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September 28, 2020

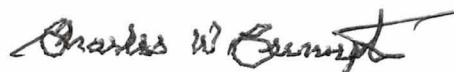
Karl Rhoads, Chair
Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Nomination of Judge Karen Nakasone to Intermediate Court of Appeals
Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
GM-1

Dear Senators Rhoads, Keohokalole and Committee Members:

It is truly an honor and privilege to unconditionally support the nomination of Judge Karen Nakasone to the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals. Based on my 36 years of civil litigation experience, 35 years of civil mediation and arbitration experience, and first-hand experience as an attorney in a lengthy and complex trial before Judge Nakasone involving significant issues of fact and law, as well as subsequent occasions to meet Judge Nakasone professionally and personally, as her daughter and my granddaughter were elementary school classmates and friends, I can personally affirm without reservations that Judge Nakasone exhibits the very highest professional and personal abilities, character, conscience, integrity, honesty and exemplary judicial management and demeanor. Having known and observed most of Hawai'i's trial judges over my 42 years of civil practice, I can also affirm that Judge Nakasone's judicial knowledge, skills, demeanor and dedication are peerless. Judge Nakasone has always treated everyone involved in the cases before her, including staff, witnesses, parties, counsel and others, with the utmost courtesy, civility, forthrightness, clarity and consideration. It is entirely fair to say, based on my 42 years with Hawai'i's courts and legal system, that Judge Nakasone is indeed a model Judge in all respects. It is perhaps equally important to say that if I were involved in a case here, whether as counsel, a party, a witness or otherwise, I could not conceive of a better qualified, more fair and just jurist to preside over that case. There is no doubt at all that Judge Nakasone will bring exceptional credit, abilities and professional qualities to our Intermediate Court of Appeals, as well as the ability to work cooperatively and productively with Chief Judge Lisa Ginoza and the Judges on that Court. I would be most glad to respond to any questions and provide any further information that may be of use and value.

With respect and Aloha,



Charles W. Crumpton

September 29, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for Karen T. Nakasone

Dear Governor Ige,

I am writing this letter to express my support for Karen T. Nakasone for the Judicial Intermediate Court of Appeals. Karen constantly proves herself to be a proactive and dedicated individual in both her personal and professional life. I am personally inspired by her work ethic and dedication to serving her family, our school and the community. I met Karen last year when her daughters started attending Stevenson Middle School. I was running a festival to fundraise for school improvements and she reached out right away and was supportive, generous and professional. She helped us front the costs for the festival and volunteered the entire length of the event to ensure we were successful.

I have the privilege of teaching both of Karen's twin daughters this year and I am grateful for her constant support and proactive involvement in their education. I have been teaching for twelve years and can honestly say that Karen is by far the most supportive parent I have come across. She has strong lines of communication and provides her daughters with a highly qualified teacher/tutor to support our teaching with extra practice and instruction where needed. Both of her children exemplify her strong character and work ethic and are highly regarded by their peers.

We were both proud and fortunate to have Karen serve as our school's APT President. It is tough to get parents involved in the Middle School setting but Karen was able to rally support because she is a strong leader and is widely respected by the community. Her good judgement and mature outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to improvements for our school. She displays the highest degree of integrity, responsibility, and ambition to problem solving and always follows through with timely solutions for our school. She organizes campus beautification days, helps fundraise, supports educational programs at our school, and offers help along with solutions for our school's needs. Karen would be an asset to any organization and I am happy to give her my wholehearted support.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Trish Morgan

Teacher/Department Head/Fundraising Coordinator

September 29, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please find this letter in strong support for Judge Karen T. Nakasone for the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Nearly twenty years ago, I remember watching her as a deputy public defender in a murder trial. Her experience as both a litigator and a trial judge gives me confidence that she will be able to appreciate the nuances of a jury trial in evaluating appellate cases. Too often it seems that appellate cases are viewed in a vacuum with only the result in mind. But Judge Nakasone's appreciation for the numerous details, issues, and instructions that are required in order for the jury to reach a fair verdict will allow her to bring a greater perspective that is needed to properly evaluate cases at the appellate level.

I have appeared before her on numerous occasions in court. In my experience, she has been fair and even-keeled under the most trying of circumstances with both hot headed attorneys and members of the public. You can tell her rulings are the result of having carefully weighed both the facts and the law before her.

On a personal note, her children are enrolled in the public school system. When asked why, when a private school education was clearly an option, she insists a public school education provides priceless perspectives and experiences that will help her children grow and thrive in the real world. I could not agree more. That Judge Nakasone has an appreciation for that tells me she will be fair as an appellate judge to all parties that appear before her.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Judge Nakasone. She has the intellect, work ethic, and perspective to make a fine appellate judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adrian Dhakhwa
Adrian Dhakhwa



PITLUCK KIDO & AIPA
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

September 29, 2020

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I offer this letter of recommendation and support for Judge Karen T. Nakasone, nominee for the Intermediate Court of Appeals of the State of Hawaii.


Back in the early 1980s, I frequently walked to work. My path took me past a small family-run flower shop on Fort Street Mall across from the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church run by the Nakasone family. Having worked in Japan prior to attending law school, I would often chat with the owners and enjoy practicing my Japanese. Oh, and I did buy flowers whenever I had the chance.

Their daughter was often at the shop after school helping out. Hard work and sacrifice seemed to be part of the daily routine. Back then, Judge Nakasone's parents expressed hopes that their daughter would someday be an attorney. Little did they know that one day their daughter would not only earn a law degree, but become a respected and dedicated member of the Hawaii judiciary, all while raising a family and remaining active in personal and community activities.

Our parents lay an important foundation for all of us. I strongly believe that Judge Nakasone's values and broad life perspectives were grounded early in life and I have had the pleasure of watching her achievements over the years. While I have not had the opportunity to appear before Judge Nakasone, I have heard only positive feedback from attorneys who have appeared before her. Her performance on the bench and in other areas of involvement in the judicial system has been consistently firm, fair and compassionate, all in a down-to-earth manner.

I strongly recommend that you give Judge Nakasone your support as the nominee for the position on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

PITLUCK KIDO & AIPA, LLP


Alan T. Kido
Partner

Allen K. Williams
Attorney At Law
Trecker Fritz & Williams
820 Mililani Street, Suite 701
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808-528-3900
allen@lawctr.net

**Written Testimony in Support of
consideration and confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as
Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone**

September 30, 2020

Honorable Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
President
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
And Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Judicial Nominee: Honorable Karen T. Nakasone, Judge of the First Circuit Court
Special Session Measures – Hearing: October 1, 2020 / 1:00 p.m.

Dear Senators Kouchi and Rhoads:

I am humbled and honored to submit the following written testimony in support of the Senate's consideration and confirmation of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone, Judge of the First Circuit Court, to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as an Associate Judge.

I am currently a practicing attorney at law in Hawai'i and have been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i and a member of the Hawai'i State Bar Association for 39 years.

My interaction with and relationship to Judge Nakasone is limited to her position as a judge of the First Circuit Court. I have appeared before her since shortly after her appointment to the First Circuit Court in 2011.

My court appearances before her has been limited to her assignment as a First Circuit Court judge handling civil law matters.

I believe Judge Nakasone will uphold and honor the esteemed position of an Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals in a manner that accepts and embraces our rich cultural norms and our laws.

I believe that Judge Nakasone's appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals will be a valuable benefit to the Citizens of Hawai'i, and our future generations.

Honorable Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hawai'i State Senate
Confirmation of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone
Associate Judge – Intermediate Court of Appeals
September 30, 2020
Page 2

From an attorney's perspective, I believe Judge Nakasone has a superior understanding of the law and its application. In every case for which I appeared before her as a judge in civil law cases, she demonstrated that she understood the facts and the law of the case. No matter if she ruled for or against my client, I felt justice was being served well.

It is my experience that she would engage attorneys in discussions to analyze the current legal authorities, and during these discussions, I realized that she researched and reviewed more legal authorities than what was presented to the court. This is extraordinary for a judge with a busy schedule, but she took the time to educate herself and demonstrate to the parties that her decision on the matter was a thoughtful and just decision.

Judge Nakasone would issue written decisions that were well written and detailed in her analysis of the facts and law, and these written decisions provided the parties with a clear understanding of the court's reasoning. I was never disappointed or troubled by Judge Nakasone's rulings and decisions, even if it was contrary to our position, because I knew it was based on her superior analysis of the facts and law.

The Citizens will be truly blessed to have this exceptional and fine jurist sitting on the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and I hope my comments are helpful for your consideration of Judge Nakasone's nomination, and that you will confirm her nomination as an Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen K. Williams

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: allicyn.h.tasaka@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:45:32 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/29/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Allicyn Tasaka	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: GM1 Karen Nakasone Governor's nominee to the Intermediate Court of Appeals Special Session - Thursday, October 1, 2020 @ 1pm Senate Committee on Judiciary: My name is Allicyn Tasaka and I am submitting testimony in strong support for Karen T. Nakasone, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. I have known Judge Nakasone for over 20 years when we first met as volunteers with the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter. She rose to leadership roles and in 2004 served as Chapter President of a non-profit organization whose mission is to safeguard the civil and human rights of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who are affected by injustice and bigotry. JAACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. Professionally, she has worked as a Public Defender for 15 years and as Circuit Court Judge for the last 9 years. Judge Nakasone is intelligent and ethical. I have observed her to have the good character and the right judicial temperament to continue her exemplary career as a jurist. The leadership roles that Judge Nakasone has served over the years showed courage and integrity. The courage and integrity to do the right thing and make sound decisions under the law and not the popular decision in and out of the court room. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in strong support and I urge your Committee to confirm the nomination of Karen Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. Allicyn Tasaka Tasakaa002@hawaii.rr.com Cell: 225-2785

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: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: naacphawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 9:45:13 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/29/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
alphonso braggs	NAACP	Comments Only	No

Your comments: Strongly support this nominee. She is along time advocate for equality. She is fair, impartial, and objective. The personification of ethics and integrity.

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I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights (HF CR).

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights supports programs and policies that ensure equal access, civil rights, diversity and inclusion. We are very pleased to support Karen Nakasone's nomination. Ms. Nakasone has excellent training and extensive legal experience and has earned a reputation for being prepared and fair as a judge. I am grateful for her community service and leadership qualities (e.g. her work with the Access to Justice committee and her past leadership with JAACL) and her integrity.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our strong support for Karen Nakasone.

Amy Agbayani, Chair

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: kikulani@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:12:05 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/28/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Anna Ishikawa Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I am in strong support of Judge Karen Nakasone being confirmed. I've appeared in front of her for numerous felony matters. She is fair, knowledge, even-tempered, thoughtful, and kind. She knows the law and rules of the court and holds all who practice in front of her to a high ethical standard. She will make an excellent judge to the intermediate court of appeals.

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From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: bensrose@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:30:09 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/29/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Benjamin Rose	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I am submitting this testimony in support of Judge Nakasone's nomination to the ICA. As a deputy prosecutor, I have appeared many times before Judge Nakasone for substantive hearings, as well as jury-waived and jury trials. In my cases before Judge Nakasone, I have seen first-hand how she carefully listens to both sides, values the rights of criminal defendants, expresses sympathy for victims, and weighs judicial decisions. While I have disagreed with some of her rulings, the process she employs and the due consideration she gives to the presented arguments is beyond reproach. Our system of justice would do well to have Judge Nakasone serve as an appellate judge.

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Chelsea C. Maja
Brian D. Tongg
Caycie K. G. Wong

September 30, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Judge Karen T. Nakasone

Dear Members of the Committee:

I strongly support Judge Karen T. Nakasone's candidacy for appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals for the State of Hawaii.

As a practicing lawyer in Honolulu for the past 25 years, I can say that Judge Nakasone possesses a widely-held reputation as a skilled trial lawyer, and a highly effective, and fair judge. Indeed, as a Circuit Court Judge, she is a jurist that my colleagues have routinely enjoyed appearing before, her because of her intellect, preparedness, effective temperament, faithful adherence to the law, and her inherent sense of fairness in the administration of her duties. These attributes shine through not only in her official duties as Judge, but in her personal and community roles as well. To wit, I personally worked with Judge Nakasone for years; serving together on the Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School Association of Parents & Teachers Board of Directors (where our respective children attended), where she tirelessly and faithfully served as our President. Through this experience, I personally witnessed her effective style of leadership, keen sense of organization, and strong intellect. She was a true gift to our organization, and served as a transformational leader for our Board.

Her unquestioned integrity, high skill, easy personality, and commitment to public service, are all attributes that make her an admired and respected member of our community. Her sterling performance as both lawyer and judge make her an admired member of our Bar. Without doubt, she is someone befitting of the high honor of serving on our Intermediate Court of Appeals, and I enthusiastically support her candidacy. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,
/S/ BRUCE NAKAMURA

CATHERINE LOWENBERG

1011 Prospect Street, Honolulu, 96822 · (808) 778-1786
cathymalia@gmail.com

The Senate
The Thirtieth Legislature
Interim of 2020
Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DEAR COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY,

It is an honor to submit my support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone's appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney I have appeared almost daily before Judge Nakasone for the past several years. One of the Judge Nakasone's most striking characteristics is her humility and the respect she shows jurors, witnesses, victims, and criminal defendants. She maintains strict decorum in the courtroom and demands that attorneys treat each other and court staff with that same respect.

Judge Nakasone's rulings are thorough and meticulous. While she has clear compassion for those affected by her decisions, her judgments are guided by fairness, integrity, and always solidly rooted in the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support for Judge Nakasone's nomination.

Sincerely,
Cathy Lowenberg

Christopher T. Goodin
Direct Line: (808) 521-9296
Direct Fax: (808) 540-5090
Email: cgoodin@ca-des.com

September 28, 2020

Senate of the State of Hawai‘i
Committee on Judiciary
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Re: Recommendation of Judicial Nominee - Hon. Karen T. Nakasone

Dear Senators:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my written comments and recommendation in support of The Honorable Karen T. Nakasone who is a nominee for a judicial vacancy on the Hawai‘i Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I first met Judge Nakasone at a Kendo tournament in the late 1990s. I trained at the Aiea Taiheiji Soto Mission, and she trained at Myohoji Buddhist Temple in Nuuanu. I am currently one of the teaches at my dojo and I serve on the Board of the Hawai‘i Kendo Federation. In all of my interactions with Judge Nakasone, she has demonstrated the virtues of Kendo by working very hard, treating others with respect, and making a commitment to doing what’s right.

Judge Nakasone has exhibited the same characteristics on the bench. Based on my personal experience and many conversations with attorneys in my office, Judge Nakasone has earned a reputation for being well prepared at hearings, providing the parties with inclinations at the start, and directing the discussion constructively throughout the hearing. She is also very careful and precise in her rulings and she treats the litigants with dignity and respect.

Judge Nakasone was just as thoughtful and courteous when she gave a seminar on issues of appellate practice in September 2016 to the Hawai‘i State Bar Association Appellate Section, a section that I chaired from 2015 to 2016. Judge Nakasone shared her perspective as a former appellate practitioner with the Public Defender and as a judge. Her talk emphasized the importance of clarity, focus, and integrity in appellate advocacy.

Judge Nakasone’s strong work ethic, substantial appellate experience, and demonstrated track record as a judge make her the ideal nominee to serve on the Hawai‘i Intermediate Court of Appeals. If selected, I am certain that she will serve with distinction and promote confidence in our State’s judicial system.

Senate of the State of Hawai'i
September 28, 2020
Page 2

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Goodin".

Christopher T. Goodin

for

CADES SCHUTTE

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

Connie Chun

95-189 Alaalaa Loop, Mililani, Hawaii 96789 | 808-781-9658 | conniechun@hawaii.rr.com

September 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to submit this testimony on behalf of Ms. Karen Nakasone who is under consideration as a judge for the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have known Karen for several years because her daughters are participants in the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's Cultural Day Camp for Children (CDC), originally as campers and most recently as Junior Leaders. As a Co-Director of this cultural event, I've had opportunity to meet and interact with many young families from the Okinawan community. It's always interesting to meet folks from all walks of life, even judges! Of course, I never knew of Karen prominence in the Judiciary because she's always so humble and ordinary, she simply showed up as a mother. Her awareness of and respect for our rich and vibrant *Shimanchu* culture is probably what motivates her to impart these values onto her children as they have participated in this cultural camp for many years. Karen's karate sensei conducted classes at CDC and Karen kindly found the time to assist him for a few days; for that we were quite grateful!

I have also met her parents: Dad is a neighbor islander and Mom is from Okinawa. This is likely the basis for Karen's strong values and principles. If you were to judge a person's character based on his/her parents and children, certainly Karen would rank very highly. Her family is undoubtedly very proud of her but they all remain very grounded and so approachable. I always enjoy talking stories with the Nakasones. To me, Karen is a person of high standards and moral character. This kind of greatness doesn't just happen and is not present in all families. Through my association with Karen's parents and children, I can see where her character has been nurtured and through the years passed on to the next generations. I can see that Karen has somehow and very intuitively accepted this as her own *sukubun* or *kuleana*.

Karen is surely a positive role model to others, she is probably an inspirational leader in her courtroom. She is able to take on challenges quietly but with courage and confidence and great humility. I'll always remember that moment in her court when the convicted felon wished to express his regrets to his victim's family: all of the parents had suffered unspeakable tragedy as one son was shot and killed and the other son was to begin a sentence for his crime. Because the adjoining courtroom was unavailable, Karen allowed this moment of *hooponopono* to take place on the spot. Her compassion and trust resulted in a sharing that would probably never ever happen again. I cried when I watched this news clip. My heart filled with pride and gratitude for this woman who could feel deeply for the two broken families. You don't learn this in law school.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of my testimony.

Yutasarugutu unigeesabira (With favorable regard),

Connie Arakaki Chun

September 28, 2020

Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawai'i Senate
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM1 - In STRONG SUPPORT of Karen T. Nakasone as Intermediate
Court of Appeals Associate Judge**

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I write to express my **strong support for Karen Tooko Nakasone** to serve as an Associate Judge of the State of Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA).


Ms. Nakasone has been my personal friend for more 30 years. We met in high school and we both became lawyers. She has always been someone who wants to contribute and to help ensure justice in our society. She has done this as a public defender and as a trial court judge.

During my years of law practice, I have worked with some of the most highly regarded attorneys in Hawai'i and the nation during my time at an international law firm, two Fortune 200 companies on the mainland, and at two prominent Honolulu law firms.

Based on this experience and on my personal knowledge of Ms. Nakasone, I believe that she meets all of the criteria to be an excellent ICA Associate Judge. In my years of knowing Ms. Nakasone, she has always acted with integrity and been committed to public service. She has gained considerable legal knowledge and ability from her years in practice and on the bench. She treats everyone with respect. She is extremely calm under pressure and conscientiously maintains her personal financial affairs and personal health. From the time that we were in high school and continually through the present, I have seen her work diligently, efficiently, and effectively. I know that she would be able to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of an ICA Associate Judge by continuing this habit of diligent and productive work.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Nakasone.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Connie Y. Chang', written in a cursive style.

Connie Y. Chang

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: crystalglendonlaw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:48:03 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Crystal Glendon	Individual	Support	No

Your comments:

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**Letter of Support for the Confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone
to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawai'i**

Sept. 29, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol

Re: GM 1 – Consideration and Confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone as Associate
Judge, Intermediate Court of Appeals

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Allow me to provide this letter of support for Karen T. Nakasone for the position of Associate Judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I have known Judge Nakasone for a number of years through volunteer work in our community. I have found her to be organized, perceptive, and a good listener. Her life experiences helping out at her family's florist business and advocating for the disadvantaged as a Deputy Public Defender have kept her grounded. Her 24 years in law including service as a Circuit Court Civil Trial Judge and Criminal Trial Judge have fully prepared her for a seat on a higher court.

Karen Nakasone has distinguished herself in martial arts as a 3rd degree Black Belt in Karate and 2nd degree Black Belt in Kendo. The mental discipline required to excel in martial arts surely prepares the practitioner to approach difficult decisions in real life with clarity and focus.

Judge Nakasone has impressed me in many ways. She is a person of character who is engaged in her community, and she is a scholar who has distinguished herself on the bench. Karen Nakasone has the attributes and temperament that would make her well suited to serve on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Respectfully yours,

Cyrus K. Tamashiro
98-861 Ainanui Loop
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: daniel.m.gluck@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:32:02 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Daniel Gluck	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: In my personal capacity, I write in strong support of Judge Nakasone's confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I met Judge Nakasone through her work as a Board Member with JACL-Honolulu, prior to her appointment to the Circuit Court. She's smart, she's a hard worker, and she has a deep commitment to promoting and protecting civil rights. In her personal capacity, she is also a strong supporter of her daughters' DOE schools, having volunteered in various roles over the past decade. She consistently praises the quality of the education her daughters have received, and as a parent of two children in a DOE elementary school, I sincerely appreciate her dedication to public schools. I believe Judge Nakasone will be an outstanding addition to the ICA, and I support her confirmation wholeheartedly. Very truly yours, Daniel M. Gluck Honolulu, HI

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KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.*
Alan M. Goda*

John R. Aube*
Charles W. Gall*
Neal T. Gota
Clifford K. Higa*
Charles D. Hunter
Robert K. Ichikawa*
Christopher T. Kobayashi*
Jan M. L. Y. Kutsunai*
David M. Louie*
Nicholas R. Monlux
Jonathan S. Moore
Aaron R. Mun
Bruce A. Nakamura*

Kenneth M. Nakasone*
Gregory M. Sato*
Jesse W. Schiel*
Craig K. Shikuma*
Lex R. Smith*
Joseph A. Stewart*
Anthony F. Suetsugu
David B. Tongg*
Maria Y. Wang

*A Law Corporation

Of Counsel:
Kenneth Y. Sugita*
Wendell H. Fuji*
Jonathan A. Kobayashi
Burt T. Lau*
John F. Lezak*
Larry L. Myers*

Christine M. Hanzawa
Travis Y. Kuwahara
Chelsea C. Maja
Brian D. Tongg
Caycie K. G. Wong

September 29, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM1 Nomination of Karen T. Nakasone as Associate Justice, Hawaii
Intermediate Court of Appeals – STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Keohokalole:

I submit this testimony in strong support of Karen T. Nakasone for the position of Associate Justice, Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawaii.

I am the former Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, having served under Governor Neil Abercrombie. I have been a practicing lawyer for the past 42 years, since 1978. I have served as the President of the Hawaii State Bar Association, a Lawyer Representative for the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit, Vice Chair of the Hawaii Supreme Court Rule 19 Committed on Judicial Performance, Chair of the Aloha Tower Development Corporation, and in numerous Bench Bar Committees. I have appeared in court many, many times, both in Circuit Court and District Court. I have observed many judges and many lawyers.

I strongly recommend that you confirm Judge Nakasone for this position. I have known Judge Nakasone for approximately 15 years, professionally and socially. I have served on Bar Committees with Judge Nakasone. I have appeared before her in court. I have sat with Judge Nakasone on professional social occasions at dinners of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association on various occasions. I know her reputation and we have a number of mutual friends and acquaintances.

Judge Nakasone was an excellent criminal defense lawyer before going on the bench and has served with distinction as an outstanding Judge. First, she has superb intelligence and

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
September 29, 2020
Page 2

knowledge of the law, both substantively and procedurally. Second, Judge Nakasone has the temperament, demeanor and calmness needed to succeed as a judge. She is fair, well balanced and unfailingly polite. She is able to listen to all sides before making a decision in order to obtain all viewpoints and perspectives. She is dispassionate and analytical, but also understands the human dimensions of the cases that lawyers handle. She is empathic and able to understand the motivations and pressures that underlie the actions of people. Third, and perhaps most importantly, Judge Nakasone is a woman of high character and integrity. She believes that the law must be fair and justice must be done, based upon the facts and the law.

Judge Nakasone will be a tremendous asset to the Intermediate Court of Appeals and a credit to the Judiciary. She is hard working, diligent, and unflagging in her enthusiasm and passion to get the right answer and see that justice is done.

I strongly recommend Judge Nakasone for this position and highly recommend that you confirm her.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Louie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID M. LOUIE
for
KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA

September 28, 2020

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor of the State of Hawaii

Dear Governor Ige:

I am writing in support of Ms. Karen T. Nakasone who is being considered for the Intermediate Court of Appeals appointment.

Our families have been very close since the early 1970's. I have known her to be polite, diligent, and respectful of others. She also has positive demeanor and is capable of accomplishing the most difficult tasks with determination.

Today, I see her at the Kendo and Zen Dojo where she trains. Kendo is a traditional Japanese art-form of self-discipline through mastery of sword fighting. Students in Kendo develop courage, integrity, humility and respect through rigorous training. Early Japanese immigrants brought this significant culture to be perpetuated in Hawaii. Continuing the tradition, she is one of the most active leaders who transmit the art to our next generations. She is also a Zen practitioner. Zen vitalizes the spirit so that one can appropriately engage in the most difficult tasks. These are qualities necessary to be successful in such a demanding position as the appellate court judge.

My colleagues who are in the legal profession often comment on her leadership ability and outstanding integrity. I am very happy to support Ms. Karen Nakasone's appointment to the honorable position with the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,



Dick Y. Teshima, MPH, MT(ASCP)
Associate Professor & Chair
UH Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Medical Technology

2123 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Email: dick@hawaii.edu

September 28, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarret Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee On Judiciary

Re: *GM 1 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone.*

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate:

I am writing in strong support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone's nomination to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge.

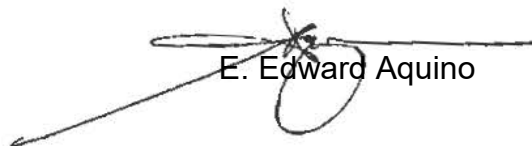
I first met Judge Nakasone when she was a law clerk for the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba at the Intermediate Court of Appeals and have come to know her really well while she was my colleague at the Office of the Public Defender.

Since her appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and assignment to the Criminal Calendar, I have appeared before Judge Nakasone in many significant and high profile cases.

Judge Nakasone has proven herself to be humble, honest, straightforward and a consummate professional. In judging cases that come before her, Judge Nakasone has demonstrated not only her impressive legal acumen and keen understanding of the law, but also her commitment to ensuring justice when confronted with very difficult legal issues arising from the cases.

I urge you to confirm her nomination to serve as Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,


E. Edward Aquino



Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC

*Alakea Corporate Tower
1100 Alakea Street 20th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

October 1, 2020
Rm. 016 at 1:00 p.m.

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara, Senior Partner,
Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC

Re: **GM1 Karen T. Nakasone—Strongly Supports**

I have specialized in civil rights and employment law as a plaintiff's attorney since 1986 with an experience in hundreds of federal and state court appearances, including the appellate courts. Like Judge Nakasone I also clerked for the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). During the years (1984-1986) I clerked for Judge Walter Heen, I learned what made not only a good appellate judge, but an outstanding one. In my humble opinion Judge Nakasone would definitely be one of the outstanding ones!

Why?

Besides her intimate knowledge of the ICA as a law clerk there, she has already sat as an appellate judge both at the ICA and the Hawai'i Supreme Court (29 times). Judge Nakasone also appeared before our appellate court for eight years as a Deputy Public Defender. As a trial judge for the past nine years she has learned how the appellate decisions affect both the civil and criminal litigants. She thus has extensive knowledge of the duties of an ICA judge from so many vantage viewpoints.

Moreover, Judge Nakasone has practical life experience, working for her family florist business for 19 years and being a wife and mother. With this background of knowing the problems of a small business to that of a working mom and wife, she will understand how her decisions affect the business community as well as workers.

In sum I cannot think of anyone more qualified to decide with her wisdom and experience the right principles and outcomes for our state.

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: Vested_interest_hi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:06:23 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/22/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Judge Karen Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Having met Judge Nakasone years ago and having had the opportunity to watch her in different professional situations, I can say that one of the attributes I most appreciate about her as a judge is her demeanor. I sincerely hope you will confirm her nomination.

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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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law

Eric K. Yamamoto
Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law

September 28, 2020

Judiciary Committee
Senate, Hawai`i State Legislature
Re: Letter in Support: Karen Nakasone, Intermediate Court of Appeals
(GM-1) Hearing: October 1, 2020

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to most strongly support Karen Nakasone's nomination to the position of Associate Judge with the Hawai`i Intermediate Court of Appeals. Judge Nakasone is an outstanding jurist. She is deeply knowledgeable about the law and legal process, analytically rigorous, even-handed and fair in her treatment of all she interacts with, firmly grounded in her judgments and committed to justice under the rule of law. Her extensive appellate and trial work with the Public Defenders Office and her outstanding performance as a Circuit Court judge (civil and criminal) make her eminently qualified for our Court of Appeals.

Although writing in my individual capacity, I am drawing upon my years as a civil litigator in Hawai`i and as a Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have known Judge Nakasone professionally for over 20 years. While she served as board-member and then board-president of the Japanese American Citizens League-Hawai`i, I represented the JACLH on a number of amicus brief on a wide range of cases of interest in Hawai`i and nationally. Working with the JACLH, I also authored several opinion-editorials on social-legal issues important to Hawai`i. Through those interactions, I found then-lawyer Nakasone to be an outstanding leader – clear in vision, analytically rigorous, balanced, open to all perspectives, genuinely concerned about justice for all, especially for those most vulnerable, and committed to the betterment of life in Hawai`i for all our communities. She inspired me and others.

As a result, I strongly supported her nomination to the Hawai`i courts. And Judge Nakasone's performance on the bench has even exceeded high expectations. As mentioned above, she has demonstrated an ideal blend of judicial temperament, intellectual capacity, breadth of experience and work ethic. Lawyers appearing before her speak of their deep respect for her. My former law student researchers who have clerked or externed with her comment on Judge Nakasone's tremendous capacity for grasping the big picture of what's going on in a case while also managing the nuts-and-bolts particulars of litigation (including lawyers, parties, witnesses, observers). And they uniformly regard her as both demanding and caring – an excellent teacher.

Tel: (808) 956-6548
Fax: (808) 956-5569
Email: ericy@hawaii.edu

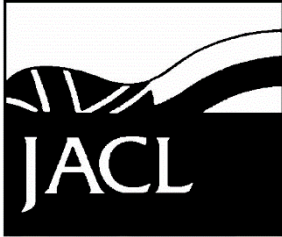
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96822
www.law.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Personally, Judge Nakasone inspires me both with her professionalism and her humanity. For all of these reasons, I believe she will be a truly outstanding appellate judge, for the judiciary and for Hawai'i's legal community.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Yamamoto
Fred T. Korematsu Professor Law and Social Justice
William S. Richardson School of Law
University of Hawai'i



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

EMAIL: honolulu@jacl.org WEBSITE: www.jaclhonolulu.org

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September 28, 2020

To: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Geoff J. Sogi, President
Japanese American Citizens League – Honolulu Chapter

Re: SUPPORT OF GM1 Intermediate Court of Appeals, Gubernatorial
Nominee, KAREN T. NAKASONE

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) – Honolulu Chapter strongly supports the nomination of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA).

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Locally, our organization works to protect the civil and human rights of all. This work includes advocating for Native Hawaiian self-determination, defending immigrant rights, and protecting migrant health care rights under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).

Judge Nakasone is a past president and director of the JACL-Honolulu Chapter. During her time as board president she provided balanced and strong leadership in addressing the complex civil rights issues facing our community. These skills, together with Judge Nakasone's extensive experience as a Deputy Public Defender and Circuit Court Judge, provides her with the unique ability to analyze legal issues from a variety of perspectives to ensure a just and equitable application of the law. JACL-Honolulu has the utmost confidence in her ability to serve effectively on and make significant contributions to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

For these reasons, JACL-Honolulu Chapter strongly supports the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone's nomination to the ICA and respectfully urges the Committee to approve her nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Geoff J. Sogi

Geoff J. Sogi
President



September 25, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Submitted via Capitol website

RE: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF KAREN T. NAKASONE
TO THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) is a nonprofit organization with approximately 300 members/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 citizen.

The percentage of women judges in Hawaii has never been truly representative of the community at large. HWL has been working with the Bar, the Judicial Selection Commission and the appointing authorities (Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and Governor David Ige) to educate and encourage women attorneys to consider applying for judicial positions. Significant strides have been made in the past several years, but HWL believes that more can be done to appoint qualified women to fill judicial vacancies to bring balance to the bench.

Consistent with these efforts to improve the diversity of our bench, HWL **supports** the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. Karen T. Nakasone's appointment will help to ensure that the number of women judges on the bench better represents the number of women in the legal profession and the community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit support on this nomination.

Very truly yours,

Hawaii Women Lawyers

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

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: jmikulanec@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:59:15 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Jacce Mikulanec	Individual	Support	No

Your 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.

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Date: 9/24/2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee **the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone** to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Judge Nakasone is one of the most intelligent and hardworking people I have had the opportunity of working with at the Public Defender's Office and more recently appearing in front of her as a Circuit Court Judge. Her writing and work product are superior because she has a keen legal mind and has demonstrated time and again her ability to analyze complicated legal issues and apply the law appropriately. She is always prepared, diligent, respectful, and goes above and beyond of what is expected of her as a First Circuit Court Judge. I know she will bring that same work ethic and temperament with her to the ICA.

In my personal opinion, Judge Nakasone has all of the credentials, experience, and wisdom to be an outstanding asset to the ICA.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Esser

Testimony of Jamie Miyasato
In STRONG SUPPORT of
GM1 Nominee KAREN T. NAKASONE to
The Intermediate Court of Appeals

Date: October 1, 2020

Dear Judiciary Chair Karl Rhoads and Committee Members:

I strongly support Judge Karen Nakasone's nomination to be an associate judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have been a court reporter at the First Circuit Court for 23 years and have known Judge Nakasone for over 40 years. Her humility, diligence, and intelligence make her an excellent choice for serving on the ICA.

When Judge Nakasone was a deputy public defender, she was always on time, well-prepared, and a zealous advocate to her clients. When she got appointed to the civil bench, she worked tirelessly to get up to speed with the complicated legal issues she was faced with. On the criminal bench, there is no harder working judge. Judge Nakasone is bright, well-prepared, fair, and able to exercise judicial restraint at all times.

Most importantly, Judge Nakasone is a good person. She is a dedicated wife and mother. She has great compassion for the community. She volunteers at the Okinawan Summer Camp for children. She also teaches karate to senior citizens. Her commitment to public service and her strong moral character make her the best qualified to be an appellate judge.

I believe Judge Nakasone's appointment to the ICA will be a great benefit to the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jamie Miyasato
Court Reporter
First Circuit Court

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: jamiyamagata@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 10:31:34 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/29/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Jamie Yamagata	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM1 Confirmation of KAREN T. NAKASONE to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee: I strongly support the confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. I was honored to serve as Judge Nakasone's judicial assistant, and was inspired by her work ethic, intelligence, integrity, and commitment to do what is fair and just. Judge Nakasone is dedicated to her family and she believes in service to the community. She was held in high regard by the attorneys who came through her court, and she treated her staff with respect and kindness. She is a strong leader with a good heart, and she would be a great asset to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support. Jamie Yamagata

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 27, 2020

RE: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN T. NAKASONE, for a term of 10 years - SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments in support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone, nominee for Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals (“ICA”).

I am an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii. Previously, I served as a judicial extern and later as a law clerk for Judge Nakasone when she was assigned to the civil calendar. Based on my personal experience and observations, I found her to be intelligent, fair & compassionate, hard-working, and dedicated to serving the people of Hawaii.

During my time with Judge Nakasone, she always worked diligently to prepare for her case-calendar, and sometimes even late into the evening. Again, I have personally witnessed the great level of thought and care she gives in preparing for her rulings, both oral and written. I am confident that she will continue to fulfill her responsibilities and duties to the highest level of standards at the ICA.

In addition to her first-class work ethic, her dedication to public service is something that stood out in my mind. Even with her busy work schedule and two young children (at the time), I recall that she still took time to organize and participate in various community events. She was a positive role model who inspired me to apply and serve on the Young Lawyers Division board. I hope future law students and young attorneys will have the same opportunity to work with her.

I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Judge Karen T. Nakasone to the ICA. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey Hu

Associate attorney
Yamamoto Kim LLP
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
jhu@yklp.net

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF KAREN T. NAKASONE
CONFIRMATION TO THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS AS ASSOCIATE JUDGE

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. I have known Karen for 27 years and in that time, I have only known her to be extremely diligent and hard working as well as a person of great integrity with a heart for service. Karen's strong moral character combined with her past experience as both a Deputy Public Defender and Circuit Court Judge makes me confident that she would be an excellent choice for Associate Judge at the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I first met Karen at the Boston University School of Law in 1993, when we were both law school students. It was readily apparent that Karen was very serious about her career in law. She was always prepared for class and studied extremely hard. She was also passionate about serving her community and took leadership positions in the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. Inspired by the character Atticus Finch, she aspired to be a public defender to ensure everyone had access to representation, upholding our Constitution and bettering our community. As a student one year behind her, I greatly admired her discipline, passion and how hard she worked.

True to form, Karen did not waiver from her values, and became a Deputy Public Defender after graduating law school. The diligence, hard work and integrity that Karen displayed in law school was also clearly evident during her time as a Deputy Public Defender and then later as a Circuit Court Judge. When she first joined the Circuit Court, she started as a Civil Trial Judge. Since most of her experience up to that point was in criminal law, she worked extra hard to make sure she was well-versed in civil law. I was very much in awe of the tremendous amount of preparation that Karen undertook to get ready for each day on the bench. Her top priority was ensuring that she was serving the people in Hawaii to the best of her ability.

Karen has always been involved in serving the community in some way and cares deeply about Hawaii. Whether through her service at the JACL, school organizations or many professional organizations, she is always working to ensure the well-being of Hawaii and its people. She grew up in Hawaii and is now raising her children in Hawaii and is vested in Hawaii's future. She will always do her best to uphold the laws and State Constitution of Hawaii.

Hawaii would benefit greatly with Karen T. Nakasone serving as an Associate Judge at the Intermediate Court of Appeals. From her time as a law student to her current role as a Circuit Court Judge, Karen's diligence, integrity and care for her community has remained constant and undeniable. Her deep bench of knowledge and strong foundation of past judicial experience also ensure that she is more than capable of being an effective Associate Judge. It is for these reasons that I wholeheartedly support her confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.



Joni Orimoto

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary
Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads
Vice-Chair, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole

Hearing: On Thursday, October 1, 2020, in Conference Room 016, State Capitol
On GM1, for consideration and confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as
Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone, for a term of 10 years

Submitted by: Josephine L. Chang, on September 28, 2020

Position: In support of the appointment of Karen T. Nakasone, as Associate Judge, in the
Intermediate Court of Appeals

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am Josephine L. Chang, testifying in favor of GM1, that this Committee confirm the Governor's nomination of Judge Karen T. Nakasone as Associate Judge to the Intermediate Court of Appeals of Hawaii (ICA).

I have known Judge Nakasone for over 25 years as a colleague and as a friend, and found her to be consistently a person of outstanding character, honest and unfailingly ethical, deeply responsible, and of the highest integrity. She is warm, caring, and supportive to her friends, and a loving and involved family person, as a parent, daughter and grand-daughter. Additionally, she is committed to doing her best in service to the Judiciary, and in the public interest.

In my view, there is no doubt that Judge Nakasone is highly qualified to serve as a Judge for the ICA with her excellent legal abilities and body of experience in trial work, as a lower court judge, and in appellate work from the perspective of representing the accused to the higher courts as a public defender and also in her earliest days in serving as a law clerk at the ICA, that provided an opportunity to gain direct insights into the demands on an ICA judge, including the administrative duties and challenges, the process of rigorously and timely considering cases on appeal to the ICA, and the need to work collegially with other ICA judges in the deliberational process of appellate courts.

Judge Nakasone would also bring with her a work ethic and judicial temperament that will serve her and the court well. She is a very hard worker with great capacity for legal research and parsing of issues and factual information, and works well with others with patience, respect, calm and tact, with a quiet confidence in her conclusions.

I believe the Judiciary, the ICA, and Hawaii is fortunate that Judge Nakasone is willing to commit herself to service as an ICA Judge.

I strongly recommend Judge Karen T. Nakasone to all of you and strongly support her confirmation to the ICA.

Respectfully,

Josephine L. Chang, JD
Retired Attorney-at-Law
Ph. (808) 383-2111

Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

P.O. Box 240344
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824
Email: jkmhlaw@aol.com

September 27, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone

Hearing: Thursday, October, 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone as Associate Judge of the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I am currently a staff attorney with the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board. I submit this letter of support as an individual and not in any official capacity. I previously served as a part-time member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority and as an attorney in private practice. The focus of my legal work for over twenty-five years, both in private practice and with the Office of the Public Defender, has been appellate litigation.

I have known Karen Nakasone since 1996 when she began working with the Office of the Public Defender. At that time, I was a senior staff attorney in the appellate division of the office. We worked together for ten years and became good friends. Based on my knowledge of and familiarity with Karen's professional development, abilities and character, I believe that Karen possesses all of the key attributes which will make her an excellent appellate court judge.

Re: Judicial Nominee Karen T. Nakasone
Page two

During our years as Deputy Public Defenders, I had the opportunity to read a number of Karen's appellate briefs and was always impressed with her legal research and writing talent. She was thorough in her analysis and preparation of her cases, consistently met her deadlines, and provided the highest quality of representation for her clients.

As a trial and appellate attorney and currently as a Circuit Court judge, Karen has the ideal combination of expertise in both civil and criminal law which will enable her to adjudicate the complex legal issues facing appellate court judges.

In addition to her legal abilities and accomplishments, Karen has contributed her time and leadership to a number of community and legal organizations. She is a wonderful mentor to our youth and understands the importance of "giving back" to her community.

On a personal level, I have always known Karen to be a truly compassionate, fair and even-tempered person. She is collegial and well-liked by her peers. Karen treats everyone with respect and holds herself to the highest ethical standards.

I have the utmost confidence that Karen has the moral character and intellectual strength to serve the appellate court with honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Joyce Matsumori-Hoshijo
Attorney at Law

STARN • O'TOOLE • MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

September 29, 2020

Via Fax: (808)586-6031

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate and
Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Appointment of Judge Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of
Appeals

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I strongly support Judge Karen Nakasone's nomination to the ICA because of her exceptional legal analytical and writing skills, compassion, devotion to fairness, and her unimpeachable integrity.

I apologize for the brief letter as I am in the middle of a trial.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Judith Ann Pavey

JP:ffp

LAW OFFICE OF LEIGHTON K. LEE

222 Merchant Street, Suite 201, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808.531-3244 • Fax: 855.645.1286
leighton@hawaiiilaw.org

September 28, 2020

Senate Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Members
State of Hawai'i

Re: Testimony in Support of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone, Judge

Chairperson Rhoads and Members:

I have been practicing law for 39 years. The emphasis of my practice is litigation. My personal experience includes hearings and trials in Administrative Agencies to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have presented argument to Judge Nakasone on multiple matters. In comparison to all of the decision makers I have engaged with, in terms of excellence, Judge Karen T. Nakasone is in the upper 1%.

Excellence is defined as integrity, intelligence, humbleness, and temperament.

Judge Nakasone's integrity is more than simply being honest. It means that every party before her will get their day in court. Status, wealth, or influence was irrelevant. She ruled on the case before her.

Judge Nakasone's intelligence is more than the gift of being smart. It is apparent that she works hard at knowing and understanding the laws and facts of each case.

Judge Nakasone is humble. She is humble in terms of her willingness to hold justice above ego. If she was in error, she corrected what needed to be corrected to promote justice.

Judge Nakasone has a calm assertive temperament. It is readily apparent to all persons in her Courtroom, that she is in control of the situation. This environment is created without theatrics, demeaning remarks, or excessive mannerisms.

Her qualities are not the norm. She is a judge's judge. It would be incredibly fortunate to have Judge Karen T. Nakasone sit as an Associate Judge on the

Senate Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Members
September 28, 2020
Page 2 of 2

Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawai`i. The State of Hawai`i will be the beneficiary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two overlapping loops followed by a short horizontal stroke.

Leighton K. Lee

September 29, 2020

To: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Liann Ebesugawa

Re: STRONG SUPPORT OF GM1 Intermediate Court of Appeals, Gubernatorial
Nominee, KAREN T. NAKASONE

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of Karen T. Nakasone's nomination to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Karen is an exceptional person. I have known her well for over twelve years and throughout that time, my respect and admiration for her has continually grown. We were in a year-long leadership program together, we served on two community boards prior to her Circuit Court judicial appointment and have remained friends over the years. I have always found her to be honest, trustworthy, and direct but always respectful of others. As a board member she was thoughtful and persuasive but always open-minded.

She is a true public servant and one that uses her abilities to do the best for our community. Her life is a commitment to others. She was a long-time public defender and is now a Circuit Court judge. Her service to her community is ever present in her life. Although her judicial work prohibited her from the non-profit community work that she was so active in prior to her appointment, she continually finds ways to serve others in her personal time. She was extremely active in her daughters' public school parent teacher association and now that they are in high school she is the Vice President of the school's music booster club. I am continually impressed by her drive to improve our community and her dedicated service.

I urge your appointment of Karen Nakasone's nomination. Her presence on the bench is and would continue to be a true asset to this State. She brings credibility to the bench and bar, and for me, a true sense of fairness to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

Liann Ebesugawa

Committee of Judiciary - Regarding GM1

Date: October 1, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 016

Testimony in SUPPORT of nomination of KAREN T. NAKASONE, for a 10-year term for the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge.

Date: September 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor and privilege to submit testimony in support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone for a 10-year term for the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge.

I have known Judge Nakasone for about a decade through her volunteer work with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) where she has been a lifelong member. She has shown exemplary character and trustworthiness but has never showed any favoritism towards our organization.

I understand that she has an accomplished legal career as a public defender and circuit court judge here in Hawaii. I am proud to offer my strong support for her nomination as an Associate Judge for the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Lynn Miyahira

NOMINATION OF KAREN NAKASONE
TO THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

I am submitting this testimony in support of the nomination of Judge Karen Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

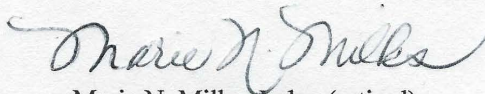
I first met Judge Nakasone when she was a Deputy Public Defender and have been impressed with her legal skills since that time. She was always prepared, was a fierce advocate for her clients, well-versed in the law, but most importantly, respectful to all opposing counsel and court staff.

When she was appointed to the Circuit Court and assigned to the Civil Division, many attorneys were concerned because her entire practice seemed to be solely criminal law. Well, they had nothing to worry about and, in fact, I did not hear any complaints from counsel when her name was mentioned as the judge who was handling any particular case.

There was a case for which I attended the motions hearing, because counsel indicated that it would give me an orientation to the matter. She was attentive, listened to all arguments and concisely issued her ruling.

There is nothing that causes me any hesitation in providing this letter. I am usually reluctant to submit testimony in support of a nominee. However, in Judge Nakasone's case, I am honored to speak on her behalf. She is imminently qualified and highly deserving of a position on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Thank you.



Marie N. Milks, Judge (retired)
September 28, 2020

Mark M. Murakami

Via: Senate Website
Senate Judiciary Committee
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hon. Karen Nakasone: Appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write to support the nomination of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone as an associate judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I first met Judge Nakasone in 1987 when she sat next to me in Honors history class at the University of Hawaii. We both moved on to different universities for the balance of our undergraduate studies. My impressions of her back then was that she was brilliantly smart, engaging, and committed to a better civic society for all.

After I was admitted to the bar in 1999, I had no dealings with her as an attorney, since her practice was criminal law. I did know that she had an outstanding reputation while at the Public Defender's Office.

I became reacquainted with her when she became a judge in 2011. She was assigned to the civil trial calendar. My first case with her was an eminent domain case involving the State's condemnation of land for a project on the Pali Highway. Eminent domain is not a widely practiced area of the law and it was a very contested lawsuit with complicated constitutional and due process issues. At every hearing, I found her to be more prepared than the litigants and she exhaustively reviewed every pleading, exhibit, and even every case cited in those pleadings. I was very impressed with her diligence.

Next, I appeared before her in a commercial real estate matter that was tried before a jury. The dispute was very heated and chaotic. To be clear, she did not rule for my client in most of the pre-trial motions. I found her to be fair, consistent, and thoughtful in every ruling. The trial was intense and frenetic, and I thought she did an amazing job to get the case through verdict. She was patient, yet decisive, and did a very good job with explaining the process to the jury.

Without reservation, she is a bright spot on the bench. She is smart, diligent, and committed to a fair justice system for all. I heartily encourage that she be confirmed by the Senate. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ Mark M. Murakami

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: msayama@communityfirsthawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 12:45:45 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/28/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Mike Sayama	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: It is with great pleasure that I recommend Karen Nakasone to you for the position of Associate Judge, Intermediate Court of Appeals. As her Zen teacher at Chozen-ji, I can attest to her sincerity, strength, and compassion. Karen has trained sincerely at Chozen-ji for several years, and despite the demands on her as a judge and mother of two young girls, practices Kendo and underwent sesshin, a six day live-in, intensive meditation retreat designed to make a person transcend their self-imposed limits. The hours of sitting in meditation are long; the time to sleep is short; and the concentration required in acts of daily living, particularly eating, is relentless. By definition then, in a good sesshin everyone reaches a point where they believe they cannot do it and want to give up. By the second day Karen had reached this point, but her background in the Japanese martial arts and her shame in facing her other teachers, made quitting impossible. She persevered, and in completing sesshin, found deeper sources of strength and inspiration. Another incident is illustrative of Karen's kindness. A plum tree at the temple was withering away. Karen's mother suggested that the dirt around the roots of the tree be replaced with new, fertile soil. Karen brought her two daughters to dig out the old dirt, put several bags of soil in, and build a cute circle around the tree with pieces of brick. The tree is thriving and even flowers in season. From my perspective, Karen is exceptional in the values, conscientiousness, and spiritual maturity she will bring to this position. Presiding over the courtroom, seeing the whole picture, judging from her heart according to the Aloha Spirit, and judging from her intellect with an intuition which transcends the dualism of rationality, Karen is the kind of judge who will help keep Hawaii the home that we love. Sincerely, Sayama Daian Abbot of Chozen-ji

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

Date: September 29, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street

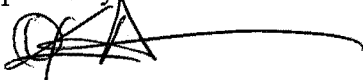
It is my privilege to write this testimony in support of the confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, The Honorable Judge Karen T. Nakasone. I worked with Judge Nakasone for approximately five (5) years while she served as a Deputy Public Defender (DPD) for the State Office of the Public Defender. As a DPD, I have appeared before her at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit for approximately four (4) years.

Judge Nakasone possesses an extensive knowledge of criminal and civil law. When I began my tenure at the State Public Defender's Office, she was already serving in the Appellate Division. She was a diligent and meticulous worker. She wrote countless appellate briefs and successfully argued many cases before the State Intermediate Court of Appeals and the State Supreme Court. As a new DPD in the Appellate Division, I sought assistance from her in writing appellate briefs. She freely shared her knowledge with me and many other attorneys in the office. She was one of the leaders of our office's weekly brainstorming session in which she helped attorneys brainstorm legal issues in preparing cases for jury trial. By the time I moved to the Family Court Division, she was giving me advice in preparing my cases for trial.

Appearing before her court, Judge Nakasone still displays the same diligence and attention to detail I witnessed from her at the State Public Defender's Office. She is thoughtful in her rulings and is not afraid to make tough decisions. She is fair and reasonable to all parties involved in a case. She shows compassion for defendants but holds them accountable for their actions when necessary. She treats everyone with dignity and respect regardless of background or status.

I strongly support the confirmation of The Honorable Judge Karen T. Nakasone as Associate Judge to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Her confirmation would be a positive reflection on the State of Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Respectfully



Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: prussotti@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:29:55 AM
Attachments: [nakasone.pdf](#)

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
philip Russotti	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I previously submitted a recommendation for Judge Nakasone when she was being considered for this position in 2017, which I attach above. I stand by everything I said then. She will make a superb addition to your court.

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

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION
417 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 / Fax: (808) 538-5205
JUDICIAL VACANCY REFERENCE FORM-1

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL:

1. Name of Applicant: **Honorable Karen T. Nakasone**
2. Your Name: **Philip Russotti, Esq.**
3. Please identify yourself by occupation, address and phone number.

**Attorney in New York City
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2750, New York, New York 10170
(212) 986-7353**

4. Does the Applicant possess specific legal or judicial skills that are noteworthy? For instance, does the Applicant have noteworthy skills as a mediator, arbitrator, writer, collaborator, leader or organizer of people, decision-maker, trainer, etc.; and if so, what are they?

Judge Nakasone's noteworthy skills are that of a decision maker, leader of people, and collaborator. Judge Nakasone demonstrated outstanding capacity as a leader in the way she exercised complete control over her courtroom and obtained cooperation of all her staff and the attorneys who appeared at the trial. She always demonstrated her leadership abilities in a pleasant yet serious, purposeful and professional manner. Please see attached.

5. What is your opinion of the Applicant's judicial temperament? In other words, what is your opinion of the Applicant's ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others; and to comport himself/herself appropriately, without losing his/her composure or equilibrium even under fire?

This was an extremely tense trial with 5 experienced attorneys participating who were capable of making life difficult for each other and the court at any given moment. Judge Nakasone controlled the attorneys and never raised her voice once. She firmly, yet fairly, dealt with everyone and was respectful to all. This was so, despite the fact that Judge Nakasone's patience was sorely tested. Please see attached.

6. What is your opinion of the Applicant's reputation in the community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity, and citizenship? If your personal opinion differs from the Applicant's reputation in the community, provide an explanation of why your opinion differs from the Applicant's general reputation.

Judge Nakasone's reputation in the community is above reproach in terms of honesty, integrity and character from conversations I had with other local attorneys while I was there.

7. Do you have any reason to believe that the Applicant has ever been charged for a violation and any other information which you may have on the matter?

No.

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION
417 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 / Fax: (808) 538-5205
JUDICIAL VACANCY REFERENCE FORM-1

8. Do you have knowledge of anything in the Applicant's background, professional skills, character, or personal qualities that would reflect adversely upon the Applicant's candidacy for judicial office? If yes, please give details.

No.

9. Please make any other comments about the Applicant that may assist the Commission in its evaluation.

I have been trying cases for over 40 years in New York State and Federal courts and I have not seen a harder working judge than Judge Nakasone. She insisted that the jury's time in the courtroom (from 8:30 or 9:00 until noon and from 1:30 to 4:00) not be delayed or taken up with legal argument or other matters. She made sure that anything that needed to be brought to her attention was done so before the jury was brought in or after they were discharged or during lunch. Please see attached.

10. How well do you know the applicant? In your answer, please state how you have come to know the Applicant over what period of time, and how frequently you have had contact with him/her over that period of time.

I appeared before her at arguments on Motions in Limine, pre-trial conferences and trial of the case *Ray v. Kapiolani Medical Center*, Civil Number 06-1-1150-06 (KTN). The trial lasted approximately 6 weeks and after the first week we were in court 5 days a week from 8:30 to 4:00 o'clock.

11. Are you related to the Applicant? If so, how?

No.

12. Please provide the name and address of one other person who may be able to give the Commission additional information concerning the applicant.

Name: **Allen Williams**

Title: **Partner**

Department/Office: **Trecker & Fritz**

Address/City/State/Zip Code:

**820 Mililani Street, Suite 701
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Your Signature: _____

October 20, 2017

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION
JUDICIAL VACANCY REFERENCE FORM-1

EVALUATION FORM:

Applicant name:

1. Which of the following best describes the basis for your evaluation of this candidate?

- Direct Professional Experience [Note: this is limited to direct contact with the applicant's professional work. This usually involves working with or opposing the candidate on a legal matter. (i.e., a case, arbitration, negotiation, etc.)]
 Professional Reputation Other Personal Contact Insufficient knowledge to evaluate this candidate

2. If you checked "Direct Professional Experience," which of the following best describes the amount of experience?

- Substantial and recent (within 5 years) Moderate and recent Limited

3. The Commission requests your absolute candor and fairness, and not necessarily your advocacy on behalf of the applicant. **The tendency to rate an applicant "excellent" or "poor" on every trait should be avoided** since each person has strengths and weaknesses. If you cannot rate the candidate on any one quality, you may leave it blank. Please rate the applicant/candidate on each of the following qualities that best represents your evaluation.

CATEGORIES:	1 - POOR	2 - DEFICIENT	3 - ACCEPTABLE	4 - GOOD	5 - EXCELLENT
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE/ LEGAL ABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> lacking in legal knowledge and/or effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/> below-average performance occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/> possesses sufficient legal knowledge and required skills	<input type="checkbox"/> above-average in legal knowledge and effectiveness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets your highest standards for knowledge and legal ability
INTEGRITY AND MORAL COURAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> unconcerned with propriety and/or appearance, or acts in violation of codes of professional conduct	<input type="checkbox"/> appears lacking in knowledge of codes of professional conduct and/or unconcerned with propriety or appearance at times	<input type="checkbox"/> follows codes of professional conduct, respects propriety and appearance of propriety at all times	<input type="checkbox"/> above-average in both; holds self to higher professional and ethical standards than most, makes courageous decisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outstanding integrity and highest standards of conduct; makes exceptionally courageous decisions in your experience
FAIRNESS	<input type="checkbox"/> often shows strong bias for or against some person or groups	<input type="checkbox"/> displays, verbally or otherwise, some bias for or against groups or persons	<input type="checkbox"/> free of substantial bias or prejudice towards groups or persons	<input type="checkbox"/> above-average ability to treat all persons and groups impartially	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outstanding fairness and impartiality to all groups
COMPASSION	<input type="checkbox"/> often lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	<input type="checkbox"/> sometimes lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	<input type="checkbox"/> possesses appropriate compassion, humility, and courtesy	<input type="checkbox"/> above-average compassion, humility, and courtesy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outstanding compassion, humility, and courtesy in your experience
DILIGENCE & DECISIVENESS	<input type="checkbox"/> does not meet deadlines and/or avoids decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/> occasionally misses deadlines and shies away from hard decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> consistently meets deadlines, makes decisions as necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> above-average, a self-starter on decision-making, sets and meets own deadlines, makes hard decisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outstanding in planning ahead, a proven leader of peers, makes excellent strategic case decisions, always diligent

Recommendation for Honorable Karen T. Nakasone

Attachment to Recommendation of Philip Russotti

Question 4

Judge Nakasone's noteworthy skills are that of a decision maker, leader of people, and collaborator. Judge Nakasone demonstrated outstanding capacity as a leader in the way she exercised complete control over her courtroom and obtained cooperation of all of her staff and the attorneys who appeared at the trial. She always demonstrated her leadership abilities in a pleasant yet serious, purposeful and professional manner.

She was an outstanding decision maker. The medical malpractice case I tried before her had many complicated medical and legal issues which were hotly contested, thoroughly briefed and argued. She gave all sides a fair opportunity to argue their position, she always asked pointed and relevant questions and rendered decisions timely to keep the trial moving. She always discussed with attorneys the priority of which issues needed to be decided when and she made the decisions on time. She did not hesitate to make difficult decisions and her explanations were always clear, precise and logical, even if I did not always agree with them. Every day during the trial decisions on evidentiary rulings were immediately required, which she made promptly and kept the trial moving.

She had excellent skills at bringing people together in a collaborative process to keep the trial moving. After the first week of trial, it became apparent that the time frame to complete the trial initially anticipated by the attorneys was not realistic. Judge Nakasone then researched the propriety of her imposing time limits on questioning of witnesses to guarantee that the trial would end on time and not unduly impose upon the jury by having them stay longer than advised. She brought the attorneys together to work out a mutually agreeable schedule for testimony of almost 20 witnesses, many of whom traveled from the mainland. She got the attorneys to cooperate to accommodate all of the witnesses schedules. It was a daily effort on her part to maintain the schedule and obtain cooperation between the attorneys, which she admirably accomplished. She lead the collaborative effort when she eliminated her Motion day and worked on the trial 5 days per week. She completed the 6 week trial exactly on time. I have not seen so much diligence, perseverance and respect for the jury by any other judge I have appeared before.

Question 5

This was an extremely tense trial with 5 experienced attorneys participating who were capable of making life difficult for each other and the court at any given moment. Judge Nakasone controlled the attorneys and never raised her voice once. She firmly, yet fairly, dealt with everyone and was respectful to all. This was so, despite the fact that Judge Nakasone's patience was sorely tested. On a number of occasions, an out-of-state attorney admitted pro hac vice, made comments that were in my view, designed solely to provoke the judge. One such example was at a bench conference when a ruling did not go his way and he threatened the judge that she was committing

reversible error and the case would be coming back. She did not back down, reprimanded him and continued without incident. Judge Nakasone never lost her composure and heated exchanges between the attorneys did not draw her in to reply in kind. She continued to deal with all the attorneys respectfully and forcefully while keeping control of the proceedings and moving the case along. This was made particularly difficult in this case because of the small courtroom and large number of attorneys. Even though the physical closeness added to the stress, it did not affect Judge Nakasone.

Although I did not agree with all of her decisions made during the trial, she always gave the attorneys an opportunity to make a record and state their salient points. In terms of fairness, she would even listen to reargument after she decided a motion if she believed there was reasonable grounds for reconsideration. On at least one occasion she reversed an important ruling after being presented with facts demonstrating that her rationale for her initial decision might not have been correct. She had an open mind about all issues and from my point of view, did not prejudge any issue she was presented.

Question 6

Judge Nakasone's reputation in the community is above reproach in terms of honesty, integrity and character from conversations I had with other local attorneys while I was there.

Question 7

No

Question 8

No

Question 9

I have been trying cases for over 39 years in New York State and Federal courts and I have not seen a harder working judge than Judge Nakasone. She insisted that the jury's time in the courtroom (from 8:30 or 9:00 until noon and from 1:30 to 4:00) not be delayed or taken up with legal argument or other matters. She made sure that anything that needed to be brought to her attention was done so before the jury was brought in or after they were discharged or during lunch. There were numerous motions made during trial, rulings on deposition testimony admissibility and complicated questions on evidentiary issues. She never had the jury wait while she read the party's submissions or researched the questions presented. She did all that on her own time and allowed the attorneys time to make their arguments before the jury came in and then rendered a decision. She had to have spent many hours every day reading motions, deposition transcripts and arguments on deposition designations and doing legal research before 8:30 or after 4:00 well into the evening. None of this interfered with the progression of the trial or receipt of evidence by the jury. She was truly remarkable. This was not something that I experienced in trying hundreds of cases.

5

She was extremely diligent and thorough in that if she did not know the answer to a legal question she would take the attorneys' submissions and do legal research on her own.

In terms of control of the trial, no trial lawyer could complain about the way the trial was conducted. Judge Nakasone allowed the attorneys to try their case and gave them reasonable leeway and latitude to cross examine a witness, but when a subject had been exhausted she stepped in to curtail questioning and moved the trial along. She did this for both sides and gave both sides latitude in questioning witnesses, while not letting the questioning get out of hand.

In terms of integrity and moral character, Judge Nakasone has no equal as evidenced by the following. This was a re-trial of a prior plaintiff's verdict. Before we began jury selection, she ordered mediation, which was unsuccessful. She then continued to attempt to settle the action. When it appeared that the representative of the insurance carrier did not have authority to settle consistent with Rule 12.1 of the Rules of the Circuit Court, she ordered the insurance company to produce a supervisor who had the authority. This person apparently reassured her that negotiations would be taken seriously and she recommended the parties continue to negotiate under her direction. However, it became obvious that good faith negotiations were not occurring. Judge Nakasone took the extraordinary step to order a hearing into the insurance carrier's conduct and then took the unprecedented step of sanctioning the insurance carrier because it had wasted the Court's and counsel's time. To stand up to one of the largest international insurance companies in the world in this context, took terrific courage and moral fortitude. I have not seen that by another judge. Her independence and integrity is outstanding.

In all honesty, I can say she is one of the top 3 judges I have ever appeared before and without sounding overblown, her combination of intelligence, judicial temperament, fairness, control, hard-working attitude, respect for the jury and the attorneys could very well rank her as number one.

I hasten to add that these comments merely amplify what I put on the record about her at the conclusion of the case. I attach a copy of the transcript to demonstrate that my opinion of Judge Nakasone was formed before I was asked to submit this recommendation. I understand she has an extensive background in legal analysis and writing as the head of appeals of the Legal Aid Society. In my view, the combination of her legal analytical acumen and her independence, integrity and capacity as a trial judge, renders her most qualified for a position on the Supreme Court.

Question 10

I appeared before her at arguments on Motions in Limine, pre-trial conferences and trial of the case *Ray vs. Kapiolani Medical Center*, Civil Number 06-1-1150-06 (KTN). The trial lasted approximately 6 weeks and after the first week we were in court 5 days a week from 8:30 to 4:00 o'clock.

1 please prepare this order.

2 MR. RUSSOTTI: We will, Your Honor.

3 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, your duties
4 in this case are now completed. Thank you very much for
5 all your attention, your time and your service in this
6 case. And you are now discharged.

7 You are not obligated to remain if you do not
8 wish to do so. However, if you do have a few minutes, I
9 would like to be able to thank you in person in the jury
10 deliberation room. I will also be able to answer any
11 general questions you might have about the judicial
12 system.

13 Additionally, besides myself, the attorneys may
14 wish to speak to you about your decision. If any of you
15 are willing to speak to them, they will be waiting outside
16 the courtroom after I have met with you.

17 Please be aware, however, that you are not
18 obligated to speak to anyone, not even me, and you are
19 free to leave after completing any paperwork with the
20 bailiff. And you are now discharged from your service.

21 On behalf of the Judiciary, Chief Justice Mark
22 Recktenwald, the parties and the attorneys, I thank you
23 very much for your service and your sacrifice these past
24 five weeks. All rise.

25 MR. ROBBINS: Your Honor, before the jury

1 leaves, on behalf of my client, Kapiolani Medical
2 Specialists, clearly the verdict is not exactly what we
3 were hoping for. But you certainly, ladies and gentlemen
4 of the jury, served the citizenry of the state very, very
5 well indeed. You listened carefully and I believe you
6 should all be very proud of the service that you performed
7 on behalf of our community. So thank you very, very much.

8 MR. RUSSOTTI: This is one of the few times
9 Mr. Robbins and I agree. Obviously it's not the verdict
10 we had hoped for either, but we appreciate your time and
11 effort in taking the time out of your lives, which we know
12 is not very easy to do, to come here and do this. It was
13 very important to the parties. On behalf of Alyssa, she
14 thanks you and we thank you very much as well.

15 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you, also, Judge Nakasone,
16 and your staff. You've been wonderful to work with.

17 And in all the cases I've ever tried here in
18 this state, I've never, ever seen coffee and pastries
19 provided for a jury during the trial. So this was a very
20 special experience for us all. Thank you again.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 (The following proceedings had outside the
23 presence of the jury:)

24 THE COURT: Back on record. The jury's not
25 present.

1 MR. RUSSOTTI: I wanted to say this, just to
2 echo Mr. Robbins' words or expand upon them. This month
3 is 39 years that I was admitted to practice law, started
4 practicing under Frank Hogan and tried my first case. And
5 I have to tell you, Judge, the experience of trying a case
6 before you was just fabulous. I mean, it -- and I'm
7 stating this for the record, if anybody were to look at
8 this. Your demeanor --

9 THE COURT: I think they may look at it.

10 MR. RUSSOTTI: Pardon me?

11 THE COURT: I think others may look at this
12 record.

13 MR. RUSSOTTI: Well, then they should know that
14 you are one of the hardest working judges I have ever
15 appeared before. Fairest. I didn't agree with many of
16 your rulings, but honestly, fairest. Your judicial
17 demeanor was amazing. It was very tense. There were a
18 lot of people involved here. You never lost your cool.
19 You kept control of the courtroom. And from an attorney's
20 point of view, you let us try our case the way we thought
21 the case -- we wanted to try it. But yet you kept
22 control. You never lost control of the courtroom, you
23 never lost control of the people. You kept control; you
24 kept us in line. You moved -- the case moved. I just
25 can't say enough.

1 Again, I don't agree with everything you did.
2 But in balance, I really can't say enough. It was a
3 terrific experience. It really was. You're really a
4 credit to this Judiciary, Judge.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: And on behalf of local counsel
6 for the plaintiffs in this case, and I share this with
7 Mr. Russotti, there are a few judges that we have on our
8 bench -- win, lose or draw, whether you like the decision
9 or you don't like the decision that is made, I walked out
10 of here every day telling Mr. and Mrs. Ray and telling
11 Mr. Russotti that the decision was a considered one. And
12 we all felt that the Court, you, Judge Nakasone, spent the
13 time and you -- you exercised your judicial wisdom
14 appropriately. And we want to thank you on behalf of the
15 state.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 MR. ROBBINS: I agree wholeheartedly with what
18 Mr. Russotti and Mr. Williams have just said. And for
19 someone who wasn't even born when I graduated from law
20 school, which of course you kept reminding me before the
21 trial started, you did bring an enormous amount of wisdom
22 and cool to these proceedings. And I think that you are a
23 superb addition to the bench and to the Judiciary. So
24 thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Thank you all for the extremely

1 high level of lawyering and briefing and advocacy. I
2 really appreciate that. And despite all the stuff you
3 folks papered me with, I learned --

4 MR. RUSSOTTI: We didn't paper you. They
5 papered you.

6 THE COURT: I learned a tremendous amount, and
7 I appreciate just the superior quality of lawyering and
8 briefing and everything -- the professionalism that you
9 folks brought to this trial. So thank you.

10 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you.

11 MR. MEYER: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 (End of proceedings.)

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1 STATE OF HAWAII)
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 3 CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU)
)
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7

8 I, JAMIE S. MIYASATO, an Official Court
 9 Reporter for the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii, do
 10 hereby certify that the foregoing comprises a full, true,
 11 and correct transcription of my stenographic notes taken
 12 in the above-entitled matter, so transcribed by me to the
 13 best of my ability.

14 Dated this 20th day of March 2013.

15
16
17

/s/ Jamie S. Miyasato

18
19
20

 JAMIE S. MIYASATO

21
22
23
24

25 ray/032013

HP LaserJet 400 MFP M425dn

Fax Confirmation

Oct-20-2017 03:33

Job	Date	Time	Type	Identification	Duration	Pages	Result
1303	10/20/2017	03:26:23	Send	8085385205	6:36	14	OK

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite A-254
Honolulu, HI 96817

September 30, 2020

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai`i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Comments Regarding Gubernatorial Nominee Karen T. Nakasone to the
Hawai`i Intermediate Court of Appeals

Honorable Committee Members:

I write in wholehearted support of Karen T. Nakasone as a Judge on the Hawai`i Intermediate Court of Appeals. Karen joined the Public Defender's Office in 1996 after a judicial clerkship with now retired Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba (a known appellate taskmaster). After advancing through the misdemeanor and Felony sections, she moved back to the Appellate Section from 2004-2011. The Appellate Section consists of five senior appellate attorneys, including myself since 2003, so Karen and I worked closely with each other during those seven years. In 2011, she left the Public Defender's Office for her current Circuit Court judgeship. Since she of course could not immediately sit on criminal cases, she was assigned to the civil bench where she remained about two(?) years.

Karen is hardworking and extremely diligent, the classic overachiever. I was impressed when she told me she had been reading all newly-issued appellate cases, both civil and criminal, in the years leading up to her judgeship. That is a huge task, but I believe it helped her hit the ground running when she went to the civil bench. She has excellent legal research skills. She is also a practical problem solver. She is smart, creative, and can think out of the box.

Karen is quiet and a bit shy until you get to know her. She has a strong sense of morality and ethics, which would not be influenced by compassion or passion. Although I have not seen her in action in Circuit Court, I am certain that she has excellent judicial demeanor and treats all litigants who come before her with courtesy. I know that she has the skills and the intellect to move up to the next level.

Sincerely,

/s/Phyllis J. Hironaka
Phyllis J. Hironaka
Deputy Public Defender

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: ranishimura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 4:58:11 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/29/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Rhonda Nishimura	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I previously submitted supportive, highly favorable comments when Ms. Nakasone applied for previous judicial appointments. My comments remain unchanged, but to highlight: 1) I personally observed Ms. Nakasone when she first appeared in my court in the late 1990's, early 2000's arguing on behalf of her numerous clients and was impressed with her professional demeanor, knowledge of the law, and preciseness of her written and oral argument; 2) I again, had the opportunity and became reacquainted with Ms. Nakasone upon her appointment as a circuit court judge. Although the entirety of her employment focused on criminal law (Public Defender's Office) her assignment and concomitant success on the civil calendar, presiding over civil cases was remarkable. Even for those newly appointed judges with a background in civil practice, it is indeed a tough, challenging learning curve. However, Judge Nakasone tackled this assignment, the same way she tackled all tough, difficult assignments, with professional decorum, tenacity, and perseverance. She was also willing to reach out to her fellow judicial colleagues for their insight and advice, demonstrating a willingness to learn and listen. I wholly support Judge Nakasone's confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeal. She is also well-versed on the academic intricacies of appellate decisions, having herself argued appeals before the ICA and the HI Supreme Court for 8 years.

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

LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD E. WILSON, LLC

735 Bishop St., Ste. 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 545-1311
Facsimile: (808) 545-1388
Email: rewilson_law@yahoo.com

September 30, 2020

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Honorable Karen Nakasone

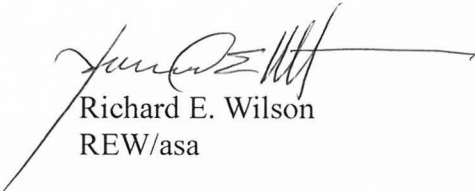
Dear Senator Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of Judge Karen Nakasone. I urged your Committee to vote in favor of her confirmation because, among other things, she has already established herself as a phenomenal jurist, with a keen mind, and absolute respect for the law. Karen has an incredible reputation as a judge and is an asset to the entire Judiciary. And I mean what I say – Karen is very respected by members of the Bar.

Many of my colleagues and I are particularly excited about Karen's move to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I know her well; I was a litigant in a 3 ½ week civil jury trial back in 2015. While the trial was complicated and contentious, Karen was the ultimate neutral; she was fair, knew the law and procedure better than anyone in the courtroom, and issued concise, timely, and well-written decisions. And yes, she ruled against me on many occasions. Yet, in hindsight, had I been in her shoes and not the advocate, I would have ruled precisely as she did. I cannot stress how important it is to have seasoned civil judges sitting on the ICA bench. In my experience all too often Appellate Judges lack the necessary real-world, courtroom experience. Karen has no such limitations; she is very smart, experienced, and seasoned.

I once again urge this Honorable Committee to vote in favor of confirming Karen Nakasone to sit as an Associate Justice on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Very truly yours,


Richard E. Wilson
REW/asa

September 30, 2020

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

This letter is written on behalf of Judge Karen Nakasone who has been nominated by Governor Ige to the position of a judge on the State of Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). As I have recounted before, I believe she is exceptionally well- suited to serve on the ICA as set forth herein, and would make a significant contribution to the operation of the court.

She is familiar with the nature of the work at the ICA. She served as a law clerk in my chambers from 1995 to 1996 at the ICA. As law clerk, her tasks were to perform legal research and to help draft court decisions. She was in daily consultation with me about the assignments made to her. The ICA is known as the "workhorse" of the judicial system since nearly all appeals are filed there. Thus, early in her career, she became familiar with the volume of work on that court, the necessity of deciding cases promptly, and the requirement of following Hawai'i precedent set down by the Hawai'i Supreme Court. She did an excellent job.

She is well versed in the appellate function. After leaving the ICA position, she was employed as a public defender and in that capacity did trial and appellate work. In her appellate assignment, Judge Nakasone briefed and argued appeals before the Hawai'i Supreme Court. As a member of that court, I reviewed her written briefs and questioned her at oral arguments. Her briefs were well researched, well written, and well-reasoned. In oral argument, she was respectful, articulate, and persuasive. Judge Nakasone earned a reputation of being well-prepared, trustworthy, and credible.

During her present term as a circuit court judge, I understand that thus far, she has served as a substitute judge on four ICA cases, and as a substitute justice on 25 supreme court cases.

Her skill, experience, and performance in appellate work indicate that she would "hit the ground running," and would easily step into the role of an ICA judge. Her familiarity with appellate rules, the operation of appellate courts, and the decision-making process of multi-member judicial panels uniquely qualifies her to make an immediate contribution to resolving appeals and reducing the caseload at the ICA.

She has accumulated experience in the criminal law and in the civil law that is crucial in reviewing cases that come up from the trial courts in appeals. Judge Nakasone would bring a wealth of experience to the ICA. Having presided as a trial judge in the circuit court over the past nine years, Judge Nakasone's background would make her a valuable contributor to the court's work.

In the community, she serves as a member of several boards, but has time to be a model mother and wife, even having time to serve as a parent leader at the public school her two daughters attend.

Judge Nakasone's values of diligence, humility, and responsibility are evident in all that she does, on and off the bench. These are core attributes desirable in persons entrusted with deciding private and public disputes for all in an evenhanded and independent way.

She has my highest recommendation for ICA judge. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Yours truly,

/s/ Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.

**TESTIMONY OF STEVEN H. LEVINSON BEFORE THE HAWAI`I SENATE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE GM1 –
CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KAREN T. NAKASONE
AS AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS
FOR A TERM OF TEN (10) YEARS**

September 28, 2020

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Steven H. Levinson, and I testify in strong **support** of the Hawai`i Senate's confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Karen T. Nakasone to the position of Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals for a ten-year term.

I have known Judge Nakasone since approximately 2004, when she first appeared in oral argument in the Hawai`i Supreme Court as a Deputy Public Defender representing convicted criminal defendants on appeal. She was a superb appellate advocate; her briefs were impeccably and persuasively written, and her oral arguments were well prepared, organized, cogent, and reasonable. She stood up admirably under questioning. I should know; I subjected her to some intense interrogation from time to time. As a result of these experiences, in some of which Judge Nakasone did not ultimately prevail, I came to value her intellect, integrity, thoroughness, respectful demeanor, assiduous adherence to the norms of appellate advocacy, and capacity to think on her feet.

I have followed Judge Nakasone's almost ten-year career as a First Circuit Court Judge, both in the Civil and Criminal Divisions. In my opinion, Judge Nakasone has exhibited all of the attributes expected of a judge, including a firm grasp of the law, fairness, impartiality, courtesy, respectfulness, and humility. In my view, Judge Nakasone will make a first-class and collegial member of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and I humbly urge her confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven H. Levinson
Associate Justice (Retired)
Hawai`i Supreme Court

From: [TANA CABANIERO](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Gubernatorial Nominee Karen T. Nakasone
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:13:00 PM

Date: September 29, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. I have known Karen professionally for approximately 25 years. I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and have worked on many cases with her as a trial lawyer in District, Family and Circuit Courts. I have also observed Karen as a Circuit Court judge. As a jurist, Karen is always professional, well-prepared, reasonable and friendly. She loves the law and applies it with courage, compassion and integrity. Her work experience, legal background, passion for the law and our community justify her nomination to the ICA. She is very qualified to preside over any case: civil, criminal, family, environmental or civil rights. She is well respected in the legal field and will always do what is best for our community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tana Kekina-Cabaniero

Taryn Tomasa
c/o 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 586-2235

September 30, 2020

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: JC1 Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge Nominee Karen T. Nakasone
Hearing: October 1, 2020, 1:00 PM

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have known Judge Nakasone professionally and personally for the past twenty years. It is without hesitation that I submit this letter in support of her nomination. I believe that Judge Nakasone possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this challenging and rigorous position demands.


Over the years, I have seen Judge Nakasone's dedication and skill as initially a practicing trial and appellate attorney and later as a judge in the circuit court. Throughout her time on the bench, she has consistently demonstrated a standard of excellence. Judge Nakasone is a consummate professional who has always exhibited professional and ethical conduct.

Judge Nakasone is well respected among the legal profession and throughout the broader community. She received professional accolades for her legal work, and she is also active with community groups and charitable organizations. Further, she is an active mother with twin teenage girls. With her skills, work ethic, and dedication, she truly is an inspiration.

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. This is especially true to serve on the Intermediate Court of Appeals which has a heavy and demanding case load. Based on my knowledge and experience with Ms. Nakasone, it is apparent that she has the skills and dedication to be an invaluable asset to the State of Hawaii on the appellate bench.

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

September 30, 2020

The Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Attention: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Re: Judge Karen K. Nakasone's ICA nomination

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I fully support Judge Karen Nakasone's confirmation to the ICA. I appeared as defense counsel in a trial before Judge Nakasone in Tscha v. Thornton, Civil No. 10-1-0175-01 KTN, aff'd, No. CAAP-12-0001097 (Hawai`i App. 11/24/15). I found Judge Nakasone's rulings to be consistently fair and well-reasoned. I was impressed by her demeanor, intelligence, and hard work, and could tell she did a lot of her own "after hours" legal research.

Judge Nakasone also authored the astute Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order that was upheld in Tojio v. Panozzo, Civil No. 13-1-898-07 KTN, aff'd, Nos. CAAP-15-000469 and CAAP-15-0000557 (Hawai`i App. 9/28/16); another case in which I was involved. Until she was assigned to criminal court, I had numerous hearings and conferences with Judge Nakasone and long considered her to be one of the best, most tireless circuit court judges.

Please call or email if you have any questions or require additional information (808-685-7171 or tt2710@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas Tsuchiyama
THOMAS TSUCHIYAMA

September 26, 2020

Hon. Karl Rhoads
Chairperson
Senate Judiciary Committee
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 1 KAREN T. NAKASONE

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of Judge Nakasone's judicial confirmation to the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I have known Judge Nakasone for over twenty years, having supervised her when she was at the Office of the Public Defender. I already knew then that this (appellate court) is where she belonged. Judge Nakasone is a student of the law, and will be an asset to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Judge Nakasone has a reputation for fair, measured, and intellectually sound decisions.

I urge you to confirm Judge Nakasone to the judicial position of Associate Judge of the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on her behalf.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Timothy E. Ho

September 28, 2020

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2020**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair**

**The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, HI 96813**

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing in support of confirming Karen T. Nakasone's appointment by Governor Ige to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge. Ms. Nakasone has served as a Judge in the First Circuit for the past nine years. Prior to that, she was a public defender with fifteen years of trial and appellate litigation experience. Her background as a public defender and then Judge, make her an excellent candidate for the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Judge Nakasone over the past five years. As the Executive Director of the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP), I worked closely with Judge Nakasone when she served as a Director on MCP's Board of Directors. I also served on an Access to Justice Commission committee with Judge Nakasone. In my experience working with her, I have found her to be extremely intelligent, thoughtful in all decision-making, and consistently calm when under pressure. All desirable qualities of an Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge. Judge Nakasone's commitment to community service combined with her sharp legal mind, make her a perfect candidate for the position of Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge.

I strongly encourage you to confirm Judge Nakasone's appointment

Sincerely,



Tracey S. Wiltgen, Esq.

September 30, 2020

RE: Nomination of Karen T. Nakasone as ICA Judge (GM1)

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I first met Judge Nakasone more than 25 years ago, when we were co-interns at the Attorney General's Office in Honolulu. She was always hard-working, professional, and a pleasure to be around. At the time, we were both law students. If I recall correctly, she was active then in an association for Americans of Japanese ancestry, an attestation to her civic-mindedness, even as a young adult.

After law school, Judge Nakasone eventually took a position as a Deputy Public Defender; and I took a position as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney on Kaua'i. From time to time, we handled cases against one another. She was always courteous, professional, and a very worth adversary, who in my recollection, advocated very effectively for her clients.

I have not followed her closely as a Circuit Court judge, as we reside on different islands. However, given my interactions with her over the years, I am confident she is an effective problem-solver and supervisor, with an excellent judicial temperament.

Today, I am still an appellate Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Most of my work is before the ICA, so, as you can imagine, it is very important to me who will fill the ICA vacancy. It is my pleasure to write in favor of Judge Nakasone's nomination to the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Tracy Murakami
Kaua'i
Licensed attorney since 1995

THE LAW OFFICE OF
WALTER J. RODBY

733 BISHOP STREET, MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2302
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE NO.: (808)545-5490

September 30, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads

Chair- Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: **Karen Nakasone &**
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Judge of the
Intermediate Court of Appeals for the State of Hawaii.

DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2020
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229- State
Capitol

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to express my complete support of **Karen Nakasone** and her nomination as Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals for the State of Hawaii.

I am certain that she will continue to be an asset to our judiciary, and the people of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,

WALTER J. RODBY

September 29, 2020

The Senate
The Thirtieth Legislature
Interim of 2020
Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: GM1, Written Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to
the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone

Senator Karl Rhoads,
and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole:

Let me begin by providing some background as to my familiarity
of Judge Nakasone.

I have known Judge Nakasone professionally for approximately
20 years beginning when she was a deputy public defender, State of Hawaii
and I, a deputy prosecuting attorney, City and County of Honolulu (retired).

Subsequent to Judge Nakasone's appointment to the first circuit
court bench, she was assigned to the criminal calendar in 2017. As a team
captain for a felony trials team, I was assigned to Judge Nakasone's
courtroom.

From 2017 until my retirement in December of 2019, I appeared
before Judge Nakasone several times a week for approximately three years.

I argued countless motions, substantive and procedural, as well
as having several high-profile jury trials before her.

During all my appearances before Judge Nakasone, she was
conscientious, always prepared, having read each party's pleadings, if any,
and having researched the relevant and pertinent case law.

Judge Nakasone's written findings were always supported by fact
and law. Although I may not have agreed with one or two of her decisions, I
respected them.

Judge Nakasone would be a good fit as an associate judge for the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at whtash69@gmail.com

Very truly yours,

/S/ WAYNE H. TASHIMA

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

William Chen, President
Roosevelt High School Music Boosters

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Support for GM1 Confirmation of Karen Nakasone to Intermediate Appeals Court as Associate Judge

The Roosevelt High School Music Boosters is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide fundraising and parent support for the school's music director, Gregg Abe, and all of his students. Mr. Abe has trained hundreds of students and performed at prestigious venues. In spring 2019 the Roosevelt symphonic band performed at Carnegie Hall and received the festival's highest award. I am serving my second year as Booster Board President and consider it a privilege to be involved with Mr. Abe and his students, a sentiment also shared by an exceptional fellow officer.

Karen Nakasone is currently our Booster Board Vice President. Her twin daughters and my twin sons are both currently 11th graders so we became involved with the music boosters together. In our kids' first year of high school, I volunteered to administer the website and email communications--Karen chose to listen and learn. As the school year progressed, she would ask questions to better understand the history of the organization, and follow up with specific solutions to improve a booster activity or event. High school booster clubs face continuity challenges, as parents exit the board in four years when their children graduate, so often old ideas need to be revitalized with fresh faces, and Karen would offer to spearhead these efforts by recruiting new booster board members, and putting together our first ever music program newsletter. Her patience, persistence, and her subtle-yet-effective persuasiveness have all been a benefit to the boosters.

This school year marks the second term for myself as President and Karen as Vice President. Although our booster plans have been considerably impacted by the COVID-19 changes to the school year, Karen and I are working with Mr. Abe to support the music program and begin to look ahead to a possible return of students in spring 2021 and our next school year.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony in support of Karen Nakasone's nomination to Intermediate Appeals Court as Associate Judge. She is a modest and selfless leader who is well-respected in our school community. She listens objectively and her contributions always bring about positive change. The Roosevelt High School Music Boosters is well positioned to achieve its goals with someone like Karen who firmly believes in public education and strong school communities as one of its leaders.

BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of
WILLIAM M. KANEKO, ESQ.
1001 Bishop Street Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GM1 Submitting the Nomination of
KAREN T. NAKASONE
to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawaii

Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bill Kaneko. I am a licensed attorney in the State of Hawaii. I am writing in SUPPORT of Karen T. Nakasone's nomination as Associate Judge for the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have known Karen for nearly twenty years in her career as an attorney, judge, and active member of the community.

I had the pleasure of first getting to know Karen in 2001 when she joined the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. The JACL is a national civil rights organization whose mission is to uphold human and civil rights. Karen quickly rose in leadership positions, serving as Chapter President from 2004 to 2006. She consistently stood up for the rights of minorities and the poor; advocated for the fair treatment of immigrants; and promoted gender equity in the workplace. Karen tirelessly served the Honolulu JACL Chapter with great dedication, humility and competence.

Since then, I have watched with admiration the development and refinement of Karen's legal career and profession. In her fifteen years at the Public Defender's office, Karen has ensured that the legal rights of those who cannot afford a private attorney were upheld. She litigated over 100 trials in district, circuit and family court, and represented hundreds of indigent clients before parole boards as well as the appellate courts. I was struck by Karen's strong, unwavering dedication for fairness and equality in society.

Currently, Karen is a Trial Judge for the First Circuit Court where she presides over both criminal and civil matters. During the past nine years on the bench, Karen has concluded over 2,300 cases on a wide range of legal and societal issues. She also was a Substitute Associate Judge for the Hawai'i Supreme Court, and Substitute Associate Judge for the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Having such extensive trial experience will no doubt provide Karen with keen insight and perspectives as an appellate Judge.

Karen's collective legal and life experiences, coupled with her values, sense of fairness, and judicial temperament, will enable her to serve well on the ICA. I urge your support for Karen Nakasone's appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: cmatsumoto@islandholdings.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 8:58:59 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Colbert Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I have known Karen over the course of almost 20 years from when we were both members and officers of the Honolulu Chapter of JACL. Since then I followed her career as an attorney and a judge and know that she has the knowledge, experience, temperament, and integrity to be an excellent appellate judge. More importantly she is very grounded and comes from a background that enables her to understand the common person on the street. That is a quality that is so important at the appellate level so that judges render decisions that are aligned with the values of the community they serve. I hope you will act favorably on her nomination and confirm her appointment.

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

**Trecker
Fritz &
Williams**

Attorneys At Law

Testimony in Support of Judge Karen Nakasone

Dear Senator Rhodes and Senate Judiciary Committee:

I heartily recommend Judge Karen Nakasone for Associate Justice of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawaii.

I have actively practiced law in Hawaii for almost 50 years. I have been a Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association and currently sit as a Director of the Hawaii State Bar Foundation. I am recognized by Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers in Hawaii and have been for many years.

I know Judge Nakasone essentially as a trial court judge. My partner and I tried a long, complex medical malpractice trial before her several years ago. She was one of the best trial court judges that I have ever appeared before. Judge Nakasone was extraordinarily fair to both sides. Her preparation was meticulous. Her legal judgment and knowledge was spot on. As important as any of these other outstanding qualities, Judge Nakasone listened carefully and obviously passionately cared about the law.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Collin M. (Marty) Fritz



CMF:



LATE

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: dvanacker@honolulu.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:32:07 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
David Van Acker	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I am writing in strong support of Karen T. Nakasone's nomination for judge with the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I work as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the City and County of Honolulu and have routinely appeared in front of her in Circuit Court of the First Circuit criminal proceedings. I appeared before Judge Nakasone for routine hearings, substantive motions, and a multiweek jury trial. In every single proceeding, Judge Nakasone displayed the highest levels of ethics, diligence, and professionalism. She routinely did legal research that went far beyond the pleadings, weighed the appropriate law, and made the appropriate rulings. It was an honor to appear before her and I am certain that she will make a tremendous addition to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Aloha, David Van Acker *** Please note, this testimony is being submitted in my personal capacity.

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

DEREK R. KOBAYASHI

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EMAIL: dkobayashi@schlackito.com

September 30, 2020

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 1, TESTIMONY *IN SUPPORT* OF
NOMINATION OF KAREN T. NAKASONE
Hearing: October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

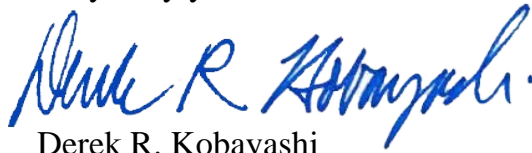
The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to express my *strong support* for the nomination of The Honorable Karen T. Nakasone to the position of Associate Judge, Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I have appeared before Judge Nakasone in several civil lawsuits and find her to be always well-prepared and knowledgeable about all matters pending before her. Judge Nakasone is of the highest integrity and works hard with the parties in resolving their cases. She has an excellent judicial temperament, is fair and kind, and always affords the parties the full opportunity to present their arguments. She has always appeared to be in good health.

Judge Nakasone will fulfill all of the responsibilities and duties of the position to which she has been nominated - Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I urge your Committee on Judiciary to recommend that the Senate advice and consent be given in support of her nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Very truly yours,



Derek R. Kobayashi

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of James S. Tabe,
State Public Defender**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

September 30, 2020

GM1: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen T. Nakasone, for a term of 10 years

Hearing: October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I fully support the confirmation of the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) as Associate Judge.

Judge Nakasone is extremely qualified. She has been presiding on the Circuit Court of the First Circuit since 2011. She has been assigned to both the civil trials division and the criminal trials division. When Judge Nakasone was first appointed to the first circuit court, the Chief Justice had no choice but to assign her to the civil trials division, as she would have had to recuse herself from many criminal cases since she arrived directly from the Office of the Public Defender. With limited experience in civil litigation, Judge Nakasone worked tirelessly educating herself in civil matters. Because of her strong work ethic, her intellect, and her ability to grasp complex legal issues, she soon became a well-respected judge in the civil litigation community.

I have known Judge Nakasone since 1996 when she joined the Office of the Public Defender and I had the opportunity to supervise and work closely with Judge Nakasone when she was assigned to the appellate division. When she joined the office, I was immediately impressed with not only her intellect but also with her work ethic and her commitment to and her compassion for the those in the community who needed the most help. Judge Nakasone’s contributions as an appellate attorney has led to several precedent-setting Hawai‘i Supreme Court cases.

Having filed countless of briefs in the appellate court and read numerous appellate opinions, I am somewhat familiar with the demands placed upon an appellate court judge/justice. An appellate judge must not only be intelligent, but he/she must also have the ability to articulate his/her opinion in a clear, thorough and thoughtful manner, as his/her opinion establishes precedent for courts and attorneys to follow. In addition, an appellate judge must have a passion for the law. Having worked with Judge Nakasone, I can say without reservation that she possesses such qualities, and if confirmed, will be an outstanding ICA associate judge.

Prior to my appointment as the State Public Defender, I was assigned to the Appellate Division of the Office of the Public Defender from 2000 to 2018, the last eight years as the supervising appellate attorney. As an attorney specializing in appellate work, I believe that the current composition of the ICA is unbalanced and not representative of the legal community, as the ICA lacks judges with a criminal law and procedure background. With Judge Alexa D.M. Fujise's retirement, the only ICA judge with any criminal law experience is Associate Judge Derrick Chan (a former deputy prosecuting attorney and deputy public defender). I truly believe the appointment of an associate judge with a criminal law/procedure background will truly benefit the ICA.

As long as I have known Judge Nakasone, she has practiced law with competence, zealously, compassion, integrity and humility. She has demonstrated that she possesses the ability, the experience and the qualities to be an appellate court judge. Judge Nakasone, if appointed to the ICA, will be an asset to the ICA. Therefore, I strongly urge that you select Judge Nakasone to fill the judicial vacancy in the ICA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

Sincerely,

James S. Tabe

LEIGHTON K. OSHIMA
DARLENE Y.F. ITOMURA

DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER, SUITE 301
841 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 538-0040
FACSIMILE: (808) 599-3620

October 1, 2020

Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 1 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS AS ASSOCIATE JUDGE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAREN T. NAKASONE

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I support the nomination of Judge Karen Nakasone to the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). I have known her for many years and know her dedication to public service from the Public Defender's office to the Judiciary.

While I have not appeared before her during her tenure as circuit court judge, I have heard compliments about her performance and was impressed because several were from civil practitioners which differed from Judge Nakasone's criminal law background.

When she was first nominated, Judge Nakasone told this committee she had prepared herself to become a jurist reading many, many appellate decisions in all areas of law to expand her knowledge and familiarity beyond the criminal law. Such effort and focus.

When she was sworn in, Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald commented Judge Nakasone was a constant volunteer bar examiner and graded the applicants over the weekend before her hearing before this committee for her confirmation as a circuit court judge. She was told to skip that year, rest, and devote more time for the most important day in her legal career. But being Karen, she declined and reported for duty. Such commitment and generosity.

The Judiciary and entire community will be well served by Judge Nakasone on the ICA. I strongly support her nomination and urge the Judiciary Committee's consent.

Thank you for your consideration. If anyone has any questions about Judge Nakasone's nomination and qualifications, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Oshima & Itomura

/s/ Leighton K. Oshima

Leighton K. Oshima

September 30, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

Re: Appointment of KAREN T. NAKASONE to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as Associate Judge

Dear Senators,

I have known the Honorable Karen T. Nakasone from my earliest time in Hawaii when I moved to Honolulu to attend law school in 1998. She practiced the art of Japanese fencing in the kendo dojo that I joined and provided welcome insight and guidance as I went through law school. I encountered Judge Nakasone again during my time clerking for the Honorable Karen S.S. Ahn in the Circuit Court. I had the opportunity to watch her working as a Deputy Public Defender, represent clients often in difficult circumstances. As a recent law school graduate I learned a great deal from the professional and capable yet compassionate and personable way she interacted with the Court, the prosecutors, her colleagues and clients. In watching her manage and present her cases during trials before the Court, I drew a great deal of inspiration on how to properly and professionally handle casework as an attorney.

Although our paths diverged for several years, I had the good fortune to renew my acquaintance with Judge Nakasone when she joined my current kendo dojo with her children. Even though she had taken time away from kendo to begin a family, she rejoined to allow her children to gain exposure to the important cultural tradition and to renew her own dedication to improvement in kendo. Even with all the responsibilities of handling her caseload as a Circuit Court judge and taking care of her two daughters, she still found time to help us manage dojo matters including organizing our Sensei's thoughts into a cohesive newsletter to help further educate our members, organizing dojo events, helping prepare members for tournaments and other kendo activities and communicating to the parents who's children participated in our practice. Her ability to return to the practice of kendo and continue to balance it with her dedication to the law and her family has been an inspiration that I draw from as I start my own family.

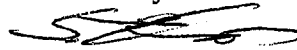
Most recently, I again encountered Judge Nakasone at the Chozenji temple doing zazen (seated meditation). The practice involves demanding physical and mental focus and Judge Nakasone approached these with a positive attitude, humility and willingness to improve herself even with the standing she achieved in the community. Through her

attitude and actions, she encouraged me to give my best attitude in my own efforts and continue to look to her as a role model from whom I can draw inspiration in the practice of law and being a positive member of the community.

Judge Nakasone's dedication to community and family, her high moral character and her natural ability to serve as a leader, role model and mentor who inspires those around her makes her a clear choice for the important position of associate judge on the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments. I strongly encourage you to give Judge Nakasone's credentials and character your most serious consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth R. Harris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seth R. Harris

Testimony of Susan L. Arnett
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

October 1, 2020

RE: GM1. NOMINATION OF KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE TO THE
INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone as a Judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

I have known Karen since she first came to the Public Defender's Office. I supervised her work and respected her as a colleague for many years. She has an outstanding work ethic. She is very organized, does not wait until the last minute and is never unprepared. In our felony section, she handled difficult cases and exhibited real empathy for her clients.

I was very sorry to lose her to our appellate section but she absolutely blossomed there. She read every criminal and civil appellate decision handed down by our courts. This gave her a special insight into the reasoning of our appellate judges that was particularly helpful to our trial deputies as they tried to frame issues for pre-trial and in limine motions as well as possible appeal. She was simply unmatched in her ability to analyze caselaw and understand its application to the nuts and bolts of cases in court.

I also worked with Karen on various issues in our community prior to her becoming a Circuit Court judge. It was her involvement as President of the Japanese-American Citizens League that encouraged me to join the League and eventually join Karen on the Board of Directors. She worked tirelessly to inform and educate our community in the area of civil rights with special attention to our unique history in Hawaii.

Karen has remained relentless in keeping informed of the latest caselaw. She retains a passion for the law and is fascinated to see how it is interpreted at both the state and federal level. As noted above, this interest has extended to keeping current on civil and criminal caselaw.

I believe Karen will be an outstanding member of the Intermediate Court of Appeals and recommend her wholeheartedly.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA

P.O. Box 61619, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839 • trishanakamura@gmail.com

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Date: September 30, 2020 Hrg: October 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
Re: GM 1; Strong Support for the Nomination of Karen T. Nakasone

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone for her nomination to the Intermediate Court of Appeals (“ICA”).¹ I have known Judge Nakasone since I was a young attorney before she became a Circuit Court Judge, first serving on the civil calendar. I have observed in her in different roles, notably as Judge at Circuit Court and mentor, which highlight her paramount qualifications to serve on the ICA.

SCHOLAR OF THE LAW

Judge Nakasone is a scholar of the law, driven by a deep respect and love for its important role in our democracy. At the Office of the Public Defender (“PDs”), she worked in the Appellate Section and actively read decisions, both civil and criminal, and stayed abreast in trends and changes to the law. Such dedication to the law make her well-suited for the ICA.

DILIGENT AND PREPARED TRIAL JUDGE

When I was a Deputy Public Defender, I made numerous appearances before Judge Nakasone. She was always prepared—from knowing what had happened at a prior trial call, to presiding over evidentiary hearings on various motions. Judge Nakasone demanded the best of the attorneys who appeared before and never shirked from doing the same.

THOUGHTFUL DECISION-MAKER

Judge Nakasone stayed true to what statutes required, what case law indicated, and what the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions provided for. I recall a hearing on restitution that was held while I was a Deputy Public Defender. The Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (“DPA”) failed to meet their burden; and Judge properly denied restitution. Such a ruling ensured that the law was upheld, my client’s rights were protected—and ultimately, that the DPA was better prepared to fight for the public interest, improving the justice system for us all. Judge Nakasone’s work as a civil and trial judge, as well as former trial attorney at the PDs will inform her ability to review transcripts and understand the nuances of trials which will be critical to the work of an ICA judge, where she will have to review countless civil and criminal proceedings with a keen eye to the rules of evidence, standards of review, and precedent.

STRONG LEADER AND TEACHER

Briefly, Judge Nakasone prior to being a judge served on the Board of the Japanese American Citizens League and tirelessly invested in young board members, including me. Additionally, I see the time and energy Judge invests in the law students she brings on as volunteers and hires as judicial law clerks. She is understanding and also sets high standards so that young attorneys can learn, hone their skills, and build strong foundations as practitioners. I anticipate she will continue this on the ICA, thus training the next generation of the Bar.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Judge Karen T. Nakasone as an Associate Judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

¹ This testimony is submitted in my personal capacity.



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

Karen T. Nakasone
Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals (GM1)

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

FROM: P. Gregory Frey
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.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 Karen T. Nakasone for the position of Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

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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Testimony of HSBA

GM1

Hearing on October 1, 2020

Page 2

- 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 to determine if the nominees is qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Judge Karen T. Nakasone on September 22, 2020 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 23rd, Judge Nakasone was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Nakasone 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 Nakasone 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

Karen T. Nakasone, nominee to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, served as a law clerk for the Honorable Simeon Acoba (ret) and thereafter was an attorney in the Office of the Public Defender is known for her sharp and thorough court room skills, and her concise and well-researched written documentation. Before leaving the Public Defender's Office, she was a senior attorney for the Appellate Division keeping abreast of all court decisions including civil cases sharing her knowledge with colleagues. She has served as a Circuit Court judge for the past 9 years assigned to various calendars.

As an experienced judge presiding over motions, trials and settlement conferences, Judge Nakasone has experience in all legal disciplines. She is known for her thoroughness, diligence, compassion, and respect for all who enter her court. Judge Nakasone's skills and ability to identify issues and nuances will be an asset as an Appellate Judge. She is known for her integrity and calm and even keeled demeanor as she presides.

Early in her legal career, Judge Nakasone was very active in the JACL as a pro bono attorney and worked on significant discrimination cases. She has served on the Access to Justice Commission, which supports programs and initiatives to assist the unrepresented and under-represented populations of our communities across the State. She is also active in the Okinawan community volunteering her services where needed.

Judge Nakasone's philosophy "the law is about people" will continue to serve the people of Hawaii well.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Judge Karen T. Nakasone to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

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