

March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Shirley Kawamura's appointment to the Defender Council. I am fortunate to have worked with Ms. Kawamura when she was a public defender and more currently, as a civil defense attorney.

Ms. Kawamura is a very intelligent woman who is capable of litigating a case, no matter how complex. As a public defender, Ms. Kawamura came across as a trustworthy and passionate attorney that stood up for her client. More importantly, her client's believed in her and her ability to see them through their hardship.

To have Ms. Kawamura as a part of the Defender Council would not only benefit the community but her colleagues as well.

Very truly yours,

Cheryl Bourque

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlp.com)

CHUN & DECOURCY LLC

CARLTON W. T. CHUN, ESQ.

LEILANI A. DECOURCY, ESQ.

March 6, 2008

Via Facsimile: 586-6659

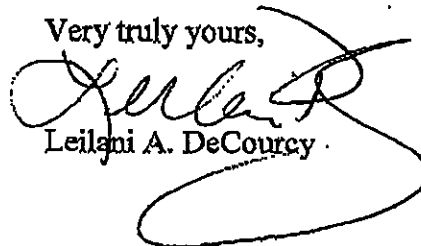
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I have known Shirley for nearly 18 years and can attest to her strong work ethic and belief in the Office of the Public Defender. While she is now employed in the private sector, Shirley's experience as a Public Defender certainly qualifies her to be a committed and contributing member of the Defender Council. I wholeheartedly support her appointment.

Very truly yours,



Leilani A. DeCourcy

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlip.com)

THE LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM M. DOMINGO

547 HALEKAUWILA STREET, SUITE 102
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March 5, 2008

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M Kawamura as a Defender Council Member
Hearing 3/7/2008 @10:00am

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I write this letter in strong support of Shirley Kawamura as a member of the Defender Counsel. I have known Ms. Kawamura for nearly ten years, first as a law clerk for Judge Dexter D. Del Rosario and later as a Deputy Public Defender. She has always impressed me with her intellect and her determined advocacy.

Shirley has great compassion for her clients and was greatly influenced, as we all were, by the late Dean M. Yamashiro, whose selfless dedication to the cause lives in all of us today. As a former public defender, I care very much about the future of the institution. I have no doubt that with Shirley on the council, the representation of indigent clients in the State of Hawaii will be second to none.

Very truly yours,


William M. Domingo

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura

March 5, 2008

Tracy Fukui, Esq. (RA)
3465 Waiālae Ave., Ste. 210
Honolulu, HI 96816

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
VIA EMAIL: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Shirley Kawamura's appointment to the Defender Council. I have known Shirley for many years, both as a colleague and a friend. We met as young attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender, and have maintained our friendship after we both parted from the office.

First, Shirley is a competent and committed legal professional. I have observed her focused commitment to her work and competence to overcome whatever challenge placed before her. I have no doubt she will invest the same motivation and energy in her duties on the Defender Council.

Secondly, Shirley also understands the importance of this position. As young Deputy Public Defenders, we saw first hand the vital role the Office of the Public Defender plays in maintaining the fairness of our justice system. Shirley understands this and the importance of the Public Defender's role in maintaining the level of legal competence provided by the Office. This understanding no doubt provides insight into evaluating whether a candidate has the skills and knowledge necessary to be the Public Defender.

Lastly, Shirley has the integrity necessary to perform her duties on the Defender Council. In both my professional career and personal life, Shirley has been a moral compass for me. She has the ability to maintain a level head, even in emotionally charged situations. She always strives to do what is right. I'm sure her integrity will no doubt play a vital role in her duties on the Council.

In conclusion, as a member of the bar, and former criminal defense attorney, I support Shirley Kawamura's appointment to Defender Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

Tracy Fukui, Esq. (RA)
(808) 389-6845

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlip.com)

Taryn Gifford
1349 Ulupuni Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 386-4708
heyaryn@yahoo.com

March 5, 2008

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M Kawamura as a Defender Counsel Member
Hearing 3/7/2008 @10:00am

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of Shirley Kawamura's appointment to the Defender Counsel. I have known Ms. Kawamura for nine years, and believe that her experience, intelligence, and dedication would be an asset to this position.

As a former deputy public defender, Ms. Kawamura has familiarity with the struggles and demands of the Office of the Public Defender. Additionally, Ms. Kawamura has notable academic credentials and achievements setting her apart from many in the legal profession. Moreover, Ms. Kawamura has always demonstrated a commitment to public service and the legal profession that would serve the Defender Counsel and the State of Hawaii well.

I urge you to recommend her confirmation to the Defender Counsel. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Taryn Gifford

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura

Sender's Information:
Direct: (808) 275-0326
E-mail: llharada@kltlaw.com

March 6, 2008

Via E-Mail: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura
To the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008, 10:00 am.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee, and Committee Members:

Shirley M. Kawamura is an exceptional lawyer and a wonderful person. She is not only bright, but is also an outstanding problem solver. She knows and understands people. She is energetic and positive in all that she does, and she willingly does more than her share. As a result, she is well liked, highly respected, and very successful.

Given her many years of experience as a very effective deputy public defender, she is well-suited and well-qualified for the Defender Council. In my 24 years of practice, I have had the opportunity to work with many talented people. Shirley is in that rare group at the top. Without hesitation, I strongly recommend her.

Should you have any questions, I would be pleased to answer them.

Very truly yours,


Lyle Y. Harada

lyh:me

The Law Office of Ryan K. Harimoto

RYAN K. HARIMOTO

Attorney at Law

March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Shirley Kawamura to the Defender Council. I write in that regard.

Ms. Kawamura and I worked together as Law Clerks at the First Circuit Court more than ten years ago, and I have followed her legal career closely since that time. She is extremely intelligent, passionate about her work and the responsibilities attendant thereto, and a very effective oral and written communicator. Furthermore, she is engaging and personable, which serves her well as a team player, promotes the building of strong relationships, and makes her adept at bringing people together. I also admire her ability to focus on accomplishing specific tasks while maintaining a healthy perspective on the "big picture."

On a more personal level, I can attest to Ms. Kawamura's integrity, honesty, open-mindedness, and generosity. I also know her to be a thoughtful and loyal friend.

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1860 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 528-3113 • Facsimile: (808) 521-8933 • Neighbor Islands: 1-(888) 522-8022
E-mail: RHarimoto@lawyer.com

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 5, 2008
Page 2

I support Shirley Kawamura's confirmation to the Defender Council without reservation, and I welcome your questions regarding her professional or personal qualifications for the position. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ryan K. Harimoto

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhllp.com)

Testimony of Deputy Public Defender Ronette M. Kawakami
To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I strongly support the confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to be a member of the Defender Council. Ms. Kawamura is particularly suited to this role.

I first met Ms. Kawamura when she was a high school aged volunteer at the chambers of the Honorable Richard Au, First Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Although she was just in high school, she was already interested in public service work and expressed interest in the Public Defender's office.

Nearly ten years later, I met her again as the law clerk to the Honorable Dexter Dean Del Rosario, where she excelled as an efficient law clerk to Judge Del Rosario. Her handling of Courtroom matters and parties involved on both sides was both compassionate and professional.

After Ms. Kawamura fulfilled a commitment to work at a private, civil firm for one year, she joined the Public Defender's Office and excelled in all areas of Criminal defense practice. It was my privilege, for the next seven years, to watch her mature and become a first class trial attorney. She understands the inner workings of our Office, the long hours, stressful work, and also the tremendous camaraderie that exists in an office that faces so much adversity on a daily basis. Her experience as a Deputy Public Defender give her the necessary insight for someone to understand the Public Defender's unique task in their defense of indigents. Moreover, Ms. Kawamura cares about the attorneys, the future of the office, and of course the clients.

In addition to being professional colleagues, Ms. Kawamura and I are personal friends. She is a wonderful daughter to her parents and in-laws, wife and mother. She manages to juggle the demands of being a full time attorney and full-time parent with great success. I always appreciate her thoughtful insight on both personal and professional matters.

Over the years, her commitment to public service and to those less fortunate has never wavered. The Office of the Public Defender is fortunate to have her appointed to the Defender Council.

Very truly yours,

Ronette M. Kawakami
Deputy Public Defender

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlp.com)

March 6, 2008

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

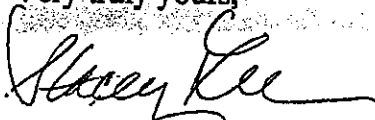
Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing to you in support of Shirley Kawamura. I have known Shirley for 25 years, so I believe that I am in a perfect position to speak on behalf of her character. Shirley has always been one to strive for excellence, whether it is in athletics, in pursuit of her law degree, in her career, or being an incredibly dedicated working mother of 2 young children.

She has an innate ability to stand back from a situation and evaluate it objectively. She has compassion and unwavering conviction.

I have confidence that Shirley will be an outstanding appointee of the Defender Council, and will fulfill her role on the board with the utmost level of commitment and excellence.

Very truly yours,



Stacey Lee

Sender's Information:
Direct: (808) 275-0371
E-mail: mlorusso@klhlpp.com

March 6, 2008

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender
Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the nomination of Shirley M. Kawamura, Esq. to the Defender Council.

I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Ms. Kawamura since she began as an associate at Kawashima Lorusso & Harada LLP in December 2005. Ms. Kawamura is of the highest moral character, respectful, yet very decisive. She is a very intelligent, compassionate and caring individual and an integral member of the firm. Ms. Kawamura is well respected not only by the attorneys in my firm, but by opposing counsel, the staff and our clients.

Ms. Kawamura is very knowledgeable about the law, she is always willing to learn and conducts herself in all matters in a very courteous, fair and professional manner. In addition to being an excellent litigator, she manages to balance her career as a wife and the mother to two wonderful children.

I highly support and respectfully request the confirmation of Ms. Kawamura to the Defender Council as she would be an excellent addition to the Defender Council.

Very truly yours,

KAWASHIMA LORUSSO & HARADA LLP



MICHAEL A. LORUSSO

Benjamin M. Matsubara
Mervyn M. Kotake
Curtis T. Tabata
Wyeth M. Matsubara
Koji Kato

MATSUBARA • KOTAKE
Attorneys At Law
A Law Corporation

Of Counsel
William H. Yim

Of Counsel
Donna A. O. Yoshimoto
Attorney At Law
A Limited Liability
Law Company

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

This letter is in strong support of Shirley Kawamura for her confirmation for a position on the Defender Council.

I have known Shirley for over 20 years from her days at a "rival" high school, through the college years during summer vacations back home in Hawai'i and finally studying together for the Hawai'i state bar exam – actually Shirley tutoring me for the exam.

While it has been an honor and I am extremely grateful that I have the opportunity to call Shirley a friend, it has been an even greater pleasure to have been able to observe Shirley from small kid days to develop into the person she is today and to see the profound effect she has on others.

Intelligent, motivated, kind, compassionate are all easy words to describe Shirley, however as those that know Shirley well, no words, no matter how descriptive, fail to truly identify the type of person she is and understand the positive effect she has on others. Shirley's intelligence, common sense, ability to lead, support, push forward, think on her own, be part of a team and be reasonable all make Shirley a great professional and attorney, but it is Shirley's other attributes such as her compassion, understanding, patience and

kindness that makes her a greater person and a tremendous asset not only for Defender Council but for this state as well.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf and in strong support of Shirley "Miki" Kawamura.

Very truly yours,

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

Wyeth M. Matsubara

Testimony of Nani Medeiros
Deputy Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

on

Governor's Message 403

Nominating
Shirley Miki Kawamura
to the
Defender Council

Friday, March 7, 2008
10:00 A.M.
Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee, and members of the committee my name is Nani Medeiros and I am testifying on my individual behalf today in strong support of Governor's Message 403 which nominates Shirley Miki Kawamura to the Defender Council.

I have known Ms. Kawamura for almost twenty-two years. It is without any reservation that I endorse her nomination to the Defender Council. Ms. Kawamura is a close personal friend of mine who I have relied upon over the years for advice, guidance, and wisdom. Shirley is one of the fairest and rational people I know.

She served as a public defender for the State of Hawaii and conducted her career with integrity, competency, and fierce dedication. She holds the respect of many in her field, on both sides of the aisle. I believe the characteristics that Ms. Kawamura personifies make her an outstanding nominee to the Defender Council.

Karen T. Nakasone
982 Prospect St. #3
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96822
(808) 227-7264
karentnakasone@hotmail.com

March 5, 2008

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura as a Defender Council Member
Hearing 3/7/2008 @10:00am

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

My name is Karen Nakasone, and I have served as a Deputy Public Defender for 11 years. I write in strong support of the appointment of my former colleague, Shirley Kawamura, to the Defender Council. I was privileged to work with Ms. Kawamura during her five years of service as a Deputy Public Defender. I found her to be extremely intelligent, capable, and courageous. In recognition of her exceptional trial skills, tenacity, and ability to be a team player in an Office for which such cooperation is vital, Ms. Kawamura was quickly promoted to a senior position in our Felony Trials Division, handling the most complex and difficult cases – a merit-based promotion reserved for a select few. After leaving our Office, Ms. Kawamura has continued her distinguished career, as a civil litigator in a reputable law firm.

As a former deputy public defender, Ms. Kawamura has firsthand familiarity with the struggles and demands of the Office of the Public Defender. Her commitment to the mission of the Office of the Public Defender, in addition to all her personal attributes described above, make her singularly qualified to serve on the Defender Council.

I urge you to recommend her confirmation to the Defender Council. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Karen T. Nakasone

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura

Jennifer D.K. Ng, Esq.
1025 Kalahu Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
(808) 728-5816

March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

Please accept my letter in support of Shirley M. Kawamura's nomination to the Defender Counsel. I firmly believe that Ms. Kawamura's experience and expertise would allow her to provide sound guidance for the Office of the Public Defender.

I have known Ms. Kawamura for approximately seven years both personally and professionally, particularly as co-workers at the Office of the Public Defender, where I am still employed. As a deputy public defender, Ms. Kawamura was known for her advocacy and trial skills as well as her professionalism. Outside of work, Ms. Kawamura places high value on family and her community.

Allowing Ms. Kawamura to serve on the Defender Council will our government and community. Please support her nomination and vote in favor of her confirmation. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jennifer D.K. Ng, Esq.

Jennifer D.K. Ng

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhllp.com)

March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my earnest support for the confirmation of Shirley Kawamura to the Public Defender Council of the State of Hawai'i. For over ten years I have known Ms. Kawamura and have been her friend, her fellow deputy public defender and, as of 2006, her proud husband. My unique position allows me to attest to her genuine belief in the mission of the public defender's office to provide capable and competent representation of the indigent accused.

As a deputy public defender, Ms. Kawamura's intelligence, hard work, dedication and courage made her an imposing advocate despite her pleasant demeanor. From involuntary commitment hearings to Supreme Court appeals to felony attempted murder jury trials, she excelled at all levels and never allowed her clients' constitutional rights to be trampled upon.

Ms. Kawamura would now like to serve the office in a different capacity. Her talents, experiences and character will make her an invaluable asset to the Defender Council. Her devotion to protecting the rights of the accused will make her voice a constant reminder of the office's mission.

Very truly yours,

Jason Y. Shimizu
Attorney at Law

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlhp.com)

**TAKEMOTO & SHIMOZONO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**NIMITZ BUSINESS CENTER
1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE B-200B
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817**

**MYRON H. TAKEMOTO
KENNETH J. SHIMOZONO**

**Telephone No. (808) 536-2900
Fax No. (808) 536-2916**

March 5, 2008

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of Shirley M. Kawamura for membership on the Defender Council
Hearing Date: March 7, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members,

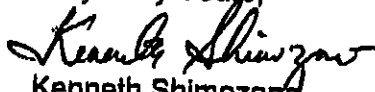
I am writing in support of Shirley M. Kawamura. I have known Ms. Kawamura for approximately 9 years. We worked together as Deputy Public Defenders and I have also known her on a personal basis as well.

On a professional level, Ms. Kawamura is extremely intelligent, hard-working, and very committed to the cause of providing quality legal representation to indigent defendants. On a personal level, I have found Ms. Kawamura to be thoughtful, considerate, and a very family-oriented person.

I am very confident that as a member of the Defender Council, Ms. Kawamura will serve with distinction, as she has extensive experience, knowledge, and the unique perspective of the many challenges that come with providing legal representation to indigent defendants.

If you have any questions, please call me at 536-2900. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,


Kenneth Shimozono
Attorney at Law

March 5, 2008

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M Kawamura as a Defender Council Member
Hearing 3/7/2008 @10:00am

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter as an expression of my strong support of Shirley Kawamura as a member of the Defender Council. I have known Ms. Kawamura for nearly ten years, and believe that her caring, knowledge, and diligence would be an asset to this important post.

Ms. Kawamura is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. She has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical "in the trenches" experience as a Public Defender. This combination will serve our community and the council well.

Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Shirley Kawamura. I urge you to recommend her confirmation to the Defender Council. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 532-3800.

Very truly yours,

Richard Sing
Hawk Sing & Ignacio

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura

CATHERINE SOUZA
1306 NONINUI PLACE
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734
(808) 382-3191

March 6, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I have known Shirley Kawamura since I started employment with the Office of the Public Defender in 2000. I know her to be someone who cares for the people of the office and the clients it represents. Due to her own personal experience with the Office, she has the insight on the important matters and issues the office faces on a daily basis. Ms. Kawamura also has the professional and personal skill and experience to contribute to the council. She is and will continue to be a great asset to the Defender Council.

Sincerely,

/s/ Catherine Souza

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhllp.com)

Kevin A. Souza
276 Paiko Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

VIA E-MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY TO ROOM 208

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair of the Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
417 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Shirley Miki Kawamura to the Defender Council

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee & Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Shirley Miki Kawamura to the Defender Council. I have known Ms. Kawamura for fifteen years, both as a colleague and as a personal friend. Through the years, I have had the pleasure of observing Ms. Kawamura practice law in the District, Family and Circuit Courts. On each occasion, she has demonstrated a strong intellect and a firm understanding of the unique and important role that public defenders play in our judicial system. More importantly, she has always been honest, straightforward, and committed to preserving justice for the indigent-accused.

Ms. Kawamura is a consummate professional. She is unwavering in her commitment to public service, yet always finds time for her family and friends. She served honorably and dutifully as a Deputy Public Defender from 1998 to 2005. Over the course of her seven years with the office, she rose to the level of Public Defender 4, a classification reserved for only the most experienced and capable trial attorneys. Since 2005, Ms. Kawamura has worked as a senior associate attorney for Kawashima, Lorusso & Harada, where she continues to advance her reputation as a talented and committed litigator. Ms. Kawamura is also actively involved in a number of community organizations as well as her daughter's elementary school – Holy Nativity.

Ms. Kawamura will bring to the Defender Council a wealth of knowledge and experience, and a passion to preserve and protect the mission of the Office of the Public Defender. She will no doubt foster a strong working relationship with the Public Defender, the Judiciary, and the community. I believe that Ms. Kawamura's knowledge and experience, and her strong family and community involvement, will be a credit to the Defender Council. I urge you to confirm her appointment to the Defender Council.

Very truly yours,



Kevin A. Souza, Esq.

Cc: Shirley Miki Kawamura

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

Hrg: Friday, March 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
1 copy required

GM 403: Shirley Kawamura, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Defender Council

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full support for Shirley Kawamura to serve on the Defender Council. Ms. Kawamura, an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Kawashima, Lorusso and Tom is a former member of the Public Defender's office. Given her academic and professional credentials, Ms. Kawamura would be a valuable addition to the Defender Council. During her term as a Deputy Public Defender, she handled a wide array of cases ranging from misdemeanor and juvenile offenses to serious felonies. She has extensive litigation experience and her knowledge of the criminal justice system will serve her well as a member of the council.

The Office of the Public Defender would be very fortunate to have a person with Ms. Kawamura's background and abilities serve as a member of the Defender Council. I fully support her nomination.

March 5, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

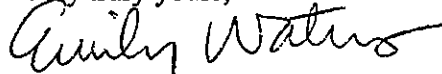
Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong recommendation that you confirm Ms. Kawamura as a member of the Defender Council. I know her both personally and professionally and can easily say that she is extremely dedicated at all of her endeavors. She will bring preparedness and integrity to the Council. You would be hard-pressed to find a more qualified candidate.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Emily Kawashima Waters

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhl1p.com)

Sender's Information:
Direct: (808) 275-0325
E-mail: ryamamoto@klhlhp.com

March 6, 2008

Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the
Defender Council
Hearing: Friday, March 7, 2008 10:00a.m.**

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Hee and Committee Members:

The undersigned fully supports the appointment and confirmation of Shirley M. Kawamura to the Defender Council. Ms. Kawamura has worked with my firm for the past few years, and we have pleasantly discovered that she is extremely conscientious and diligent in her work and the approach thereto.

In addition, Ms. Kawamura brings with her an exemplary academic background balanced by her work in the "trenches" (so to speak) as a public defender. Ms. Kawamura had a short stint in private practice but decided that she wanted and needed to give back to her community as a public defender; once there, she discovered the satisfaction and fulfillment in that role and stayed for many years.

Now back in private practice, she obviously continues her desire to give back to the community in this service with the Defender Council. No doubt, she will be a valuable member and addition, given her commitment and diligence.

In closing, it is with my full support that I present this letter.

Very truly yours,



RANDALL Y. YAMAMOTO

cc: Shirley M. Kawamura (E-Mail: skawamura@klhlhp.com)

Testimony on file for Michelle Agsalda.