

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 Andrew T. Park for the District Court of the First Circuit. I have seen him develop from a newly licensed attorney into a reputable litigator. When we were both at the prosecutor's office, word quickly spread that he was a rising star. I was able to confirm that firsthand, as he progressed through District, Family, and Circuit Court rotations. He was poised and prepared as he sought justice on behalf of victims of crime and the community at large.

Andrew later transitioned to private practice. As a defense attorney, while he was on the other side of the law, his practice remained the same: poised and prepared. As I watched him counsel his clients, it was readily apparent that he genuinely took interest in them as he sought to help them navigate their way through the criminal justice system. Currently, while I do not appear in front of him when he is a per diem Family Court judge, I have heard only good things about him, and can only imagine that experience will prove he will be a worthy full time addition to the Judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Andrew T. Park. His legal ability, poise, work ethic, compassion, and experience will shine through as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adrian Dhakhwa
Adrian Dhakhwa

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: aphirakb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:22:48 PM

JC4

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Aphirak Bamrungruan	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: My name is Aphirak Bamrungruan and I am a licensed attorney in State of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of Andrew T. Park's appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Park for over 14 years since we were both students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have always known Mr. Park to be forthright and diligent. His positive attitude and current experience as a per diem judge at the District Court, First Circuit will be an asset to the judiciary branch and the people of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Park's 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.

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

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: bensrose@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:40:48 PM

JC4

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 writing in support of Andrew Park's nomination as a District Court Judge. As a deputy prosecutor, I have seen and gone up against Mr. Park in his capacity as a criminal defense attorney. As a former prosecutor himself, and now per diem Judge, Mr. Park has the experience to know all sides of the judicial process and would be an effective judge in weighing the consequences of his decisions for all involved. He is an excellent choice for the bench.

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 OFFICE OF BRIAN S. KIM

A Limited Liability Law Company

September 30, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC-DELIVERY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Karl Roads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokahole, Vice Chair
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for the Confirmation of Andrew T. Park to the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu)

Dear Chairman and Members:

Please accept this letter as my sincere request that you support Andrew T. Park's nomination for the position at the District Court of the First Circuit.

I had the great fortune of having Andrew as my law partner for close to a decade. Andrew possesses an extremely bright legal mind and hard work ethic. He works well with others and has consistently demonstrated the judicial integrity, character and temperament necessary for this position as a per diem Family Court Judge. We feel very fortunate for Andrew's nomination and sincerely hope that you will support him as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Brian S. Kim

Brian S. Kim
Attorney at law

PARK & KIM

A Limited Liability Law Company

September 30, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Karl Roads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokahole, Vice Chair

Honolulu, Hale

Honolulu, HI. 96813

Re: Support for the Confirmation of Andrew T. Park to the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu)

Dear Chairman and Members,

I am writing this letter as a request that you support Andrew T. Park's nomination for the position of Judge at the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Andrew for almost twelve years and have had the opportunity to see him operate in several capacities, as a prosecutor, defense lawyer and per diem Judge. As a prosecutor he was always fair, reasonable and ethical. While practicing as a defense attorney I found him to be patient, compassionate, and a powerful advocate for his clients. While sitting as a per diem Judge he was objective, learned, and practiced with Integrity. I believe that these experiences have shaped him and will enable him to be a Judge with the exact judicial temperament necessary to be effective on the bench. I sincerely hope that you support him in his nomination and thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Carmel A. Kwock

Carmel A. Kwock
Attorney at Law

Date: September 26, 2020

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

Re: JC4, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee, Andrew Tadashi Park

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of the nomination for Andrew Tadashi Park for District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I got to know Mr. Park during while I was a supervisor at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in the Traffic/Misdemeanor Division. On the occasions when I trained him, Mr. Park was eager to learn and always willing ask questions to make sure he understood what was expected of him. Over the years, I was able to watch him grow into a respectable and professional trial attorney before he left he office.

During the time that he worked at his private firm, I was able to have a few cases with Mr. Park as a defense attorney. He struck me as a zealous advocate for his clients, but also a person who was respectful to witnesses and victims during his cross-examinations. Mr. Park has also served as a per diem judge in the Family Court and has developed a reputation for being fair and well-liked there.

I have also had the fortune of getting to know Mr. Park on a personal level throughout the years. I believe that Mr. Park has the unique ability to relate to virtually everyone, making him a person that can gain the respect of anyone who encounters him, which I believe will help him immensely as a Family Court Judge. I believe Mr. Park is one of the best candidates for the District Family Court Judge position and I highly recommend the Senate confirming his nomination to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chastity T. Imamura', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chastity T. Imamura

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: crystalglendonlaw@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:48:17 AM

JC4

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:

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

From: [Dawn M. Ching](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: District Family Judge Nomination for Andrew T. Park
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 9:55:42 AM

Dear Senate Committee,

I am happy to have the opportunity to write this letter of support for the appointment of District Court Judge nominee, Andrew Park, who currently serves as a Family Court Per Diem Judge.

In my position as a Family Court and Circuit Court Clerk for 30 plus years, I have submitted a substantial number of letters of support for various judgeship nominees as well as judge retention(s). I'm selective in who I write in support of and believe that Judge Park is one of those who is absolutely deserving of this support.

I have known Judge Park and have had the honor of serving as one of his court clerks on the divorce calendar in Family Court since he came on board with us approximately two years ago. Although Judge Park is a relatively new Family Court Per Diem Judge, his knowledge of Family Law and his command of the courtroom appear to be that of a well-seasoned judge. Judge Park is always well-prepared; professional and courteous in the courtroom and has a genuine interest in assisting the families that come before him in finding resolution to their cases. Judge Park enters his decisions expeditiously and thoroughly. Judge Park is a committed Family Court Judge and very well-respected and liked by the staff in all divisions (Divorce, Juvenile, TRO/Paternity, etc.).

I believe Judge Park is a great asset to the Family Court and the community that we serve and fully support his appointment as a full-time District Family Judge.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Ching
Circuit Court Clerk, Family Court
(808)954-8051

From: [Neste, Katherine](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: JC2 District Court Judge Nominee Andrew T. Park. Hearing 10/1/20
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 12:26:09 PM

Dear Judiciary Chair Karl Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members:

This email is to express my support for the nomination of Andrew T. Park to the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I have personally known Andrew since entering the practice of law in 2008 and consider him a respected colleague and friend.

Andrew is extremely intelligent and has a calm and patient demeanor, which I believe would serve him well as a District Court judge. I have referred friends and family to Andrew for legal services and he has always been an outstanding advocate for his clients. I have witnessed Andrew's progression in the legal field and believe his criminal law expertise and experience as a Family Court per diem judge make him an exceptional candidate to fill the judicial vacancy at District Court.

If Andrew is selected to sit on the bench at District Court, I know that he will continue to exemplify integrity on the bench.

Thank you,
Katie

--

KATHERINE M. K. NESTE

Deputy Corporation Counsel
City and County of Honolulu
530 S. King Street, Room 110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 768-5298
Fax: (808) 768-5105
kneste@honolulu.gov

The information contained in this email is confidential and may also be attorney-client privileged and/or covered by a Joint Defense Privilege. This information is intended only for use by the individual to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender by return email or call (808) 768-5298, and delete this email, any attachments, and all copies. Internet and email communications cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, arrive late, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not assume liability for any errors or omissions in the context of this message which arise as a result of Internet or email transmission.

Katherine Y. Koga, Esq.
745 Fort Street, Suite 1550
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808-203-5414
kkoga@insurlawhawaii.com

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: J.C. No. 4
District Court of the First Circuit
Andrew T. Park

Dear Senators Rhoads and Keohokalole:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of my husband, Andrew T. Park, of his appointment by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald, to fill a vacancy at the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have the fortune and honor of supporting Andrew through his professional and personal endeavors. I am a 2008 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and currently practice insurance defense law focusing on workers' compensation law. As a law school classmate and former co-worker at the City & County of Honolulu, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I have seen the ease at which he digests and absorbs legal analysis and applies them in the case he handles. His successes at hearings and in trial, as well as in building relationships in the criminal law legal community, demonstrates his legal knowledge and skill set. This was only reinforced further after his transition to building his criminal defense practice. Working to provide quality defense legal services to those facing the possibility of criminal convictions permitted him to continue serving the community in a different manner.

What always impresses me is how Andrew continues to excel with each and every new opportunity and challenge he faces throughout his life. The amount of support he provided me after we became parents to our son in 2017 to enable me to return to work and continue to pursue my own legal career and professional goals while he maintains his own law practice was and continues to be tremendous. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed to serve The Judiciary, State of Hawaii, as a Per Diem Judge for the District Family Court of the First Circuit. He attended numerous weekends and countless hours to prepare him for this position all while spending quality time with our family and maintaining his legal practice. Andrew also serves as the Secretary on the Board of Directors for

Mental Health America of Hawaii where his understanding and appreciation of how mental health issues are interwoven in the Hawaii legal systems grew. His ability to effectively prioritize and carry out our various family, work, and other obligations will easily translate to him managing all aspects of the court system in which he would be involved if his appointment is confirmed.

Andrew is also caring toward people from all walks of life. He treats everyone with dignity and respect regardless of their role in the work in which he is involved and is passionate about pursuing justice for everyone. This outlook permitted him to connect with witnesses, jurors, clients, colleagues, members of the court, and community members in all stages of his legal career and as a parent. Andrew has the integrity, diligence, and compassion to serve The Judiciary with while upholding the law. These qualities are especially needed now at the District Court of the First Circuit where our community is struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is healthy and has the energy to perform the role of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit all while keeping in mind the limited economic and judicial resources in these unprecedented times. I humbly request that you find Andrew qualified for the position and recommend to the Senate to consent to the appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine Y. Koga".

Katherine Y. Koga

September 30, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC-DELIVERY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for the Confirmation of Andrew T. Park for the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Dear Chairman and Members:

Please accept this letter as my sincere and enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Andrew T. Park ("Andrew") for a judicial position with the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

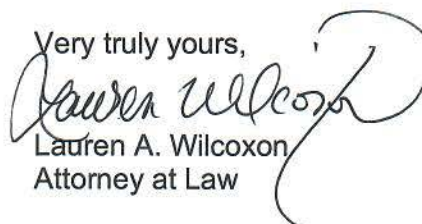
Over the past decade, I worked closely with Andrew - first as fellow deputy prosecuting attorneys, then as legal partners at Urbanc, Willard, Park, & Kim, LLLC, and Park and Kim, LLLC – and I am beyond certain that he possesses the aptitude, work ethic, and temperament for a full-time judicial position. Andrew's extensive legal knowledge combined with his incredible professionalism ranks him highly amongst the most respected attorneys in our field. Andrew loves the law and he is dedicated to acquiring new information and honing his skills. Moreover, Andrew's approachability and unique ability to relate to individuals from various backgrounds helps him to effectively communicate to all parties both within and outside of the courtroom.

Additionally, Andrew is so incredibly *sharp*. He possesses the unique ability to see a situation, read all the subtleties occurring between each of the players, and formulate a perfect (often witty) response – instantaneously! I am convinced that his clever skill along with his natural personability are significant factors that contribute to his successes both as a trial attorney as well as a per diem judge at Family Court.

However, aside from his intelligence and legal prowess, it is Andrew's extraordinary character that sets him apart. Andrew is one of the most dependable and genuinely thoughtful human beings I've ever known. His selflessness and compassion for others is consistently demonstrated through his actions. Whether he is helping a friend move furniture, volunteering as a mentor to young students, or stepping in as counsel to close out legal cases belonging to a close friend following an unexpected and untimely death, Andrew is always first to lend a hand without ever expecting anything in return. Andrew's kind heart and desire to do what is right is unmatched – he is exactly the person you want presiding over delicate, often complicated family court matters.

Andrew is exceptionally qualified and extremely deserving of this judicial position with the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I respectfully request that you confirm his appointment and grant him this opportunity to serve our community in this honorable capacity.

Very truly yours,



Lauren A. Wilcoxon
Attorney at Law

From: [Lori W. Tamanaha](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Judge Andrew Park Judicial Confirmation
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 8:11:46 AM

I have worked with Judge Andrew Park for 3 years now. As an attorney, he would come to Family Court for TRO cases here and there, and downstairs on the first floor for Waianae District Court. He was always respectful to staff, friendly; waving hi in passing and easy to talk to. He was also one of the few attorneys I can think of that actually waited for a copy of the court order issued.

As a per diem judge in the Family Court, I got the opportunity to work with him and get to know him more on the Special Division TRO calendar. He is very polite and professional with staff and in the courtroom setting with litigants. He is patient with litigants, even though they may be difficult. He demonstrates good control of his courtroom; not letting litigants go on and on about things that are irrelevant and bringing them back around to the issues at hand; and he does it in a very nice way. He stays calm. I have never witnessed him "stressed out" or "mad" as he maintains the same cool composure throughout his calendar. He is able to communicate effectively with litigants by switching up the words he uses to more simple terms and explains the meaning of different legal terms/words he does use so litigants understand. He has very good people skills. I find his rulings to be fair, and to date, have not seen litigants angry with his rulings as he explains his ruling to them. He treats everyone with respect and I believe the litigants can sense that also. He is also very willing to help others when possible. If his calendar is done early, he always checks to see if other courtrooms need help and he will take the time to review and sign off on our Ex Parte TROs. Judge Andrew Park will be an excellent addition to the Family Court Ohana and look forward to having him onboard full time. :)

Lori WS Tamanaha
Court Officer- TRO Unit
Adult Client Services Branch
Phone: 808-954-8096
Fax: 808-954-8102
Email: lori.w.tamanaha@courts.hawaii.gov

From: [Lynn Akagi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: In support of JC #4
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:58:13 AM

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support of Andrew Park, First Circuit District Court judicial candidate. Having appeared in front of Judge Park as a Per Diem Judge, he was always professional, prepared, and had a good judicial temperament. I believe he will be an asset to the judiciary if confirmed.

Kind Regards,

Lynn Kashiwabara

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Marissa Owens](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: JC4 Andrew Park, testimony in support of appointment
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:29:40 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to comment in support of the appointment of Andrew T. Park to the judicial bench. I have known Mr. Park since 2005, in a personal and professional capacity. I believe Mr. Park has the diversity of experience as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a per diem judge, that gives him a unique perspective and would make him an excellent judge. I believe he has an excellent temperament and has the ability to relate practically when dealing with people from all walks of life. He truly cares about the administration of justice and I think he would be a great asset to the judiciary and the community.

Sincerely,
Marissa Owens
Bar No. 9024

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
JC4
Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The District Family Court Of The First
Circuit, Judicial Nominee
ANDREW T. PARK
For A Term To Expire In Six Years

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Testifier: MEI NAKAMOTO

◇

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Other Members of the
Committee

I support the appointment of Andrew T. Park to the District Family Court of the First
Circuit.

Mr. Park and I were *per diem* judges at the Family Court of the First Circuit. As a result
of our overlapping tenures from mid-February 2019 to mid-February 2020, I had
occasions to observe and speak with him during trainings, and in the break room,
hallways and chambers on the fourth floor in Kapolei.

Mr. Park impressed me with his keen and concise observations, calm and rational
explanations, and firm but compassionate approach to handling people and cases. In
addition, not only was he knowledgeable about family law (despite not being known as a
family law attorney), but he also was humble enough to want to learn more.

His approach to problem-solving left me with a sense of confidence that cases and
people would be handled very well by this judge. Confirmation of Mr. Park as a District
Family Court Judge of the First Circuit will continue the legacy of fair, rational, and
compassionate judicial resolutions for the people of Hawai'i.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or if I can assist the Committee
in any way.

Sincerely,



Mei Nakamoto

mei.nakamoto@gmail.com
450 S. Cherry Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80246
(303) 728-4271

From: [Michelle K. Silva](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support of Andrew T. Park
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 5:08:46 PM

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

Thank you for allowing me to write a letter of support for the nomination of Andrew T. Park for the position of judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have worked for the Judiciary for the past 22 years and I am currently a Circuit Court Clerk at Family Court for the Honorable Dyan M. Medeiros. For the past 2.5 years, I have also clerked for Judge Andrew Park on the Paternity, TRO, Adoption and Guardianship calendars when he has filled in as a per diem judge. Judge Park is normally one of the first choices of per diem judges when one is needed to fill in at Family Court.

Judge Park is very professional to the court staff and treats everyone with respect. He is very well-prepared for his cases, very compassionate towards the parties, efficient, hardworking and solution oriented. His diligent work ethic, honesty, knowledge of the law, passion and willingness to help Family Court makes Judge Park highly qualified for the appointment.

I truly and wholeheartedly strongly support Judge Park's confirmation appointment as a District Court Judge. He will be a tremendous and great asset to the Judiciary and especially to Family Court. He will make the transition from being a Family Court per diem judge to full-time Family Court judge as smooth as possible during this Covid19 time.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Silva

Date: September 28, 2020

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

Re: JC4, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee, Andrew T. Park

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

It is my honor to write this testimony in support of the confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Andrew T. Park. I have known Mr. Park for over 10 years, having first met him while he was serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA) with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu.

While he served as a DPA, my interactions with him as opposing counsel, both in and out of court were pleasant. Mr. Park came to court prepared. He handled his cases with professionalism, with the goal of resolving them in a just and fair manner. He held defendants accountable and fought for the victims in his cases. Nonetheless, Mr. Park did not view defendants as the enemy. He did not see them as unredeemable. It is this ability to see the humanity in defendants that spoke to Mr. Park's character.

That same high level of dedication to preparation, professionalism, and compassion has carried over into his private practice as criminal defense attorney. As a defense attorney, he is a zealous advocate for his clients. He consistently demonstrates his knowledge of criminal law in the courtroom in his efforts to obtain a favorable outcome for his clients. He possesses a calm demeanor, which is indicative of good judicial temperament. In fact, when I am asked for private attorney referrals for traffic and criminal offenses, Mr. Park is one of the few attorneys I recommend because of his character, legal acumen, and interpersonal skills.

Again, I support the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, Andrew Park. From my personal experience, Mr. Park is a person of great character and integrity. If confirmed, Mr. Park would be a positive reflection of the Hawaii State Judiciary. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Okie' Amadi, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: lacuestapb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:28:59 AM

JC4

Submitted on: 9/23/2020

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
PAUL LACUESTA	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I would like to STRONGLY SUPPORT Andrew T. Park Judicial nomination. Thank you for your time. :-)

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

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

From: [Salina Kanai](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Andrew Park (JC4)
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 9:56:37 AM

I am writing in support of Andrew Park. I first met Mr. Park when he was practicing criminal defense in the federal courts, and I was working as an Assistant Federal Defender. However, I worked more closely with him at Family Court for the past three years, as we were both appointed as per diem judges at the same time. From my observations, Mr. Park is an excellent judge, well-prepared, and a quick study. His demeanor and temperament are even-handed and he treats litigants courteously and fairly. He handles well the emotional heaviness of Family Court cases with a balance of being both compassionate and following the law, which is not an easy thing to do.

I believe my observations are consistent with what Mr. Park's reputation is as a per diem judge as well, and I know that he is well-respected in Family Court, both by fellow judges and attorneys that appear before him.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

--

Salina M. Kanai
Attorney at Law
201 Merchant Street, Suite 2240
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-521-2300
hawaiiillegaldefense.com

From: traciekobayashi@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: JC4 - Testimony in strong support
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:54:16 PM

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Tracie Black and I am writing in strong support of judicial appointee Andrew T. Park. Andrew and I have known each other since 2005 when we met in law school. He is smart, funny, kind and loyal, and continues to be one of my closest and most trusted friends. He is a dedicated husband and father, and enjoys spending time with his family.

While I could always vouch for Andrew's character on a personal level, I am also able comment on his work as a judge as I have had direct experience with him in Family Court. As a former deputy attorney general for the Child Support Enforcement Agency, I have seen firsthand the emotions and chaos that run rampant in the Family Court. Andrew is calm and respectful towards parties and their attorneys, and takes the time to explain legal and procedural issues to parties that are not represented by counsel. I have seen this in person and heard similar reports from former co-workers and other family law attorneys. Although I did not have many occasions to appear directly before Andrew, my coworkers all had positive things to say about him. The most common praise communicated was that he was always prepared for the calendar, which means that he took the time to read the files (including the often extensive and complicated procedural histories of the cases) and relevant statutes/case law prior to hearings. I assisted in the courtroom during several paternity calendars, which can be long and hectic, and Andrew was professional, prepared, and never tried to rush us through the calendar.

Andrew has a wide array of legal experience and is comfortable communicating with people from all socio-economic and educational backgrounds. He is patient and able to explain legal concepts clearly (I know this because we studied for the bar together). He is never condescending. I have witnessed the positive change in him since he was appointed as a per diem judge – he is happiest when he is on the bench serving the community. I hope you will give him the opportunity to serve on a full-time basis.

Sincerely,

Tracie M.K. Black

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: **Andrew Park &**
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as District Family Court
Judge for the First Circuit, 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 **Andrew Park** and his nomination to Judge of the District / Family Court of the First Circuit.

I am certain that he will 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

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: jkane@insurlawhawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:27:10 PM

JC4

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
JOELLE KANE	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Members of the Judiciary Committee It is with high regard that I offer my support for Judicial Nominee, ANDREW T. PARK, to the District Court of the First Circuit. He is an experienced and seasoned litigator whose qualifications and work ethic are impressive. Andrew is a bright, highly skilled and diligent attorney who is able to anticipate, articulate and identify complicated issues, and formulate and execute thoughtful solutions. He has a contemplative and considerate nature and is very perceptive in his ability to read people and situations. He consistently exhibits professionalism and has a great deal of respect for all individuals, always viewing people first as equals, regardless of where they come from, what their background is, or what their political preference may be. Most importantly, Andrew is a person of tremendous integrity and high moral values. He is, in my humble opinion, an outstanding judicial candidate. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and urge you to recommend and confirm ANDREW T. PARK to the District Court of the First Circuit. Me ka ha'a ha'a, Joelle Kane Joelle Segawa Kane, Esq. GALLAGHER KANE AMAI & REYES Topa Financial Center 745 Fort Street, Suite 1550 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 Main line: (808) 531-2023 Direct dial: (808) 203-5413 Fax: (808) 531-2408 Email: jkane@insurlawhawaii.com

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

LATE

From: [Marc T. Harada](#)
To: [JDC Testimony](#)
Subject: Andrew Park Judiciary Confirmation
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020 8:20:30 AM

My name is Marc Harada, I am a social worker at Family court in Kapolei, working out of the temporary restraining order unit. I have known Judge Andrew Park for the last 3 years as he has been a Per Diem Judge here at family court from October 2017 to present. Through my direct professional working experience with Judge Park, I am highly recommending Judge Park to be confirmed as one of the Judicial nominees for a full time Judge position within the Hawaii State Judiciary.

Judge Park has met and/or exceeded all the expectations of a family court judge. He is highly intelligent, fair and brings great integrity to the bench. What impresses me the most about Judge Park, is his attention to detail and his vast knowledge of the law when dealing with difficult family court cases. Many times, family court cases bring out the worse in people, as these cases are filled with drama, abuse/violence, and lots of inappropriate behaviors by all parties involved. Judge Park has stood tall in maintaining order, fairness, and efficiency during these cases. Judge Park always comes prepared for cases, by knowing and understanding all the different facets of the case before him. He is able to make fair rulings based on the testimonies and exhibits presented to him, while also showing compassion and empathy for the parties involved. With his experience as a family court Per Diem judge, in my opinion, Judge Park would have an easy transition to the bench as a full time Judge and able to handle a variety cases with ease.

Judge Park's door is always open and ready to assist our unit at anytime. He has been able to answer our questions and assist with anything regarding restraining order issues. Judge Park is always so supportive of her staff and often times thanks us and shows great appreciation for the work that we do. Its so easy to give 110% to a Judge that appreciates your efforts and shows true dedication to his work. In my opinion, Judge Park is an asset to the the Judiciary not only as a well respected Judge, but also because of the comradely and willingness to work side by side with everyone. Once again, I strongly support the confirmation of Judge Andrew Park as a full time Judge. Thank you for your time.

Marc Harada
Family Court TRO Unit
P: 954-8093
marc.t.harada@courts.hawaii.gov

LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: J.C. 4; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, ANDREW T. PARK for a term to expire in 6 years.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, I am submitting the following testimony in strong support of J.C. 4.

I had the fortune to work with Andrew Park when I first began my legal career at the City and County of Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office. As a prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Park had epitomized the Department's mission, "To promote and ensure public safety and order through effective, efficient and just prosecution." His dedication and professionalism are unquestionable and unequalled. Mr. Park is exceptionally familiar with the myriad of criminal issues that will come before him as a District Court Judge, and will have the unique ability to see through the lens of a defense attorney and prosecutor when presiding over cases. Additionally, he has the unparalleled work ethic and dedication to learn and master the many civil issues that he may also encounter as a district court judge. All of this experience, combined with Mr. Park's legal knowledge and practical understanding of our courts and criminal justice system, will be of utmost value to the Judiciary and to the people of the State of Hawaii.

For all the forgoing reasons, I strongly support the confirmation of Andrew T, Park to the District Court of the First Circuit, pursuant to J.C. 4. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mark Tom

LATE

From: [Richard Stacey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:41:54 PM

Date: Wed, 30 Sep 2020 12:36:12 -1000

Subject: Testimony in Support of Andrew Park for District Court Judge position, First Circuit, JC4 Hearing before Judiciary Committee set for Oct. 1, 2020 Time 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I am writing today in strong support of Andrew Park, nominee for District Court Judge. I have known Andrew Park since he first arrived at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office in 2008. I was one of the supervisors for the new deputy prosecuting attorneys. Andrew came in first as an intern, and shortly after passing the bar exam, began his legal career as a deputy prosecutor. Andrew was always very diligent, intelligent, and willing to help out in any way possible. The volume in district court is quite heavy, requiring late nights and weekends of preparing for court, and Andrew was always up to the task. He quickly became a go-to DPA whom we could trust with special cases and difficult work. He has always been a quick study and can size up a situation immediately and efficiently. I know that he has continued to give of his time since he left the prosecutor's office, and also gained experience in district court. I am quite confident that the State of Hawaii and the legal system will be improved with a person like Andrew Park on the bench.

--

Mahalo,

Rich Stacey, bar no. 6419

LATE

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: trishanakamura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC4 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:14:26 PM

JC4

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Trisha Nakamura	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, I write in strong support of Andrew Park's selection as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. The District Court is the People's Court. Andrew's experiences as a per diem judge, private defense attorney, and former deputy prosecuting attorney position him well to oversee a busy calendar with the diverse people in our communities. When I was a new Deputy Public Defender, the work was fast-paced. I sometimes turned to other defense attorneys for help; Andrew was one of the attorneys who could be relied on to provide accurate and clear information. He was always helpful and responsive, answering questions without judgment. His patience and compassion for me are indications of his strong character and care--qualities important for the District Courts. Mahalo for your consideration.

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



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

Andrew T. Park
District Court Judge of the First Circuit (JC4)

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 Andrew T. Park for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

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

OFFICERS

P. Gregory Frey, President
Karin L. Holma, President-Elect
Levi Hookano, Vice-President
Russ S. Awakuni, Secretary
Paul W. Naso, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Steven J.T. Chow
Craig A. De Costa (Kauai)
Vladimir Devens
Jessica R. Domingo
William A. Harrison
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao
Carol S. Kitaoka (West Hawaii)
Erin M. Kobayashi
Jeen H. Kwak
Corianne W. Lau
Jacob K. Lowenthal (Maui)
Mark K. Murakami
Ralph J. O'Neill
Zale T. Okazaki

YLD PRESIDENT

Addison D. Bonner

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Derek R. Kobayashi

HSBA/ABA DELEGATE

Leslie A. Hayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu

Testimony of HSBA

JC4

Hearing on October 1, 2020

Page 2

- 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 Mr. Andrew T. Park on September 22, 2020 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 23rd, Mr. Park was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Park 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 Mr. Park 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

As a litigator with the Office of the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office and a private practitioner, Mr. Park currently serves as a per diem judge. It is reported that Mr. Park is ethical, honest, and straightforward with a strong sense of values. Opposing counsel report that when litigating against the Nominee, you know that the case resolution will come down to the law, the facts, case merits, and not to gamesmanship. It is reported that he is always on time, always in communication with opposing counsel and the court, and diligently prepared knowing the case and its history.

In addition, it is reported that the Nominee has a personality that lends itself to working with individuals of diverse backgrounds, and that he understands the importance of every part of the judicial system from the clerical staff to administrators to judges to facilitate the most efficient use of resources in these economic times. He is even-keeled and patient and always brings compassion and sensitivity to the table.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Park recognizes the importance of mental health and is actively involved with Mental Health America of Hawaii.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Mr. Andrew T. Park to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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