

September 21, 2022

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu HI 96813

*Aloha Senator Rhoads!
Thanks for your support
Melvia Kawashima's mom*

Re: Appointment of James S. Kawashima to the First Circuit Court, City and County of Honolulu, the State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Rhoads:

We write this in support of our son James Steven Kawashima's appointment to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii, as nominated by Governor David Ige for State Senate Consent. Jim has served honorably for the past six years, fulfilling his term at First District Court.

We are humbly assured that Jim's legal education and professional years of public and private practice of law has prepared him to advance in the Judiciary administration of justice that strengthen our country's rule of law. With respect for the responsibilities of governmental checks and balances, we believe Jim will continue to conduct his best bench practices in administering the law with fairness, equity, and compassion. Jim's mother's, Melvia, in testimony to the 2016 Senate Judiciary Committee in consideration of Jim's District Court appointment six years ago, shared this Old Testament verse that we try to live daily. Thank you for your consideration.

Do what the Lord requires of thee; do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8.

James and Melvia Kawashima

James and Melvia Kawashima
1015 Wilder Avenue #1005
Honolulu, HI 96822

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/10/2022 2:02:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerard I Silva | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: this person dose not belong Here We the People Oppose this Apointment!!!

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

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Gregory Y. P. Tom

Paul F. Cronin (Ret.)
David L. Fairbanks (Ret.)
Stuart A. Kaneko (Ret.)
Keith K. H. Young (Ret.)

October 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Ref: GM1

Hearing: October 17, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair, and
Members

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: GM1 - James S. Kawashima for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,
State of Hawaii - IN SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee Members,

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

I have known Mr. Kawashima for nearly thirty years. He has consistently impressed me with his intelligence, breadth of legal knowledge and experience in both civil and criminal matters, and calm and thoughtful demeanor. I have personally appeared before him in Court and he has always conducted himself with propriety and fairness, and demonstrated hard work, consideration, and careful thought in his decisions. He was also a consummate professional attorney who represented his clients with vigor and principle but always with the utmost civility. His personality and deportment are ideally suited for judicial office, where he will be the important interface between our judicial system and the public.

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 11, 2022
Page 2 of 2

I wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Kawashima possesses all of the necessary skills and characteristics to be an outstanding Circuit Judge, will continue to be an integral part of our esteemed Judiciary, and I can recommend his confirmation without reservation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of the confirmation of James S. Kawashima as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Geoffrey K. S. Komeya

GKSK:ant



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

James S. Kawashima
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM1)

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

FROM: Shannon S. Sheldon
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, October 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol

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

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

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; 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.

OFFICERS

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Leslie A. Hayashi

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Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu

- 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.
- 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 James Kawashima on October 7, 2022 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On October 11th, Judge Kawashima was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Kawashima 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 Kawashima in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

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

The task of the HSBA was to determine the qualifications and suitability of the Nominee utilizing in large part, the judicial appointments criteria of the American Bar Association. The criteria are not ranked in terms of importance as it is used universally to review the qualifications of appointees for trial and appellate positions. The determination of qualified or unqualified is based on a totality of the documentation received, member and reference comments, and the interview of the individual appointed.

James S. Kawashima has been a District Judge of the First Circuit since 2016 and is currently serving his second term having been retained by the Judicial Selection Commission. During Judge Kawashima's tenure on the Bench in addition to assigned Court calendars, this jurist conducted a training program with two of his colleagues on DUI trial practice and to meet judicial needs during the COVID pandemic, was a lead technology judge to facilitate the implementation of remote proceedings. He has also served as a Circuit Judge and a Per Diem Judge pursuant to order by the Chief Justice.

Judge Kawashima began his legal career in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu in 1992 and has also served in the Department of Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. He transitioned to private practice and gained experience in construction litigation, insurance defense, bankruptcy, commercial litigation, employment litigation, criminal defense, trust and probate litigation, and personal injury disputes. In addition to public service, Judge Kawashima worked in established law firms in California and Hawaii and was the sole proprietor of a law firm for close to 15 years. Judge Kawashima's resume includes private business experience as a corporate marketing and legal consultant, and Venture Capital principle. Judge Kawashima created an Excel-based performance analysis for SAT grading and developed SAT programs for college bound students.

HSBA colleagues commented that Judge Kawashima is a hard worker and is detailed oriented and dedicated to his work and has good control of his court calendar; is even tempered; and is very cognizant of being impartial and is very aware of the judge's role in proceedings.

After a review of all documentation submitted and the interview of the Nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Judge James Kawashima to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/13/2022 11:32:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Voltaire Gansit | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: I write in support of the nomination of James S. Kawashima to serve as Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

October 15, 2022

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

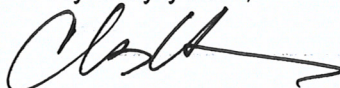
Re: GM 1 Consideration of Confirmation of James S. Kawashima to the
Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: Monday, October 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.
State Capital Conference Room 229

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in strong support of confirming current District Court Judge James S. Kawashima, to the Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. For as long as I have been a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association, I have known Mr. Kawashima to epitomize integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability, and judicial temperament. I have also known him to be a caring family person to his spouse and to his children. As such, I am confident that he will maintain the integrity of the Hawaii Judicial system if he is confirmed to the Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am honored and thankful for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clark Hirota', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Clark Hirota

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/15/2022 11:34:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lon Paresa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: I strongly support Mr. James Kawashima for the Circuit Court. Thank you.

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/15/2022 8:06:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Taryn Tomasa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: I am in strong support of Judge Ho's nomination to the district/family court bench.

Date: October 15, 2022

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 Circuit Court of the First Circuit,
Gubernatorial Nominee, James S. Kawashima

Hearing: Monday, October 17, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
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, Gubernatorial Nominee, James S. Kawashima. I had the privilege of appearing before him when he was temporarily assigned from District Court to the Circuit Court to fill a criminal court vacancy at First Circuit Court.

Judge Kawashima has already proven he can perform at the highest level as a Circuit Court judge. Rare is it that you find a criminal judge that is well-liked and respected by both the defense and prosecution. Rare is it that you find a criminal judge whose rulings do not tend to favor one side more often than the other. Judge Kawashima's rulings are fair and balanced. Judge Kawashima is clear and precise in his rulings. His rulings demonstrated his meticulous preparation for the cases argued before him. His rulings revealed his strong legal acumen. As an attorney, even though I may not have gotten the desired result for some of my cases, I left his courtroom feeling and knowing I and my clients had a fair opportunity to be heard and Judge Kawashima considered my arguments before making his decision.

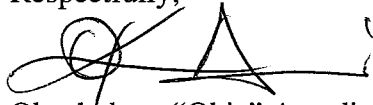
Judge Kawashima did not have an ego while presiding over the felony calendar for the Eighth (8th) Division of the First Circuit Court. He was kind, patient, and respectful to all who entered his courtroom. Even when defendants got angry, he met their anger with calmness, patience, and understanding. He can aptly defuse such situations. Judge Kawashima held defendants accountable for their conduct. He understands the meaning of justice, demonstrating the appropriate balance between punishment and mercy.

I am surprised he is not already serving as a Circuit Court judge given his competence and judicial temperament. During his temporary assignment to the Circuit Court, he proved he is more than capable of handling the rigors and responsibility of such a demanding service to our community. Our judicial system and our community are better served by having Judge Kawashima's expertise and experience at the Circuit Court level.

Again, I support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, James S. Kawashima. Judge Kawashima is a positive reflection of our judiciary. If you give Judge Kawashima this opportunity to serve as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, he will not disappoint you as evidenced by his outstanding track record as both a current District Court judge and while

serving as a Circuit Court judge on temporary assignment to the First Circuit Court. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony in support of Judge Kawashima's nomination and confirmation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Okechukwu Amadi', written over a horizontal line.

Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/16/2022 9:11:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aubrey M M Bento | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: Judge Kawashima is fully deserving of this position. I have had the pleasure of appearing before him in district court many times. Each interaction I have had with him has shown his strong commitment to justice. I fully support his nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/16/2022 10:26:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sheena Crail | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: I strongly support Mr. Kawashima's confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

GM-1

Submitted on: 10/16/2022 10:46:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crystal K. Glendon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments: I support Judge Kawashima's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

TOMMY WATERS
CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER
DISTRICT 4
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5004
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

LATE

October 17, 2022

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

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES S. KAWASHIMA, for a term to expire in 10 years.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Judicial Nominee James Kawashima's confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Kawashima for many years and have utmost confidence in his confirmation. Mr. Kawashima is of good character, fair and just, and compassionate. I believe his extensive experience in the legal profession will make him an asset to the Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Kawashima's confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Waters".

Councilmember Tommy Waters
District 4 (*Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhemina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park*)