



LATE

September 9, 2019

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Submitted via hand delivery and website

RE: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF TRISH K.
MORIKAWA TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) is a nonprofit business organization made up of over 300 female and male attorneys. HWL's mission includes improving the status of women in the legal profession, increasing the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility, and promoting the advancement of all women.

HWL believes that increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the Judiciary is extremely important. The judicial bench should be adequately balanced and reflect the composition of Hawaii's citizens.

The percentage of women judges in Hawaii has never been truly representative of the community at large. While there has been some diversity improvement over the last few years, HWL believes that more qualified women should be appointed to fill judicial vacancies to bring balance to the bench.

HWL **supports** the nomination of TRISH K. MORIKAWA for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and respectfully requests that you appoint her to the First Circuit. Trish K. Morikawa's appointment will help to ensure that the number of women on the bench better represents the number of women in the legal profession and the larger community.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

Very truly yours,

Hawaii Women Lawyers

Hawaii Women Lawyers
P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805
Email: hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com



LATE

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

Trish K. Morikawa
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM6)

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Derek R. Kobayashi
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa for the position of Circuit 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 Judge Morikawa on September 6, 2019 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 9th, Judge Morikawa was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Morikawa 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 Judge Morikawa 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

The Honorable Trish K. Morikawa has served as a per diem District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit from February 2015 to April 2017. In May of 2017, she was appointed as District Court Judge. Since January 2019, the Nominee has been temporarily assigned to the First Circuit Court. During her tenure as a judge, Ms. Morikawa has presided over an extensive number of jury and bench trials.

Prior to her service on the bench, Judge Morikawa was in the private practice of law for 5 years providing legal services to businesses and individuals in commercial, automobile and homeowner insurance litigation in State and Federal Courts. The Nominee also has experience in arbitration and mediation. She has also served as the Housing Coordinator for the City and County of Honolulu, a Deputy Prosecutor, and a Deputy Attorney General.

Her experience on the bench has provided the Nominee with an appreciation of the jurisdictional responsibilities of the District and Circuit Courts. In addition, Judge Morikawa's community service activities, including her 8-year tenure as a Commissioner on the Hawaiian Homes Commission, is a further reflection of her commitment to serve the people of the State of Hawaii.

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

Respectfully submitted,



DEREK R. KOBAYASHI
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

September 8, 2019

Letter in Strong Support of GM6, the Honorable Trish K. Morikawa, Judge

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

My name is Bryant Zane. I am a Deputy Public Defender and have worked 16 out of the last 17 years at the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i in Honolulu. Prior to that I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i for four and a half years. I am writing this letter in strong support of GM6, Gubernatorial Nominee for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Honorable Trish K. Morikawa, Judge

I first met Judge Morikawa when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the early 2000s. She was always pleasant and never took advantage of her experience over a green defense attorney like me. She was always reasonable in negotiation, but firm to her bottom line. Judge Morikawa has not changed as a person in her role as a District Court Judge and most recently in her temporary assignment as a Circuit Court Judge this year. She exudes aloha to all who come into her courtroom. She treats all with respect and has tremendous patience to resolve the matters before her. Judge Morikawa is already doing a great job in her temporary assignment. It has been a seamless transition from her predecessor to her handling the court calendar. Cases are resolving fairly and without delay. She has successfully presided over multiple jury trials with sound rulings. She is needed in the Circuit Court. Please confirm the nomination of Judge Trish K. Morikawa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha Pumehana,

/s/ Bryant Zane

Bryant Zane

From: [Claire Chinn](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#); [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: GM #6 - Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:06:16 AM

To Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Trish Morikawa's appointment as a Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Trish for close to 20 years in a professional and personal capacity. Trish has been a dedicated public servant for a majority of her legal career - initially as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, then as a Deputy Attorney General, and most recently, as a District Court Judge. Additionally, Trish served as a Commissioner on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I initially met Trish in a professional capacity when she started with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. During her years with the office, I was able to work alongside her, observing her work ethic, professionalism, and trial skills. Trish was extremely well prepared for each and every case she appeared in court for, knowledgeable about every facet of the case and the applicable law. While working for the Department of the Attorney General, Trish ably prosecuted individuals for committing internet crimes against children.

After leaving the Department of the Attorney General, Trish went into private practice and also became a per diem judge in Family Court. Trish was subsequently appointed by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald as a District Court judge in the First Circuit, where she has been serving as a judge for the past few years. At this time, Trish is currently assigned to fill a vacancy as a Circuit Court judge overseeing criminal cases. As such, she should have no difficulty in transitioning to a permanent Circuit Court judgeship.

Based on my professional and personal relationship with Trish over the years, I have no doubt that she possesses the necessary qualities and attributes to be a Circuit Court judge. In addition to being smart, organized, efficient, diligent, responsible, and empathetic, Trish has extensive litigation experience, not only as a trial attorney but also as a sitting judge. Having appeared in front of numerous judges throughout my career, I believe the most important qualities for a judge to have are intelligence, fair-mindedness and demeanor. Trish possesses all of these essential qualities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Claire Chinn

Dawn S. Shigezawa
7271 Anakua Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
(808) 586-1076

September 6, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee :

I am the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit with the Department of the Attorney General. I am writing however, as a private citizen and member of the Hawaii State Bar, in support of Trish K. Morikawa's nomination for First Circuit Judge.

I have known Ms. Morikawa for over 20 years. She is a highly qualified nominee who is an asset to the Judiciary and will serve the community well as a Circuit Court Judge. Ms. Morikawa is highly intelligent and has the ability quickly grasp complex legal issues. She brings to the bench years of trial experience and possesses an exceptional judicial temperament.

I cannot think of a better, more qualified candidate to fill the vacant Circuit Court Judge position than Ms. Morikawa.

Very truly yours,

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

Dawn S. Shigezawa

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: donovanodo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 12:51:40 PM
Attachments: [Senate Letter_Morikawa.doc](#)

GM6

Submitted on: 9/6/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Donovan Odo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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

September 6, 2019

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: GM 6 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

HEARING: Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 016

I write in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa. Judge Morikawa will make a fine judge at the Circuit Court level. Since she began sitting on the Circuit Court bench in the 17th Division, Judge Morikawa has proved herself well suited for the role.

During the last eight months or so, I have appeared before Judge Morikawa probably over fifty times, including two jury trials. Her biggest strengths thus far have been consistency and demeanor. Her rulings and position on issues are consistent, making advising clients and navigating her courtroom much easier. She is able to process cases in an expeditious manner, not allowing unnecessary delay for either side.

Judge Morikawa's demeanor is excellent. She adapts to the wide range of situations before her with ease. Some moments require a firmer tone, while others require a tremendous amount of compassion. What accentuates her demeanor is preparation. It is clear she can back her stern tone with facts from the filings and record. Her compassionate moments resonate because she has obviously read pre-sentence reports and other written submissions.

In short, I urge the Senate to support Governor Ige's nomination of Judge Trish K. Morikawa for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM6 Testimony in support of Trish K. Morikawa for Circuit Court Judge of the Court of the First Circuit (Oahu)

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I support wholeheartedly Trish Morikawa for Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (Oahu). I have known Trish for a little over 22 years; first, when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office during two different stints; when she was a Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Division, when she served under Peter Carlisle's mayoral administration for the City and County of Honolulu, and finally, when she was in the private practice of law with Gallagher, Kane & Amai.

Trish was an excellent and successful trial attorney at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where she rose from the Misdemeanor Division to the Sex Assault Unit and then to the Career Criminal Unit. Having worked in the private sector she has learned the other aspect of law not often learned in the government sector. Her vast experience on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and a graduate of Kamehameha Schools gives her a feel for Hawaiian issues that ensures she will be sensitive to the problems that face the people of Hawaii.

I believe that Trish has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. Trish 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.

Trish has vast experience of community involvement in the many different facets in addition to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, she's involved with the Daughters of Hawaii and the Partners in Development Foundation. Besides being an outstanding volleyball player, she's an avid surfer but more importantly, she's a superb mother and wife. All these characteristics make Trish an excellent candidate for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am confident Trish will be an excellent jurist and make sound decisions should you confirm her for the First Circuit Court Judge position, because she's been doing it as a District Court Judge for two years now.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on Trish's nomination.

Very truly yours,

 9/15/19
Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE

ATTORNEY AT LAW
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
SUITE 410
841 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOWARD K. K. LUKE
howard@hkkluke.com

TEL: (808) 545-5000
FAX: (808) 523-9137

September 9, 2019

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street,
Senate Judiciary Committee Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
via email attachment to JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony in support of the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa (GM6)

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Fellow Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of the Hon. Trish K. Morikawa as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I first met Judge Morikawa when she was a newly hired deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. As defense counsel, I was very impressed with her advocacy and professionalism in all court cases in which I appeared as counsel of record.

In addition to her outstanding advocacy and strict adherence to professional ethics, Judge Morikawa was a very down-to-earth, personable individual. These characteristics have served her well throughout her career as an attorney, and now as a judge.

I have had limited experience before Judge Morikawa since she was appointed to the District Court bench, but I have heard nothing but continuous praise for her judicial ability and demeanor. She enjoys an impeccable reputation as a judge, currently sitting on temporary appointment to the Circuit Court.

I respectfully request you vote to confirm Judge Morikawa to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Very truly yours,



Howard K. K. Luke, Esq.

September 8, 2019

Jon N. Ikenaga
4905 Waa Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

RE: 2019 Special Session
Measure GM 6 (Trish K. Morikawa)

Committee Members:

I strongly support the confirmation of Trish K. Morikawa as judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have been a deputy public defender in the Office of the Public Defender ("OPD") since 1994. During my FC-CR case rotation, I worked with Ms. Morikawa, who was then serving as a deputy prosecuting attorney. I was greatly impressed with Ms. Morikawa's ability to fairly and even-handedly assess her cases and perform her function as a prosecutor. I have not personally appeared before Ms. Morikawa in recent years but have heard that she is well-respected as a judge and I have no doubt that the same attributes that I observed while she was a deputy prosecuting attorney have carried over to her duties as a judge.

I strongly believe that Ms. Morikawa will preside over a courtroom with the same fairness, dignity and integrity which she exhibited when we worked together (albeit on "opposite" sides of the justice system). Ms. Morikawa will make an exemplary addition to the judiciary in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have no hesitation in voicing my support for the confirmation of Ms. Morikawa and urge the Committee members to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jon N. Ikenaga

September 7, 2019

Via www.capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Conference Room 016, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM6: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of
Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee TRISH K.
MORIKAWA

Hearing: September 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Wakai, and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter *in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee Judge Trish K. Morikawa*, for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Judge Morikawa for over 13 years. Prior to her ascension to the District Court bench in 2017, we served together as trial prosecutors in the City and County of Honolulu's Career Criminal Division, and later at a civil law firm. In both positions, I had near daily contact with Judge Morikawa.

In her recent past, Judge Morikawa was known as an even-keeled trial lawyer. She has significant trial experience and understands the rules of evidence and their practical application in the courtroom. She is comfortable and confident in the courtroom. As an advocate, she was well-prepared, maintained her composure, treated adversaries with respect and dignity, and remained focused on accomplishing her objectives.

As a public servant, in addition to her current position as a First Circuit District Court Judge, she had stints as a prosecutor and at the AGs' office. Judge Morikawa served on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and as the County Housing

Coordinator. Both positions required leadership, collaboration and decisiveness in adversarial environments, just as is required by a presiding Circuit Court Judge in the courtroom.

Judge Morikawa has a superb reputation in the legal community. Since 2017, she has been serving as a First Circuit District Court Judge. Prior to that, she served as a per diem Family Court Judge. She is held in high regard by criminal and civil attorneys alike along with sitting District and Circuit Court Judges.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon S. Jacobs", written in a cursive style.

Jon S. Jacobs

LATE

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: chingkn@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 10:01:09 PM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/9/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kaiwi Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee: I write in strong support of the nomination of Trish Morikawa to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have had the opportunity to appear before Judge Morikawa on numerous occasions. Judge Morikawa is always professional, courteous, and open-minded. I have no doubt that Judge Morikawa will bring these same qualities and more to her position as a Circuit Court Judge. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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

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From: [keith shigetomi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Trish Morikawa
Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:27:09 PM

I am writing to support the confirmation of Trish Morikawa as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Morikawa since she was a young, energetic deputy prosecuting attorney. Through the years I tried serious cases in which she was opposing counsel. She was always hard working but easy to work with. Ms. Morikawa was highly ethical as an attorney.

I have appeared in front of Ms. Morikawa after she became a District Court Judge. Remarkably, she is still energetic as a District Court Judge. She is also patient and caring about all those who appear in her courtroom. She has shown she is already a fine judge. I support her confirmation as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. Thank you.

Keith S. Shigetomi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: laura.k.maeshiro@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 9:07:50 AM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/9/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Laura Maeshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of Trish Morikawa's nomination. I have worked with Trish while in the Honolulu Prosecutor's office and also recently appeared in her courtroom for a motion. Trish truly possesses the traits a circuit court judge should have and is an asset to Hawaii. Trish is knowledgeable on the law, intelligent, fair, professional, and kind.

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

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From: [Marc Nakamura](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Trish Morikawa First Circuit Court Judicial Nominee
Date: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:12:43 AM

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Marc Nakamura and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of judicial nominee Trish Morikawa for judgeship on the First Circuit Court.

I have known Trish since our time at the Honolulu Prosecutors office. Trish helped mentor me and countless others. She taught me the importance of being prepared and to always do the right thing no matter how it may impact your case. Trish is a much smarter and a more experienced trial attorney than I, but she always treated me as a peer and valued my opinions. That experience epitomizes Trish's character and highlights the attributes that are so needed to be an effective judge: patience, humility, and integrity. These are qualities that define Trish.

While I have not had the opportunity to appear in front of her, I have spoken to other attorneys who have. Uniformly, they highlight her intelligence, her fairness, and her sense of humor often at her own expense to defuse situations or put people at ease.

I wholeheartedly support Trish's nomination to the First Circuit Court and respectfully request that this Committee confirm her to the First Circuit Court where I know she will continue being an excellent judge. Thank for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Trish.

Mark Yuen
1709 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Email: markyuen14@hotmail.com

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 6: Ms. Trish K. Morikawa's Confirmation Hearing (September 10, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.)

Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to write my comments supporting Ms. Trish K. Morikawa's nomination as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have personally known Mr. Morikawa for approximately twenty-three (23) years when I first joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. At that time, Mr. Morikawa had been at the office for approximately a year. I recall that she was already definitely one of the top up-and-coming deputies when I got there.

As you already know, she has been a district court judge for over two (2) years and she has essentially been presiding at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit due to the vacancies there. Although I have not practiced in front of her in either District or Circuit Court, I hear from those who have that she is above all, completely fair and impartial. Even more importantly, I hear that she is very pleasant and possesses an outstanding judicial temperament.

None of what I have heard about her surprises me whatsoever. For what I do know personally about Ms. Morikawa is that she is extremely intelligent, kind and humble. As I noted earlier, she was an up-and-coming deputy when I first started working at the Prosecutor's office. Soon thereafter, she went directly to the Career Criminal Division which has the reputation for being one of the most demanding units in the office. At that particular time, nobody went to the Career Criminal Division unless he or she had a lot of trial experience and a lot of jury trial victories. The fact that she went there so soon during her career as a deputy speaks highly of her intelligence and moxie that she possessed at a very young age.

The one quality that I find Mr. Morikawa has that is so endearing though, is her kindness. She always has a smile on her face and is always full of Aloha. She has such an amazing temperament and to me, it is so infectious. I rarely see her at all anymore, but when she was at the Prosecutor's Office, she was always so pleasant to the other deputies and to the staff. I never saw her in a bad mood and as I noted earlier, she was always kind to me and others in the office. She never put anyone down and she was always so positive. I believe I have spoken to her twice since she has been a judge and she is still the same-always with a sincere and genuine smile and always full of kindness.

In my opinion, Ms. Morikawa has it all to be an effective and excellent judge: she already is a judge and she has a lot of criminal law and civil law experience in private practice and at the Mayor's office. She is smart and possesses an amazing demeanor. She is definitely someone who deserves to be on the bench and I know how much our community will benefit from her presence there.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Yuen

LATE

September 9, 2019

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: GM #6, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF TRISH K. MORIKAWA

HEARING: Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 10:00 A.M.

Chair Rhodes and Committee Members:

I'm writing in strong support of the Honorable Trish K. Morikawa.

I met Judge Morikawa when we were both working at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. By the time I started with the office, she had already been there for some time. She was consistently approachable and willing to help.

Judge Morikawa has already been serving as a welcome addition to the Circuit Court bench. Many are hopeful that her current temporary appointment there will become permanent by way of these proceedings. Her temperament and insightful approach to these cases is quite refreshing for all parties involved in this process.

Thank you for considering my LATE testimony.

/s/ Michelle M.L. Puu

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: nicolesarne@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2019 9:15:51 PM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/5/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
nicole sarne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please confirm the nomination of Judge Trish K. Morikawa for the judicial position in Circuit Court. I am a court clerk with Family Court and had the opportunity to work along with Judge Morikawa when she was a per diem judge. She is a joy to work with. She has a very positive and uplifting personality. She is a hard worker and would be an asset to the Circuit Court ohana. Thank you for your time.

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

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September 7, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
Support & Comment on Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA
Re: Letter of Support For Circuit Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I am forwarding my unconditional support and strong recommendation for TRISH K. MORIKAWA for confirmation as a judicial nominee for the Circuit Court judgeship.

I have been a Victim Witness Advocate employed by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorneys Office for the past 26 years. For the first 15 of the last 26 years, I have had the pleasure of working together closely with former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Trish K. Morikawa.

During all my professional encounters with Ms. Morikawa, she has continually displayed extraordinary legal and personal skills in and out of the courtroom. Her legal skills, tenacity and high-level of intelligence has earned her the respect of her colleagues. She would always demonstrate much compassion and empathy while simultaneously seeking justice for the victims.

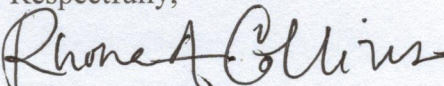
I have always been impressed with the way Ms. Morikawa is able to balance a professional career as an attorney, while at the same time being an extraordinary wife and mother. Ms. Morikawa's reputation in our community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship is unblemished and highly regarded by all that know her.

Ms. Morikawa not only would be an excellent judge, but she would exceed all expectations and be a huge asset to the judicial system. She has the uncanny ability to simultaneously be professional while relating to people on personal level, while maintaining compassion and fairness. Very few people have this unique compliment of skills which is sorely needed in our judicial system today.

Trish is not just a former co-worker to me; she has become a part of my family. I am fortunate to have been able to work closely with her, but more importantly, I have been blessed to be friends with her also. Our families have vacationed many times together and Trish truly amazed me with her organization skills even while on vacation.

Trish K. Morikawa is an excellent role-model and I am proud to say that my 19 year old daughter looks up to and has the utmost respect for her Aunty Trish.

I can be contacted at mobile (808) 387-1710 if any further inquiries are desired.

Respectfully,

Rhona A. Collins

From: [Richard Stacey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Judge Trish Morikawa, GM#6, Hearing Sept. 10, 2019, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:18:19 PM

Honorable Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Judge Trish Morikawa who has been nominated to sit on the bench of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Judge Morikawa since she first arrived at the office of the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney shortly after me, around 1995-1996. I have always known her to be quite intelligent, extremely efficient, hard working and by now, very experienced. Her recent work on the bench is impressive, and I have appeared before her at least once and was able to confirm her calm demeanor on the bench and that she treats everyone in the court fairly and with great patience. Judge Morikawa will make an excellent addition to the Circuit Court.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.
I am available for any questions at 741-5573.

--

Richard Stacey
Bar #6419
stacey001@gmail.com

--

Rich Stacey

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Hon. Trish K. Morikawa's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Our community will benefit from Judge Morikawa's extensive experience and proven competence. Her temperament is perfectly suited to the position. She will make an excellent addition to the Circuit Court bench.

Respectfully,

RJ Brown

Law Offices Of
SCOTT K. COLLINS

*HARBOR COURT 55 Merchant St., Suite 1850
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813*

*Telephone No. (808) 533-3335
Facsimile No. (808) 533-3336*

E-Mail: Attorney@SCollinsLaw.com

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September 7, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
Support & Comment on Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA

Re: Letter of Support For Circuit Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I respectfully submit this letter of support unconditionally and without any reservation whatsoever on behalf of Circuit Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for over twenty (22) years.

Throughout those twenty plus (22+) years, I not only have come to know Ms. MORIKAWA on a professional level, but on a personal level as well. Our families socialize together frequently and have even vacationed together on several occasions over the years. She has that unique ability to be able to balance her professional life with her personal life which has continued to amaze and impress me over the years.

Ms. MORIKAWA has also extremely impressed many other people by her uncanny ability to currently balance a professional career as a private attorney, with her latest and most challenging endeavor has been to also preside in the District Court Judge and recently assigned to assist in Circuit Court as well. She has successfully managed to do all of this while simultaneously being an extraordinary wife and mother to her husband and children.

It should also be noted that Ms. MORIKAWA's reputation in our community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship is unblemished and highly regarded by all that know her. I can speak from personal experience, as many of Ms. MORIKAWA's friends are also friends of mine whose relationships are close and valued.

Senate Judiciary Committee
Support & Comment on Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA
Re: Letter of Support For Circuit Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.
September 7, 2019
Page Two

Many of my colleagues have also been greatly impressed with Ms. MORIKAWA's wisdom, fairness, intellect and judicial temperament as she was recently temporarily assigned to fill a vacancy in Circuit Court and has been performing admirably handling difficult and complex major felony cases.

Ms. MORIKAWA understands and appreciates that her high level of integrity, principles and values have to be complimented by fairness, compassion and composure - - - but never influenced or tainted by emotion, personal feelings or bias. It is this "**unique skill set**" that has earned Ms. MORIKAWA the respect of all those around her. This is also why other attorneys in the past have trusted her, and sought out her advice and guidance at every opportunity prior to her appointment on the judicial bench.

Another impressive and admirable character trait is that Ms. MORIKAWA also has that uncanny ability to simultaneously be professional while relating to people on a personal level, while maintaining compassion and fairness. Very few people have this unique compliment of skills which is greatly lacking in our judicial system today.

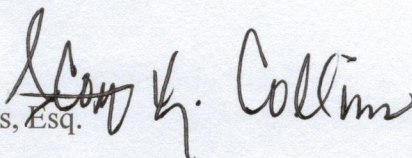
Without any doubt or reservation, I personally attest that Ms. MORIKAWA is extremely qualified and deserving to be appointed as a Circuit Court judge. This is based on my over thirty (30) years of practice in the legal profession, appearing before numerous judges on countless occasions. Ms. Morikawa is exceptionally and extraordinarily qualified to be a judge of others as demonstrated by her current performance.

Ms. MORIKAWA would be a great asset to the judicial bench on the Circuit Court level based on her unique compliment of high intelligence, principles, integrity, compassion, fairness and judicial temperament, as she has already previously demonstrated by first presiding as a Per Diem Judge in Family Court, then thereafter excelling as a full-time Judge in the District Court of the First Circuit; and most recently, temporarily appointed as a Circuit Court Judge presiding over major felony cases and continuing to perform extraordinarily. (The position she currently seeks).

If there is any further need to inquire with me, please do not hesitate to call upon me either at my office, (808) 533-3335, or my cellular, (808) 429-3335.

Respectfully,

Scott K. Collins, Esq.



From: [Shanlyn A.S. Park](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: In support of GM6 Trish Morikawa, Judicial Nominee
Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019 3:19:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,
I have known Trish Morikawa for over twenty years and have seen her matriculate through law school to be a prosecutor, a private practice attorney and a judge. I have witnessed her approach each step of her professional life, with the utmost competency, enthusiasm and ethical standards. Her personality and actions strike a balance between fierceness and practicality which yields a level impartiality that would seem to be ideal for demeanor of a candidate for the Circuit Court. Since becoming a District Court Judge, Trish has become a respected jurist who will continue to serve the judiciary well as a Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Shanlyn Park



Shanlyn A.S. Park
Partner

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP
Five Waterfront Plaza, 4th Floor
500 Ala Moana Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
☎ (808)529-7300 | ✉ sasp@m4law.com

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From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: ndptjb_07@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, September 7, 2019 10:58:12 AM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/7/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sherry Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I met Trish Morikawa when she became a Deputy Prosecuting attorney. As staff I have met and worked with many attorneys and Trish was a very outstanding one. She was smart, professional, personable and nice. She was always smiling even though she had a rough day. She has a very good temperament. And she appreciated the staff, which is very high in my book. I've been there for 24 years so I can spot the great ones. I truly believe that Trish will be an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

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

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LATE

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: ynwon@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)*
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:53:41 PM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/9/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Susan Won	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: tkcabaniero@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 10:48:05 PM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/6/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tana Kekina-Cabaniero	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I overwhelmingly support Trish Morikawa for the position of Circuit Court Judge. I have known Trish for 25 years. We attended law school together at the William S. Richardson School of Law, worked together at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Trish has extensive legal experience in criminal, civil and family law. She excelled in the courtroom as a prosecutor, and has now proven that she is an effective jurist. She has a stellar reputation with attorneys, other judges, court staff, police officers and victims/witnesses. She is also known to be fair and well-prepared. Trish has demonstrated that she has the integrity, diligence and temperament to be a judge and is a committed public servant. She is compassionate, nurturing and will assist all who appear in her courtroom. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Tana Kekina-Cabaniero

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Taryn Tomasa
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 586-2080

September 6, 2019

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
415 S. Beretania Street
Judiciary Committee, Room 204
State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813
via email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: 10:00 AM Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Hearing on the Consideration and Confirmation of
Judicial Nominee TRISH MORIKAWA

Senators Chairman Rhoads and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of TRISH MORIKAWA to the circuit court bench. I have known Judge Morikawa professionally for over twenty years. I believe that Judge Morikawa possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this challenging and rigorous position demands.

In the years that Judge Morikawa was a deputy prosecuting attorney, she balanced her duty to seek justice with fairness and justice. As a member of the bench, Judge Morikawa has ruled with consideration and decorum. She maintains professional and ethical conduct and consistently demonstrates a command of the law.

As a citizen and practicing attorney, I believe that the State of Hawaii needs and deserves the best and most qualified judges. A judge must be well rounded and adept to handle broad ranges of legal issues, vast number of cases, and have judicial demeanor, character, legal expertise, and intellect to be successful. Based on my knowledge of Judge Morikawa, as well as her track record on the family court bench, it is apparent that she has the skills and dedication to be an invaluable asset to the State of Hawaii as a circuit court judge.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Taryn Tomasa



TOMMY WATERS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Senate District 13
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Trish Morikawa, Circuit Court Judge

Dear Chair Rhoads and JDC Committee Members:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Trish Morikawa for Circuit Court Judge.

I have known and worked with Ms. Morikawa for many years. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Ms. Morikawa was fair, hard working and honest. She was always prepared and up to date on relevant case law. She has earned the respect and admiration of the Court, Court staff, and opposing counsel.

As a District Court Judge, Judge Morikawa has been exceptional. She treated everyone with the utmost respect and patience. Everyone appearing before Judge Morikawa left the courtroom feeling like they got a fair shake and justice was served. Even if the court ruled against them. This is a rare thing to witness.

She also has the perfect judicial temperament. She is a calm and well-reasoned person by nature. Even under fire, I believe she is able to rationally and reasonably weigh through a complicated issue, and find a remedy.

I truly believe that she is an asset to the Judiciary, and the State of Hawaii. Trish Morikawa will win praise for our Court system and the State of Hawaii. I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the position of Circuit Court Judge should not be passed up.

Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,

Tommy Waters Esq.

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: wminouye@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM6 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 9:41:37 AM

GM6

Submitted on: 9/9/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Wendy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the nomination of Trish Morikawa for Circuit Court Judge. I worked with her while she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. She is fair, honest, compassionate and will make an excellent Judge.

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

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