fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Sharkey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lauren R. Sharkey

July 5, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Please find this letter in support of Kristine for the District Court bench. I worked with her at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for several years. We were promoted together in 2012 and became supervisors in the felony Trials Division.

The Honolulu Prosecutors Office may very well be the largest litigation law firm in the State. Having been there for over 10 years, I saw many trial attorneys, good and bad. Kristine stands out due to her ability to not only spot the issues, but also her ability to solve the problem. As a supervisor in the office, there are countless fires to put out on a daily basis. Kristine is cool under pressure and guides younger prosecutors in and outside of the courtroom, including by leading by example.

In other words, her experience at the prosecutors office, coupled with her civil experience and community service make her more than qualified to join the ranks of the Judiciary. Kristine is level headed and committed to fairness. Her demeanor, humility, and commitment to helping individuals and the community at large make her fit for the bench.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adrian Dhakhwa

TO: SENATOR BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018, 10:30AM, CONFERENCE
ROOM 224

July 5, 2018

This letter is submitted in support of Kristine Yoo's nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit. I wholeheartedly support Kristine Yoo's nomination. I have known Kristine for several years and while I have not had the opportunity to work directly with Kristine, I know Kristine to be a very intelligent and principled person. I believe Kristine is uniquely suited to be a District Court Judge as she consistently displays fairness, decisiveness, courtesy, and compassionate in all aspects of her life whether it be a simple personal matter, complex legal matter, or anything in between. Further, as is evident from Kristine's professional experience and civic engagements, Kristine demonstrates a strong commitment and dedication to public service. I am confident Kristine will approach a judiciary appointment with the same commitment and dedication she has to all of her prior professional and civic activities.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

CLAIRE E. GOLDBERG

July 6, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I'm writing in strong support of Kristine Y. Yoo.

I have known Kristine for 15 years. We started together in the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office in 2003. We've been close friends ever since then.

Kristine's word is her bond. She is not one to be swayed by political influence or pressure. She will decide cases based on the confines of the law without passion or prejudice. This stems largely from her training and experience as a Prosecutor. Prosecutors, like Kristine, are hard wired to seek justice as they are the gatekeepers to the justice system. In practice, she is not bound to a single client, victim, or cause. Actions and decisions are rooted purely in principles of law.

Kristine has always been a hard worker. Marriage and motherhood have not altered her work ethic in any way. At most, her family has changed the venue in which she conducts her after hours work. Now, you will find her working at home instead of in the office nights and weekends.

Although she has spent the bulk of her career in the criminal arena, she is also well versed in civil law. She served at legal aid and spent time at a civil firm prior to becoming a Prosecutor. I am confident that she possesses the skill and dedication to work through any of the legal issues presented to her.

Kristine consistently sets aside time to assist her subordinates and peers in working thorough issues. She does this with patience and care. In doing so, I've never seen her lose her temper or strike out at anyone.

She has always been financially responsible. She's not wasteful and is the only one of my friends who diligently consumes her leftovers. She's not one to gamble or spend liberally. Simultaneously, she is quite charitable.

She is constantly assisting with a task, campaign, operation, or goal. She coached a high school mock trial team. She's served on campaigns. She's assisted with a myriad of fundraisers. She is readily available and reliable to assist with any good cause.

September 18, 2017

Page 2

She's in good health. She's physically active. She doesn't smoke and rarely drinks any alcohol; although she makes great sangria.

Kristine was made for this. She's the epitome of what the bench needs right now. She's strong but receptive. Yet, she's uncompromising in all of the right ways.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

/s/ Michelle M.L. Puu

July 6, 2018

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Re: JC1 Testimony In Support of the Confirmation of Kristine Y. Yoo as a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing Date: Monday July 9, 2018
Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.
Hearing Location: Conference Room 224

Chair Taniguchi and Vice Chair Rhoads,

I am testifying in support of the confirmation of Kristine Y. Yoo as a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Yoo from the time she began as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA) over fifteen years ago. I was a DPA a couple generations above Ms. Yoo when she started and she would come into my office and ask questions about her cases and the law in general. Ms. Yoo was always prepared and thoughtful in her questions and was a quick learner. She exhibited intelligence, practicality and enthusiasm in her pursuit of justice while representing victims and the State of Hawaii while at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. When I left the Prosecutor's Office to join the Attorney General's Office, I would still see Ms. Yoo in court prosecuting serious felony cases and would watch her in trial whenever I could to pick up tips and pointers on effective trial techniques.

Ms. Yoo has always shown character, integrity (even while dealing with difficult defense attorneys) patience and grace in and out of the courtroom. Her legal knowledge, common sense and temperament make her an ideal candidate to be a Judge in the District Court of the First Circuit.

I encourage your committee to confirm Ms. Yoo as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

/s/ Albert Cook
Valta Albert Cook II
Bar # 7268

July 6, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am submitting this letter in strong, unequivocal support of Kristine Yoo.

I have practiced law for 31 years, half of that time in New York City. Kristine has been a colleague of mine at the Prosecutor's Office for the past 6 years, and my Team Captain for the past 2 years. During my time at the Prosecutor's Office I have come to know Kristine professionally and to a lesser extent, personally.

I cannot think of anyone more qualified to sit on the bench.

Following are my comments to the appropriate areas of inquiry:

Integrity – Beyond reproach. Kristine readily recognizes dubious practice, and directs an ethical response. Her word is reliable; she is a "stand-up" person.

Diligence – Kristine always follows through on direction and advice.

Legal Knowledge and Ability – Extremely knowledgeable as to the law and the intangibles of a case and those involved with the case.

Judicial Temperament – Kristine's temperament is unflappable. I have never seen her lose her composure.

It must be noted that in my years at the Prosecutor's Office and in court, I have never heard a negative comment about Kristine. In the office she is personable, helpful, and supportive of deputies and staff.

Although a cliché, I can honestly state that the Judiciary's gain is the Prosecutor Office's loss.

/S/ Lawrence A. Sousie
(808) 589-7422
lsousie@yahoo.com

July 6, 2018

Via Email (JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

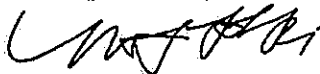
I am writing in support of the confirmation of Kristine Y. Yoo for District Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have been a licensed attorney in Hawaii since 2007. I have known Kristine for 10 years beginning with meeting her during a mentorship program set up by my former boss at The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Kristine was working as a prosecutor for the City & County of Honolulu during this time and she gave me insight into both her former civil practice and in government work. Kristine was a large part in why I choose to apply for a judicial clerk position with the criminal administrative judge at that time.

My interaction with Kristine continued during my clerkship where I was able to observe her exceptional litigation skills and her courtroom demeanor. I was also able to witness first-hand her courteous and forthright interaction with other attorneys, judges and staff. Kristine was always prepared, level-headed and an advocate of the law and the victims involved.

Through the years, my relationship with Kristine has grown from mentor-mentee to colleague and friend. My daughter and Kristine's son are a few months apart and I am grateful to now call her a close friend. With all that Kristine does at her full-time job as a prosecutor and her other full-time job as a mother and wife, I am constantly amazed at the time and dedication Kristine puts into giving back to others, including the members of the Kalani High School Mock Trial team and the Surfrider Sprit Sessions program. This commitment and passion are more of Kristine's noteworthy qualities.

I respect Kristine both as a professional and as a person. I believe that Kristine has the knowledge, skills and experience to make her an excellent addition to the District Court bench. I respectfully request that you consider this letter in support of her confirmation.

Respectfully yours,



MARI L. KISHIMOTO DOI

July 2, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am so pleased that Chief Justice Recktenwald has nominated Ms. Yoo, and wholeheartedly support the nomination. I have known Ms. Yoo since 2011 when I first started working at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. In 2013, Ms. Yoo served as my Team Captain in the Felony Trials Division, supervising and supporting me in my first felony jury trials. I also second chaired Ms. Yoo in a high profile murder trial. After I left the Prosecutor's office, Ms. Yoo and I remained in contact as friends.

Through these years and experiences working together, I believe Ms. Yoo has the integrity of character, diligence, legal knowledge and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a District Court judge. Ms. Yoo is also a very practical person, a problem solver, and a people person who can get along with many types of people from all walks of life. In addition to her years at the Prosecutor's Office, in criminal law, Ms. Yoo also litigated civil matters and further has the professional experience conducting jury trials, and in criminal courts and civil matters to have the professional experience requisite for a judge sitting in District Court.

I have also seen Ms. Yoo in several stressful and trying situations as a co-worker and supervisor in the Prosecutor's office as well as in her volunteer efforts through the Hawaii Women Lawyers organization and Mock Trial team coach. She always handled herself professionally and I have no doubt she would carry that with her to the bench regarding judicial temperament.

Lastly, in terms of Public Service, despite a busy career and raising her family, Ms. Yoo continues to serve the community on the board of Hawaii Women Lawyers, and has coached the Kalani High School Mock Trial Team for several years. These are all huge commitments, and Ms. Yoo is able to bring her knowledge of the law, passion for helping the youth and infectious energy to benefit those extra-curricular agencies she works with.

Again, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Ms. Yoo to the District Court position, and strongly believe she has the requisite characteristics, legal knowledge and ability and mindset to fulfill this important position in our society.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

/s/ Marissa N. Machida

July 6, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Janice T. Futa, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Dept. of the Prosecuting Attorney, City & County of Honolulu

Re: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF
KRISTINE Y. YOO

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in support of Kristine Yoo's application for the position of Honolulu District Court Judge. I have worked with Kristine since 2010, when I returned to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney after a many year hiatus in the private practice of law. Kristine is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney assigned to the Trials Division within the office and, as such, I am her direct supervisor.

Initially, Kristine was instrumental in helping me integrate into the office, both work-wise and personnel-wise. Because of her years with the office, she was familiar with the practice and personalities involved and assisted in the transition from the old administration to the new. She supported those changes which she recognized would better the office and used her not inconsiderable influence with the DPAs to convince them to embrace (or at least accept) the changes.

For those changes with which she did not agree, Kristine always made her position known in a respectful manner, always with an eye to support the DPAs and to improve the office. She has never been inappropriate in her approach or, in my opinion, her motivation.

As a Team Captain, Kristine has 4 younger DPAs over whom she has direct supervision. They are assigned to two criminal courtrooms and it is incumbent upon Kristine to see that the cases in those two courtrooms are handled in a manner consistent with our overriding office policy to "promote and ensure public safety and order through effective, efficient, and just prosecution." This means making sure that the cases are resolved to the satisfaction of the victims, in a timely manner, and with proficiency. She also has her own caseload involving major felonies.

Additionally, Kristine acts as a mentor to her assigned DPAs as well as all others who may seek her advice and tutelage. She is actively involved in in-house training and, given her considerable advocacy skills, her advice is always thoughtful, backed by experience, and legally sound.

Kristine's participation in "raising the bar" and reputation for the legal profession goes beyond her efforts in the office. She had, for many years, acted as a coach for the Kalani High School mock-trial team, volunteering her time to teach those interested high school students about trial advocacy. I know she found this to be a very rewarding experience and have seen the feedback from the students and teachers which reflect their enthusiasm and gratitude for her coaching.

Other activities with which Kristine is engaged includes membership in the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Inns of Court, Hawai'i Women Lawyers Association, and the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation. She has recently become a Fellow with Pacific Century Fellow organization.

As evidenced by her career path and extracurricular activities, Kristine feels a very strong commitment to "giving back" to the community and hopes to continue this contribution by sitting as a District Court Judge. Her legal acumen and integrity has given her a well-respected reputation in our legal community. I believe that her volunteer work has done the same for her in the general community.

Kristine has all the right skills, both professionally and personally, and the right motivation to serve the judiciary and our community with distinction. I respectfully request that she be confirmed as a District Court Judge.

July 6, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: **JC 1, Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Kristine Y.
Yoo for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit**

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I support the confirmation of Kristine Y. Yoo for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Kristine for 15 years when I first met her in 2003 at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. I supervised Kristine from 2006 to 2010, when I was the Division Chief of the Trials Division, where she quickly rose through the ranks. She has come a long way prosecuting homicides and serious violent crimes, as well as supervising other deputy prosecutors. Her excellent trial skills and courtroom experience will serve her well on the bench.

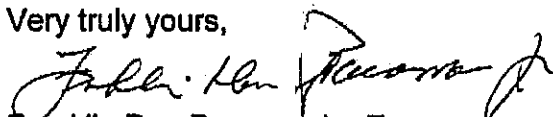
Kristine's civil experience in the private sector and her government experience makes her an outstanding candidate for District Court Judge. Having practiced in the civil and criminal arenas, I can appreciate a judge that has vast experience in both disciplines.

I believe that Kristine has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. Kristine has the ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. In addition, she can comport herself appropriately, without losing her composure or equilibrium even under fire. She will make an excellent judge because she is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. Her moral courage is unquestioned and her integrity is impeccable.

All these characteristics make Kristine a superb candidate for Judge of the District Court. I am confident Kristine will be an excellent jurist and make sound decisions should you confirm her as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on Kristine's confirmation.

Very truly yours,


Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

July 6, 2018

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. My name is Chasid M. Sapolu and I am honored to have the opportunity to submit this letter in **strong support** of Kristine Y. Yoo, nominee for District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I first met Ms. Yoo in 2010 when I clerked for the Honorable Judge Karen S.S. Ahn in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. As a law clerk, I met dozens of attorneys and saw a wide spectrum of their traits, including those who were honest and upfront, to those who were dishonest and misleading. Ms. Yoo was unquestionably one of those who held the upmost respect for the court and conducted herself with great integrity. She never concealed or obscured the truth and was openly honest with the court, even when it meant revealing weaknesses in her position.

When I joined the Honolulu Prosecutor's office in 2011, I had the opportunity to work with Ms. Yoo and witness first hand her dedication and genuine passion for achieving justice. As a trial attorney, her skills are exceptional and her in-depth understanding of the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence is particularly impressive. As a prosecutor, Ms. Yoo has handled a wide array of criminal cases including homicides, and her commitment to achieve justice never wavers, no matter the type of case.

Ms. Yoo is currently a team captain in our felony trials division and over the years she has supervised many younger attorneys. As the current First Deputy, I have seen how effective she can be as a supervisor. She has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring younger attorneys in their individual careers; she has also taken an active role in training all our deputies using her experience and knowledge of the law to increase the caliber of our prosecutions. I have also reviewed many cases that Ms. Yoo has handled involving plea negotiations with the defense; her work in these cases have shown an outstanding ability to work with the opposition while maintaining values of fairness to victims and justice to our communities. As a prosecutor, Ms. Yoo has shown exceptional dedication to public service, and she is a trusted and valuable member of this office.

I have no doubt, that Ms. Yoo will apply the same energy and passion that she has exhibited as a prosecutor, to her work on the bench. Having worked with Ms. Yoo through the years, I have been impressed by her diligence in carrying out her duties, as well as her professional qualities as an attorney. I appreciate your consideration of this letter in strong support of Ms. Yoo. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

CHASID M. SAPOLU





KOREAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HAWAII

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700 Forth Street,
Suite 1107
Honolulu, Hawaii
96819

Sent via email

July 5, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO.

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi:

On behalf of the Korean American Bar Association Hawaii, we are writing this letter in support of the nominee Ms. Kristine Y. Yoo for the vacancy of the District Court of the First Circuit Court bench, State of Hawaii. Ms. Yoo's exemplary career in the City and County Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, along with her involvement in the community clearly demonstrates that she has the experience, aptitude, and temperament to excel and fulfill the requirement of being at the bench.

KABAH was founded to encourage and promote the professional growth of Korean American Lawyers and law students in State of Hawaii. For nearly 20 years, the organization has striven to foster network, support, and the exchange of ideas and information among its members and with the local Korean American community. KABAH's efforts include education initiative about legal and political issues which impact our community, but also extend to cooperation with other member of the community organization and Hawaii State Bar Association.

Ms. Yoo has an extensive career as prosecutor for many years and has been actively involved in various community service works, especially serving the youths. She helped coach mock trial for Kalani High School from 2012 to 2017. Her works has helped the public high school students have opportunities to participate and litigate cases in trial setting, which has undoubtedly help to inspire our next generation of lawyers for the State of Hawaii. Ms. Yoo has also been involved in many other community service activities that has help bring awareness to people who needs them.

We believe that if Ms. Yoo is confirmed as a judge, it will greatly help in bringing more representation of the Korean community to the judiciary, which we believe is necessary.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge you to appoint and confirm nominee Ms. Kristine Y. Yoo for the vacancy for the judgeship for the District Court of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jin Tae Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jin" being the most prominent.

Jin Tae Kim
President of KABAHI

July 7, 2018

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

My name is Landon M.M. Murata, I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of judicial nominee Kristine Y. Yoo.

I have known Kristine for just under 15 years. We worked together at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, for approximately seven years and we kept in touch even after I left in 2011. For approximately four years after I left the prosecutors, Kristine and I also coached the Kalani High School Mock Trial Team together.

Kristine is one of a very small group of people who I trust to do "the job" the way it should be done. There are very few people in our profession who I believe can handle any given case and, whatever the outcome, I would be able to say, it was the best possible outcome for their client. Kristine is one of those people. She is hard working and intelligent. She does her homework. What she does not know, she will learn. She is not afraid to admit when she does not know something and she sees no shame in asking for help. Her goal is always to obtain the correct result and she does the work required to make it happen. These are all qualities that will make her an excellent addition to the Judiciary.

Additionally, I have no doubt that Kristine has the proper temperament to be a judge. I have seen her remain calm and rational in some of the most stressful of professional situations... dealing with some of the most infuriating of opposing counsel. She's a rock. She is human, of course, she has feelings. She will not, however, let those feelings dissuade her or prevent her from making good decisions nor will she visit any negative emotions she may be feeling upon anyone she may encounter should she be confirmed for the bench.

To put it plainly, I have absolutely no concerns about Kristine's ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of a district court judge. No matter what side you may find yourself on, be it plaintiff or defense, civil or criminal, public or private... Kristine will make fair and excellent judge. She will focus on the facts and the law and be tempered by just enough compassion to ensure that the system works as it was designed to. That is no small thing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Landon M.M. Murata

Tom Heinrich

From: Travis Stephens <tstephensjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 5:22 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC 1 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO
HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M. Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am a retired attorney in the State of Hawaii. Prior to my retirement, I was an active member of the Hawaii State Bar association and a practicing attorney in excess of thirty years.

I have known Ms. Yoo for more than ten years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to observe her as a trial attorney and as a supervisor within her office, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. As a litigant, Ms. Yoo exemplified what a true professional should be, always being well prepared whenever she walked into a courtroom. I have also observed her supervising younger attorneys within her office with patience, guidance and understanding. A trait that will serve her well as a Judge of the District Court.

Prior to retiring, I was employed at the Office of the Public Defender for nearly thirty years. Throughout this time I had never heard or observed anyone having anything negative to say about Ms. Yoo. She is highly respected in the legal community for her high character, honesty and integrity.

It is my pleasure to offer my support and recommendation for Ms Kristine Y. Yoo for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

Travis Stephens, Jr.

July 7, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

A mentor, a friend, and an inspiration – that is how I would describe Kristine Yoo. In the time since I entered law school, few judicial nominees have been more qualified for the position than Kristine Yoo. No doubt, this committee will receive voluminous testimony to Kristine’s work in the community, her employment in the public sector, and her involvement in advancing the careers of prospective and newly minted lawyers. This letter is about my own interaction with Kristine. I met Kristine before I graduated from UH’s Richardson School of Law. Kristine was a barrister with the Hawaii chapter of the American Inns of Court. Kristine was supportive and encouraging and one got the impression that she genuinely wanted all of the law students to succeed. From this initial meeting, my personal relationship with and professional admiration of Kristine grew over the years until I joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. As a deputy prosecutor, I always sought advice from Kristine not only because of her trial skills, but because of her professionalism. Kristine is always fair and always seeks to do what is right – what is just. For Kristine to become a judge, the Prosecutor’s Office must lose one of its brightest beacons. However, the State of Hawaii needs another fair and even tempered judge, and whenever the duty of public service has called, Kristine has answered. I write this testimony in support of Kristine Yoo, that the judiciary may gain another well qualified judge and that future generations of lawyers may be mentored and inspired by her.

KIICHIRO RENTERIA

July 7, 2018

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO
HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 am, Conference Room 224

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Kristine Y. Yoo's nomination by Chief Justice Recktenwald to the position of District Court judge of the First Circuit. I first met Kristine while I was a law student. She was working at the Prosecutor's office and I was a summer intern. She was always an attorney that I could go to for advice and help with a research project I had or questions about certain things I observed in court. When I joined in the Prosecutor's Office a few years later she continued to be a mentor and an attorney I could look up to and from whom I could seek guidance. Today we both continue our work at the Prosecutor's Office where she continues to mentor others in our office.

Both in the courtroom and out she has committed countless hours to public service. Working alongside Kristine as a prosecutor, I have come to see how she generous she is with her time. She trains new deputy prosecutors on trial technique, provides guidance in how best manage their cases, and cares about elevating the profession. She spends time working with the legal interns that come to spend summers and other school breaks in our office also. Kristine is committed to helping shape quality attorneys for our community.

Kristine has a long history of service to the community of Hawaii. While not a native of Hawaii, she has made Hawaii her home and is committed to the people of this State. Kristine is very proud of her community service activities. She has coached the Kalani High School mock trial team between 2012 and 2017. Although she had no connection to Kalani High School, she made it a point to work with a public high school to provide the students with an opportunity to experience what we do as attorneys.

Kristine has served as a surf mentor with the Surfrider Spirit Sessions (SSS) since 2006 and is currently the board secretary. SSS is a non-profit mentoring program that allows at-risk youth to connect with a trusted adult and learn to surf. One of the reasons Kristine would make a great district court judge is her compassion. Her experience with SSS is just one example of her compassionate nature. Many times, prosecutors are seen as being hard-lined or lacking compassion for the accused. I do not believe you would meet anyone in our legal community, defense bar included, that would describe Kristine this way. Kristine has the right judicial temperament for a position on the bench.

With respect to her legal qualifications, Kristine is well qualified. She has successfully prosecuted cases of all levels from the initiation of a case all the way to post-trial phase. She has prosecuted complex cases, homicides, crimes of violence, and many other cases. In addition, she

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Page 2 of 2

July 7, 2018

has spent time away from being a prosecutor by working for IQ 360. Her experience there only helped add to her abilities. As a trainer in our office, she is clearly knowledgeable on case law, statutes, rules of court, and rules of evidence. She will be diligent and look for the answers she does not know. As an attorney who seeks to train and help other attorneys, she can only be an asset to the judiciary. I can think of no reason Kristine would not be a good choice for judge of the District Court. Despite the loss to the Prosecutor's office, Kristine is a great nominee for the bench and I support her nomination whole-heartedly.

Please contact me if I can provide any additional information about Kristine's qualification for District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany L. H. Kaeo', written in a cursive style.

Tiffany L. H. Kaeo

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii

July 8, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Nam H. Phan and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Kristine Y. Yoo's confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first had the chance to meet Kristine when I was a first year law student at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law in 2004. Kristine had come to speak as part of a panel and was gracious enough to stay at the conclusion to answer questions about her experience with the practice of law. In my three years at law school, I would have the opportunity to interact with her on other, numerous occasions --- whether as a speaker for the Prosecution Clinic, when she volunteered to be a judge in our practicum, or at other law related activities. Her support of the legal community is a testament to the public servant she is.

Subsequently, as a law clerk to Justice Michael D. Wilson during his time in the Circuit Court from 2007 – 2008, I had the privilege of seeing Kristine in her element in numerous jury trials. There, Kristine demonstrated first-hand what it took to be a fierce litigator --- a command of the facts of the case, an understanding of the relevant case law, a commanding presence, and being a passionate advocate for your client. More importantly, she built a reputation for being honest, reliable, and skilled at her craft while exemplifying what you would come to expect from any practitioner who appears in court.

As colleagues during my time as a prosecutor from 2008 – 2010, I now looked to Kristine as a mentor. I am grateful that she would take time to meet with me outside of normal business hours to help build upon the foundation to help me develop my skill sets; I still carry the lessons she has taught me into my private sector career today.

Now as friends, it is without is without any hesitation that I support Kristine's confirmation to the District Court. If you have any questions and/or concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact me via mobile at (808) 389-8156 or email at nam.phan@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Nam H. Phan, Esq.

July 7, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of the nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo for District Court Judge for the First Circuit. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Ms. Yoo at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for nearly fifteen (15) years. I have always known Ms. Yoo to be an extremely hard worker and the utmost professional in all aspects of her duties as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Over the years I have seen her build her reputation amongst criminal attorneys and judges as one of the top attorneys in our office. Even before being promoted to a supervisory position, Ms. Yoo has gone above and beyond to ensure that the younger generation of attorneys understand not just the law, but what it means to be a professional and respectable attorney in dealing with victims, police officers, judges and defense attorneys. She understands the law and always strives for doing justice, and I know that she will be fair in all of her rulings as a judge.

I have also known Ms. Yoo personally outside the office and there are very few people who have as much passion, interest, and investment in the well-being of the people of the State of Hawaii. She has spent countless hours on community activities and volunteer projects, despite her busy schedule. I have no doubt that Ms. Yoo will be an outstanding judge and I highly recommend the Senate confirming her nomination to the bench.

Sincerely,

Chastity Imamura
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
imamurac@gmail.com

July 2, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi and the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Kristine Yoo's nomination by Chief Justice Recktenwald for the position of judge for the First Circuit (Island of Oahu). It is with over 14 years of close daily interactions on a personal level that I base my support for Kristine on. While I may not know the exact character qualities that you may be looking for to confirm her nomination, I can certainly highlight the qualities that make Kristine a great person which I believe will translate into Kristine being an excellent judge upon your confirmation.

Dedication & Caring:

I can say wholeheartedly that Kristine is one of the overall most caring people I know. I've had the pleasure of being witness to Kristine's dedication to family from being a caring child and elder sibling to now caring for her own family. While being such a caring person, she's always able to put her foot down and unafraid to voice her opinion in an impartial manner which makes for interesting times with family and friends as you can imagine.

Kristine has always cared very much for the community while serving under Legal Aid, coaching MockTrial for Kalani High School and mentoring at-risk youth through Surfrider Spirit Sessions. She's the only person I know in Hawaii that volunteers to help children connect with adults through surfing yet doesn't actually surf herself which shows how much she cares about her community and its youth. The State of Hawaii and its future will be in a better place with Kristine Yoo as a judge given her sense of dedication and caring shown towards family and community in the name of the judicial system.

Humility:

As a successful female Deputy Prosecutor from the mainland, one might expect Kristine to be intimidating and somewhat self-righteous. This could not be further from the truth for anyone who has ever met her. She comes from a very humble family with a great upbringing by immigrant Korean parents and eldest of 2 siblings. She's able to socially mix with the elite but also spend time just "hanging" at the beach with all types of friends. Being a person in a position of power has never taken

away from Kristine's natural ability as a great listener always there for family and friends. I would have to believe these qualities of being able to listen and relate to people from all walks of life will suit her well one day as she listens to arguments from both sides, testimony for and against, speaks with jurors and ultimately delivers verdicts which could shape someone's future forever.

Senator Taniguchi and the Senate Committee On Judiciary, I could not have agreed more with Chief Justice Recktenwald's selection of Kristine Yoo and urge you to do the same in your confirmation of Kristine for the people of Hawaii. Please feel free to contact me shall you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Sum', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Henry Sum

808-265-2560

July 7, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of **KRISTINE Y. YOO**
Hearing: **Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M.**, Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony to express my support for the confirmation of Ms. Kristine Yoo as a First Circuit District Court Judge. I met Ms. Yoo approximately 11 years ago through the U.C. Hastings alumni association and through competing together in outrigger canoe paddling. Throughout my 11-year friendship with Ms. Yoo, she has always been caring, compassionate, energetic, professional, and committed to giving back to her community. In addition to devoting approximately 16 years of her career to serving the public as a prosecutor and through Legal Aid Society, she has always made time to volunteer and serve leadership roles in organizations such as Surfrider Spirt Sessions. If appointed, I believe Ms. Yoo will be fair and demonstrate her dedication to serving the public to the best of her ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



Michelle M. Shin

July 8, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Elena Kau'i Yamane
3360 Huelani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing this in strong support of Kristine Yoo for District Court of the First Circuit of Hawaii.

I have known Kristine Yoo for eight years, first when I was a law clerk for the Honorable Dexter D. Del Rosario and later I was fortunate enough to work with her at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

As a law clerk, Kristine Yoo always treated me with respect and kindness. I observed that same attitude reflected in the way that she treated opposing counsel, court staff and judges. No matter how aggravating opposing counsel behaved, Kristine maintained a respectful, patient and fair-minded approach. Her calm and measured demeanor is particularly well suited for the District court's high-volume.

Later, when I became a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Kristin Yoo was a helpful mentor that myself and countless others sought out for advice. Even before she was my team captain, Kristine generously took the time to answer my questions and provide guidance. She would take time out of her busy trial schedule to listen to the details of my case, even staying late to provide her recommendation on a challenging case. Kristine brings the right mix of humility, intelligence and listening to every task. Kristine took great care in answering questions and she never made me feel like any question was too little. Her ability to actively listen to problems and provide creative solutions with respect and compassion would make her a great addition to Hawaii bench.

Kristine Yoo has committed herself to maintaining the highest level of representation for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. She takes on challenging cases and finds a way to successful present her case within the bounds of the law. She demonstrates a deep understanding of the law and a keen appreciation of the magnitude of the decisions left to the court's discretion. She demands the highest level of competence, professionalism and justice for herself and the prosecutors that are fortunate enough to be on her team.

Kristine Yoo is a dedicated family woman with a strong sense of community. No matter how busy she was with murder trials, mentoring and supervising her team of young prosecutors, she still found time to do work in the community. In working with Kristine on Hawaii mock trial, I saw firsthand her dedication to helping the community. At Hawaii mock trial, Kristine brought her expertise and patience to teaching litigation skills and courtroom practice to high school students. Her caring attitude and wealth of knowledge will continue to serve her well and bring a unique judicial temperament to the Hawaii bench.

Kristine Yoo is a skilled trial lawyer, leader of the bar and great mentor to many people. Her experience in criminal law, combined with her compassion as a litigator and active member of the Hawaii community, position her well for service as a District Judge with the District Court of the First Circuit of Hawaii. I strongly support Kristine Yoo's application without reservation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Yamane", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

E. Kau'i Yamane

July 7, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC1 – Testimony in Support of Nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo for District Court of the First Circuit, Hearing Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

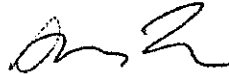
Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Saori Takahashi and I am writing in strong support of Ms. Kristine Y. Yoo's nomination for the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I had the pleasure of working with Kristine as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the City and County of Honolulu, during which I observed Kristine to possess exceptional analytical skills, a strong understanding of the law, and poise and proper decorum within the courtroom. There were countless times when Kristine helped me address issues that arose during trial or analyze new cases that I received. She was very much a team player and I trusted and valued her opinions.

Although we no longer work together, Kristine and I have kept in regular contact. It has been approximately ten years since we first met, and I continue to be amazed by her strong work ethic and extensive involvement within the community, serving as the board secretary for the Surfrider Spirit Sessions, coaching mock trial at Kalani High School, and serving on fundraising committees for MA'O Farms and Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

I wholeheartedly support Kristine and believe she has the temperament, knowledge and compassion to be a fair and successful judge. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Saori Takahashi

July 8, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y.
YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in support of Kristine Yoo's confirmation as the next District Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Kristine for over fourteen (14) years and I worked closely with her for over four (4) years. I have witnessed her passion for the law and her desire to ensure that a fair and just result is the end state no matter what type of matter she handles. Kristine has served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for over (14) years and has long been committed to the pursuit of truth and justice. In addition to her criminal experience she has knowledge and experience in civil litigation. This combination will serve her well as a District Judge.

In addition to her professional accolades, Kristine is a active member of our community and has served in leadership positions for the Hawaii Women's Lawyers, she volunteers regularly for HSBA projects, and gives of her time freely for other community projects. Her devotion to duty and willingness to assist and educate others is evident from volunteerism, the numerous pro bono projects that she participates, and the charitable work that she leads.

Professionally her ethics and commitment to higher standards are beyond reproach. She has often had to juggle many laborious projects and in the face of adversity she is always poised and dignified. This is the exact skill set required to handle the matters that she will be adjudicating on the District Court bench.

Kristine Yoo has proven herself as an established litigator and public servant. Her appointment to the District Court bench will serve the people of our island well. Undoubtedly, her commitment to justice, her humble demeanor and her community involvement makes her the best qualified for the position. I recommend that Kristine Yoo be confirmed as the next District Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

Very Truly Yours,
J. Alberto Montalbano #7552

Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: JC 1, LETTER IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30am, Conference Room 224

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

It is an honor and a privilege to write this letter in support of Kristine Yoo for the position of District Court Judge. Equipped with extensive legal experience and a strong commitment to community service, Kristine's experience, both inside and outside of the courtroom, will enable her to be a compassionate and fair judge.

For the last 15 years, I have worked with Kristine as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Kristine is a leader and role model, whose focus is on fair and just results rather than jury trial wins or convictions. Kristine embraced her role as a trials team captain, welcomed the opportunity to help, to teach, and to provide her team members with guidance and support. Kristine takes the time to discuss trial strategy and explain legal analysis, making her the go-to person for many who were still finding their way through an intimidating and often confusing legal system. Because of her knowledge of the law, her trial skills, and her enthusiasm for helping and working with people, Kristine is well respected by judges, court staff, defense attorneys, and other Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. Kristine is an excellent attorney, and her legal skills and temperament are great assets that she will bring to the bench.

Kristine's dedication to public service and giving back to our community extends far beyond the courtroom. Kristine has worked closely with at-risk youth as a mentor for Surfrider Spirit Sessions since 2006, and has served as the board secretary since 2009. Kristine also helped to provide public high school students an opportunity to experience arguing a case in a trial setting by volunteering as a mock trial coach for Kalani High School from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, Kristine has served on fundraising committees for MA'O Farms and Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i in recent years. Kristine has the unique and valuable combination of legal knowledge and experience, compassion, and desire to serve our community --- qualities that will make her an excellent Judge. The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney will suffer a great loss when Kristine leaves. The people of Hawai'i, however, will gain a Judge who is fair, dedicated, and relentless in the quest for justice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808)258-5508.

Sincerely,

Rochelle 'Iwalani Vidinha

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: J.C. 1; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, KRISTINE Y. YOO for a term to expire in 6 years.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, I am submitting the following testimony in strong support of J.C. 1.

Throughout her time as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Ms. Yoo has epitomized the Department's mission, "To promote and ensure public safety and order through effective, efficient and just prosecution." Her dedication and professionalism are unquestionable and unequalled. As a highly experienced deputy prosecutor – and longstanding Team Captain for the Department's Felony Trial Division – Ms. Yoo has dedicated herself as a public servant for over 15 years to the City and State as not just a prosecutor, but as a mentor and role model for past and present deputies. She has never shied away from a difficult case or challenge encountered and has always found time despite her numerous responsibilities to review and confer cases with other deputies. Ms. Yoo is exceptionally familiar with the myriad of criminal issues that will come before her as a District Court Judge, but exhibits the work ethic and dedication to learn and master the many civil issues that she will also encounter as a district court judge. All of this experience, combined with Ms. Yoo's legal knowledge and practical understanding of our courts and criminal justice system, will be of utmost value to the Judiciary and to the people of the State of Hawaii.

For all the forgoing reasons, I strongly support the confirmation of Kristine Y. Yoo to the District Court of the First Circuit, pursuant to J.C. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mark Tom

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 2:10 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: chad.kumagai@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Jul 9, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 7/8/2018
Testimony for on Jul 9, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Chad Kumagai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senate Judiciary Committee I write to express my strong support for Kristine Yoo for the District Court vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Yoo for about eight years. Throughout that time, I have been honored to consider her a mentor and a colleague. When I began working for the prosecutor's office seven years ago, Ms. Yoo was always one of the senior deputy prosecuting attorneys who took the time to mentor young prosecutors. Whenever I had a question about any type of case or situation, Ms. Yoo would do whatever she could to help. More than that, I have found over my years at the prosecutor's office that Ms. Yoo makes the younger attorneys like myself feel welcome in the office, the importance of which cannot be understated, given the amount of new attorneys who begin their journey into our profession at the prosecutor's office. As I advanced in the prosecutor's office, I also found Ms. Yoo to be an exceptional colleague. I have had the pleasure of closely working with her on a number of cases and always appreciated her perspective on issues and her support on whatever I did. She has always been willing to help others in any way she can. For example, I recently had a jury trial that was set the week after an appellate brief was due. The jury trial would have significantly reduced the time I had to complete the brief, so Ms. Yoo volunteered to take the trial without hesitation. Instances like this make Ms. Yoo the type of colleague that I hope we all have the luxury of having. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Ms. Yoo has dedicated countless hours of her time outside of work to the community. Though her record of community service largely speaks for itself, I have also personally worked with her for a number of years with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. There, she coordinated the silent auction and preparations for the annual fundraiser, in addition to her other duties with the organization. Ms. Yoo has consistently volunteered her time to better the community through these types of events, and has always encouraged me to do the same. Ms. Yoo mentorship, work ethic, integrity, and community service are exemplary, and embody the qualities that we demand of our judges. I believe that she would be an excellent judge, and I wholeheartedly support her nomination. Respectfully, Chad Kumagai

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Tom Heinrich

From: David Van Acker <david.vanacker@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 5:53 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Comments in Support of Kristine Yoo

July 8, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTINE Y. YOO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of Kristine Yoo's nomination for the District Court judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I have worked with Kristine at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for six years. She is one of the best prosecutors in our office and I know that she would make an outstanding district court judge.

Kristine has the experience to effectively manage a district court calendar. She has litigated cases ranging from parking tickets to murder and everything in between. I am most impressed with Kristine's common sense approach to the law. She has real knack for quickly digging down to the root of complex legal issues and finding reasonable solutions. For instance, I recently approached her with a question about a co-defendant case involving a robbery and a shooting. Kristine stopped what she was doing, patiently discussed the case with me, and provided me with valuable insight. From a legal perspective, she would make a great judge.

In addition, Kristine provides mentorship to the younger prosecutors. She has an open door policy and welcomes people into her office. Kristine really wants young lawyers to successfully navigate the profession and find fulfillment. She actively serves our community as part of the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation and she's served as a mock trial coach. Kristine encouraged me to coach a mock trial team and, as a direct result of her encouragement, I ended up coaching McKinley High School's mock trial team for three years. That type of mentorship is especially important at the district court level because judges oversee relatively inexperienced and impressionable young lawyers.

It is a real honor for me to write on behalf of Kristine; not only because I really look up to her but because I cannot imagine a better candidate. She would make a fantastic judge.

Sincerely,
David Van Acker

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Tricia Nakamatsu, and I am delighted to testify in strong support of Kristine Y. Yoo's judicial nomination. Although my testimony today is submitted strictly as an individual and private citizen, my experience with Kristine has primarily been in my capacity as a fellow deputy prosecuting attorney, and as a fellow Board member—and past President (FY 2014-2015)—of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

Based on what I have seen over these years of working together, I strongly believe that Hawaii's Judiciary would be both wise and lucky to have Kristine as a new addition to the bench. Among criminal law practitioners, it is widely recognized that Kristine is one of the most highly-seasoned and highly-skilled prosecutors at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and her knowledge of Hawaii's criminal and procedural laws is of the highest caliber. Her integrity, decorum and temperament are exemplary, and she is both decisive and "quick on her feet." While I have only observed her trial work from a prosecution-standpoint, she is clearly able to see every side of each case in a realistic light, when assessing all relevant information & perspectives (i.e. both defense and prosecution), and I absolutely believe that her strength of character would ensure even-handed deliberation on all matters that appear before her.

It is equally important to note that, when faced with unfamiliar subjects or tasks, Kristine's humility and strong work ethic enable her to effectively expand her knowledge and skills, to rise to every occasion. From the time she first joined the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers, I found her to be both gracious and astute in recognizing what she does and does not know, and she has excellent judgment in knowing when additional input or information is needed—and taking appropriate steps to obtain both—in order to make well-informed and well-reasoned decisions. She has always been a valuable asset to the Board, providing a voice of reason and careful analysis.

If Kristine ascends to judgeship, it will certainly be a great loss for both the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and for the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers—as she would have to step down from her role within each of these bodies—but it will be of utmost benefit to the Hawaii bench and to all who would appear in her courtroom. For all of the reasons noted above, I could not be happier to support the judicial nomination of Kristine Y. Yoo, and strongly urge you to pass J.C. 1 on this matter. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly,
Tricia Nakamatsu