

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
INTERIM OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2009  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

**Note: Pending referral to JGO.**

GM 167 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of JGO  
the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, gubernatorial nominee ROM A.  
TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

**The date and time for Decision Making will be announced at the hearing.**

**FOR AMENDED HEARING NOTICES:** If the notice is an amended notice, measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If there is a measure that is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

**Persons wishing to testify should submit testimony in one of the following ways by 4:00 p.m. the day prior to the hearing:**

- In person: 1 copy of their testimony to the committee clerk, Room 219, State Capitol.
- By fax: Testimony may be faxed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office at 586-6659 or 1-800-586-6659 (toll free for neighbor islands), at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. When faxing, please indicate to which committee the testimony is being submitted and the date and time of the hearing.
- By Web: Testimony may be submitted online if less than 4MB in size, at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>.
- By Email: Testimony may be emailed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Committee at [JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov). Please indicate the measure, date and time of the hearing. Email sent to individual offices or any other Senate office will not be accepted.

**Please note: If you submit your written testimony after 4:30 p.m. the day prior to the hearing, please sign-in at the staff table to testify orally. A copy of your testimony may not be available during the hearing but will be posted online for the public after the hearing.**

If you require special assistance or auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e., sign or foreign language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility), please contact the committee clerk 24 hours prior to the hearing so arrangements can be made.



Please note: All testimony received by the Hawaii Senate will be posted on the Hawaii Legislature's Website. Documents made available through the Testimony hyperlink(s) above may not be posted until the start of the hearing.

Public Folder. A folder labeled "Public Folder" containing the measures and testimonies for the hearing will be available for shared use by members of the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT 586-6460.

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Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair



**GM167**



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: Confirmation of ROM TRADER to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

DATE: January 15, 2009; 10:00 a.m.

FROM: Representative Glenn Wakai

The evidence is irrefutable – Rom Trader has all the makings of an exemplary judge. I can think of no one more qualified to administer justice in this state. I have personally witnessed Mr. Trader in action and always came away impressed with the preparation he put into his cases, his even temperament, and compassion for victims.

I can vouch for Mr. Trader's keen understanding of the law and its applications. I first met him a dozen years ago, during my former life as a news reporter. I had a front row seat to some of the best and worst legal arguments presented in Hawai'i courtrooms. Mr. Trader consistently put forth compelling and substantiated arguments. He quickly distinguished himself as a shooting star at the Prosecutor's Office, by convicting many of the state's most notorious murderers, rapists, and drug lords.

In recent years, Mr. Trader has spent more time training the next generation of prosecutors. He is an exemplary role model and personifies integrity. Even the Honolulu Police Department honored Mr. Trader as its Outstanding Citizen for 2007, for supporting victims of crime, and for training of HPD detectives, recruits, and crime lab staff.

Above all, Mr. Trader's greatest attribute is his ability to be fair. He is a tireless fighter who has dedicated his life to keeping the public safe. I sincerely hope I have conveyed my enthusiasm for Rom Trader's judicial nomination. If there is any part of this letter that needs clarification, I can be reached at 586-6220. I really admire Mr. Trader and thank you for this opportunity to recommend him for appointment to the bench.

**Representative Glenn Wakai, District 31**  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 316  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 586-6220 / (808) 586-6221 fax / E-Mail: repwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov



## TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

G. M. NO.167, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**DATE:** Thursday, January 15, 2009 **TIME:** 10:00 AM

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016  
*Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 219, 1 Copy*

**TESTIFIER(S):** Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Committee Members:

I strongly support the nomination of Rom Trader as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Trader is highly qualified to serve as a judge. During his twenty years of service as a prosecutor, he has handled many of Hawaii's most serious cases, including cases of murder, sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. He is a skilled attorney, and his extensive experience has given him a thorough understanding of courtroom procedure and the judicial process.

Mr. Trader has an outstanding reputation for integrity and fairness. He has an excellent temperament and consistently demonstrates sound judgment and common sense. He is well-respected in Hawaii's legal community for his intelligence, diligence, compassion, and high ethical standards.

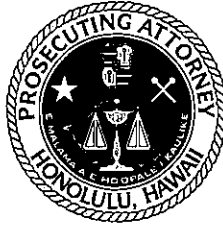
As a division supervisor in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Trader is thoroughly experienced in managing attorneys and clerical staff. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Trader has demonstrated a strong commitment to the well-being of the community - especially women and children - through his service to community organizations.

I believe that Mr. Trader's qualifications are of the very highest caliber, and I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend confirmation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
AREA CODE 808 • 527-6494

PETER B. CARLISLE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

January 15, 2009

**RE: GM 167; Nomination of Rom Alex Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit**

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in strong support of the nomination of Rom Trader to the First Circuit Court.

During his twenty years in the department, Rom has distinguished himself as a highly capable trial attorney and a respected colleague. He has risen through the ranks serving as deputy in the Career Criminal Division, a team captain with the Robbery/Burglary Branch and Theft/Forgery Branch, the Felony Trials Division Chief and the Division Domestic Violence and Juvenile Offender Division Chief. In addition, he has routinely been given difficult, high publicity cases because of his professionalism, intelligence, superior trial skills and his conscientiousness.

In his position as a division director and as a senior trial attorney handling serious criminal cases, he has often been faced with hard decisions where doing the right thing might put him at odds with others in the law enforcement community. One example of this is Rom's decision to raise questions about HPD's DNA processing procedures even though he was concerned about the effect of his questioning on his working relationships with HPD personnel and the possible jeopardy to a high publicity case he was working on, as well as numerous other cases in our office. To his credit, he not only notified personnel in our department, he also notified the defense bar of the potential issue.

We would also note that he has chosen to specialize in sex assault, child sex assault and domestic violence cases, which are considered by prosecutors, to be particularly difficult cases to try. Victims of these cases are often frightened, traumatized, uncooperative or find it difficult to articulate what happened to them due to their age, family dynamics or loyalties, or other circumstances. These cases often do not have much corroborating physical evidence or

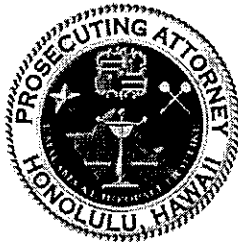
independent witnesses and so the cooperation and testimony of the victims is paramount. Despite these difficulties, Rom has continued to take these difficult cases, which he has handled with skill and compassion because he knows how important they are. We believe if he is selected and confirmed he will be a judge who will be extremely sensitive to rights and needs of crime victims. Yet because Rom has always acted with the highest degree of integrity and honesty, we do believe that he will decide all cases brought before him on the evidence and not on any bias in favor of any party or perspective.

We hope that you will support the nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515



PETER B. CARLISLE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

January 9, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chairperson  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii,  
Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER  
GM 167  
Thursday, January 15, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Without hesitation, reservation, or equivocation, I support the nomination of Rom A. Trader to Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have worked with Mr. Trader as a deputy prosecutor for about 20 years, both as fellow deputies and supervisors. As a deputy, Mr. Trader has successfully prosecuted a range of difficult, high profile cases ranging from murder to sex assaults. Those types of cases are only assigned to prosecutors who have proven to be top notch trial attorneys. As a division supervisor, Mr. Trader was fair, hard working and respected by the deputies he supervised. His division handles domestic violence and sex assault cases, and it is a measure of his character and ability that agencies and people who work in those areas hold him in high regard.

Prosecutors are uniquely positioned and qualified to become judges because their primary responsibility is to seek justice whereas all other attorneys are simply required to represent their clients well. This means prosecutors are duty bound not simply to obtain convictions and the maximum sentence, but to do what is fair and just. This means if there is evidence that exculpates a defendant, that evidence is disclosed. This means if a defendant is not represented by a competent attorney, that situation is not exploited. Mr. Trader has abided by these principles and in doing so, has garnered the respect of defense attorneys and judges.

Page 2 of 3  
January 9, 2009

Mr. Trader will be an asset to the Judiciary and a blessing to our community. I urge you to confirm his nomination as a Judge on the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Very truly yours,

Kevin K. Takata  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

KKT:kkt

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Lincoln S.T. Ashida  
Corporation Counsel

Gerald Takase  
Assistant Corporation  
Counsel

**COUNTY OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL**

101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4262 • (808) 961-8251 • Fax (808) 961-8622

January 13, 2009

**Sent via email to JGOTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; no hard copy will follow**

Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

**RE: Confirmation of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit**

Please accept this letter in support of the confirmation of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Rom since 1988 when he began work as a deputy prosecuting attorney on Oahu. I was a deputy prosecutor on the Big Island at the time, and we met and thereafter interacted on many occasions at statewide prosecution trainings. Over the years we have developed a very healthy professional friendship.

I would often call Rom for advice on the handling of a major felony case, or whenever I needed assistance on Oahu. Rom's success as a prosecutor is well documented. However what I have had the privilege of observing firsthand is the humble way he is always willing to help anyone, his savvy in dealing with the media, and his unquestioned loyalty in public service. He truly is a role model for younger attorneys and an asset to our Hawai'i legal community.

In my current job as Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai'i, I continue to follow Rom's career with great interest. Oahu is a safer place and has benefited from the service of Rom and his colleagues at the Prosecutor's Office. Rom is well suited to further his public service as part of our Judiciary, and possesses all of the legal and human qualities necessary for success as a judge. He will command the respect of attorneys who appear before him, no matter if a criminal or civil case, based on his reputation as one of Hawai'i's most skilled litigators.

Based on the foregoing, I would humbly and unqualifiedly recommend the confirmation of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln S. T. Ashida".

Lincoln S. T. Ashida  
Corporation Counsel

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

**ROM A. TRADER**  
**Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit**

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

Hearing: Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Rom A. Trader for the position of Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

In evaluating judicial nominees, the HSBA Board utilizes a modified version of the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. These Guidelines include the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service, collegiality and writing ability. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."

The HSBA Board has recently reviewed the policies and procedures utilized in developing its positions on judicial nominees and has included in its procedures the use of a standing subcommittee of HSBA Board members to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members; the subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the complete materials submitted by the nominee and members and conducts an interview of the nominee. These revised procedures are available for review on the HSBA website at <HSBA.org>.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the vote of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Rom A. Trader to be qualified for the position of Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

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# THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

*A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children*

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R. Carolyn Wilcox

DATE: 1/15/09

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: GM 167  
Consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of  
the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial  
Nominee Rom A. Trader

It is my pleasure to submit this testimony in support of the confirmation of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. As the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, I have worked with Rom for 20 years on numerous projects and initiatives. Throughout the years, I have admired his ability to identify salient issues, to develop practical solutions to challenging problems and to promote needed change. His vision, energy and commitment have made him a valued community partner.

Rom has consistently demonstrated the capacity to work effectively in a multidisciplinary setting. His intelligence, strong interpersonal skills and even temperament have gained him the respect of the statewide sexual assault response team, which is comprised of prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic medical examiners and victim advocates. Rom has the capacity to connect to people of great diversity; embrace differing opinions, digest multifaceted concerns and arrive at insightful solutions that move agendas forward.

Given Rom's expertise in prosecuting sexual assault cases, he is viewed by many across the state as a leader in the field of sexual assault. He has been frequently asked to share his knowledge and expertise at statewide trainings, including various trainings sponsored by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Also, over the years staff from our Center have often sought his counsel and expert opinion. Rom's knowledge of forensics, integrity and wisdom and have made his input to us invaluable.

I have no doubt Rom will use his considerable forensic skills, patience, wisdom, firmness and sympathy when serving as a judge. He has a strong sense of justice and impartiality, and without question his many positive attributes will inspire the confidence of Hawaii's citizens.

Rom Trader is truly a valued colleague who I believe is supremely qualified for this position.

I strongly support the confirmation of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.



January 14, 2009

TO: Chair Brian Taniguchi  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.  
Domestic Violence Action Center

RE: Nomination of Rom Trader

Aloha! I would like to convey unqualified support for the nomination of Rom Trader as Circuit Court Judge. Our professional relationship has been long and satisfying.

Rom's work as a lead prosecutor is widely recognized and well documented. He is an incredibly hard worker and compassionate man. The integrity and commitment he has brought to the community will be gifts he brings into the courtroom. Rom has brought understanding of the most difficult issues our criminal justice system wrestles with to citizens (on juries), victims, the Bar and his colleagues in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. He is a teacher and a mentor. Rom most definitely possesses the demeanor one desires in a judge.

I have worked with Rom in his capacity at the Prosecutor's office and also I have had the great pleasure of having him serve on our agency's Board of Directors. Rom served as president of the board for a period of time, as well. He is a team player and a contributor. He is reliable, thoughtful and patient with process.

At the risk of becoming redundant, I would love to see the Senate act favorably and confirm the appointment of Rom to the First Circuit.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:48 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** akclarkin@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM167 on 1/15/2009 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 1/15/2009 10:00:00 AM GM167

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: False  
Submitted by: Anne K. Clarkin  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2943 Kalakaua Ave.#508 Honolulu, HI 96815  
Phone: 808-923-9002 or cell 351-1852  
E-mail: [akclarkin@msn.com](mailto:akclarkin@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 1/7/2009

Comments:

To the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations January 7, 2009

Dear Senators Taniguchi and Takamine,

I take this opportunity to highly recommend Rom Trader as appointee to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Rom has been an invaluable asset to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. He is astute, professional in demeanor and in every capacity, as well as even-tempered, fair and universally held in esteem by his colleagues and his opponents in court.

Rom displays an outstanding knowledge of the law and a generous capacity in sharing information and his legal experience with others. He is giving of his time, efforts and good humor. He is an excellent candidate.

Mahalo for your attention. Regards,

Anne K. Clarkin, Esq.

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**From:** Tan, Leilani H [ltan@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 9:01 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Rom A. Trader

Measure: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

Date/Time of Hearing: Thursday, January 15, 2009

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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Leilani Tan and I am a deputy prosecuting attorney. I am writing to offer my unwavering support of Rom Trader. Between 2005-2006, Mr. Trader was my supervisor while I was assigned to the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor section of the office. At this stage, a young deputy is only just beginning to get her feet wet in trial practice. It is the first time we take a case to trial in front of a jury. The hours are long, the cases are tough, and the tenure is often wrought with frustration.

In the 11 months that I spent in the division, I received excellent mentorship from Mr. Trader. Despite the fact that he was in charge of supervising many other attorneys, his door was always open to me and he was willing to answer any questions I had, no matter how elementary or mundane. Mr. Trader is regarded as one of the most skilled and effective trial lawyers in the office, but what I admire most about him is that he is unselfish with his knowledge and expertise, and is always willing to share with others. In Mr. Trader's eyes, we are all working for the common good.

During my first-ever jury trial, I nervously walked in front of the jury box to deliver my closing argument. When I took a quick glance out into the gallery, I was shocked to see Mr. Trader sitting in the back. He gave me a quick nod and mouthed, "Go get 'em." I was bolstered by his presence. I couldn't believe that the big boss himself had taken time out of his busy schedule to come and watch me. Later, he provided helpful and constructive feedback, and it is advice that I continue to use in my practice today. I realize that this is just the way that Mr. Trader is—he cares about his deputies and is invested in their growth and development as trial lawyers.

I have no doubt that Mr. Trader will make an excellent judge. He is not swayed by politics, nor motivated by greed or personal gain. He is steady, calm, fair, and a champion for victims. A couple of years ago, when Mr. Trader became a first-time dad, I saw an even more impressive side of him—vulnerable and completely devoted to fatherhood. Mr. Trader has achieved the ultimate goal: professional success balanced with an idyllic family life outside of the office.

I am proud to put my name behind Mr. Trader and offer this testimony as just a small sample of the limitless amount of respect I have for this man.

Sincerely,  
Leilani H. Tan, Esq.  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Felony Trials Division



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**From:** Iha, Sherri-Ann [siha@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 08, 2009 11:41 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Hearing on Rom Trader's Confirmation

GM 167 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

**DATE:** Thursday, January 15, 2009  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

Thank you for the opportunity to write on behalf of Rom Trader for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have worked with Mr. Trader for the past 16 years. He was my immediate supervisor between 1996 and 1998. I wholeheartedly support his nomination to the bench. Mr. Trader is an excellent attorney. He has successfully handled the most complex murder trials while supervising and training felony attorneys and handling his day to day cases. Mr. Trader has an excellent demeanor and is always fair and reasonable as a supervisor and in dealing with defense attorneys on his cases. There is no one on the list of candidates that has as many jury trials under their belt or court hours. Mr. Trader has taken over sixty jury trials to verdict, not to mention the countless hours spent in the Courtroom on motions, sentencing hearings, and revocations.

I am asking you to please do the right thing and to look at Rom Trader as an individual. He is the most qualified candidate for this position. If you are going to look at balance in the judiciary, then look at the judiciary as a whole and not just at Governor Lingle's most recent appointments. Currently sitting on the judiciary are Richard Pollack, former Head of the Public Defender's Office, Karl Sakamoto, Dexter Del Rosario, Derrick Chan, Richard Perkins, and Michael Wilson who are all former defense attorneys. In my fifteen years practicing in Circuit Court I have found that the good judges are able to put aside their former biases and are able to analyze and rule fairly on the issues. What is more important than what field they come from, is their prior litigation experience and their strength of character. A number of the former defense attorneys I have listed are excellent judges because they are intelligent, reasonable and fair. They were all examined and appointed as individual candidates. Please do the same for Mr. Trader, he is highly qualified and deserves your support.

Sincerely,

Sherri Iha

2740 Unulau Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
January 8, 2009

Brian Toguchi  
Chairman  
Committee On Judiciary And Government Operations  
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Honorable Chairman and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Rom Trader's nomination for Circuit Court judge. Mr. Trader is well qualified for the appointment. As Governor Lingle stated in her new release, Mr. Trader is a gifted litigator. His experience with the prosecutor's office will serve him well.

I have the honor of working with Mr. Trader at the Prosecutor's Office. For six months I was under Mr. Trader's supervision. During the seven years that I have been at the office, I have had the fortune to observe Mr. Trader's superior trial skills as well as his ability to supervise a large number of attorneys.

Please do not discount his abilities because he has served the state for these years as a prosecutor. Mr. Trader may be a prosecutor but that does not mean he will not protect the rights of defendant or serve the needs of the civil calendar. Unlike defense attorneys' who only have an obligation to their client, prosecutors must consider justice for all including defendants. Mr. Trader has been able to be a strong advocate for the State without compromising the rights of defendants.

Mr. Trader has the right judicial temperament. In his career as a prosecutor, he proved himself to be a person who works well with opposing counsel. His work with other agencies established him as a person who can be compromise and be effective. As a supervisor, he was patient, encouraging, and accessible. His legal advice was always thoughtful and never condescending.

Mr. Trader's lack of civil litigation experience is not necessarily a negative. He can take a fresh approach to civil litigation. Moreover, Mr. Trader's intelligence and willingness to seek the help of others will allow him to understand the civil process in a relatively short period of time.

Please support Mr. Trader's nomination for Circuit Court judge.

Sincerely,

Amy Murakami

---

**From:** Pang, Jeen Hee Kwak [jpang@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 8:06 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: ROM A. TRADER  
Nominee for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit  
Senate Confirmation Hearing: 1/15/09 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

Governor Lingle made an excellent choice in nominating Rom A. Trader to be the next Circuit Court judge. I have known Rom for ten years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and for most of that time, as a Division Chief of Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division, he has been my supervisor.

As a Division Chief, Rom wears many hats: a trial prosecutor who has his own heavy case load, mainly high-publicity, complicated murder cases; a division chief who handles day-to-day operation of the Division, including administrative, clerical and legal issues; a mentor who answers all of his 20 deputies' questions. He is always eager to help, and tries to make himself available for many of us who are seeking his advice, even after working hours and on weekends. His door is always open to us all and he has NEVER turned us away because he is busy. In short, he is our "911". If he is physically not in his office, his cell phone is always on. It is truly amazing how he gets his work done with so many people seeking him 24-7. Despite his busy and stressful job, he always thanks his deputies and staff for their hard work. As such, he is well-liked and respected by his deputies as well as his support staff. He always treats us fairly and with respect.

As a trial attorney, Rom is the best of the best. Many junior prosecutors take time to go and watch his trials, as I still do. He is extremely well prepared with his cases and is well versed in the law. Coupled with his natural talent as a trial attorney, he has been a very challenging adversary to the defense.

Although he has served as a prosecutor for most of his legal career, as a judge, I have no doubt that Rom will be fair to both sides: during my ten years of knowing him, Rom has always been professional and respectful with both defendants and defense attorneys. His plea offers and approvals of plea offers have been consistent and fair, and I am sure that the defense bar considers him tough but fair.

He is already an asset to our community as an excellent deputy prosecuting attorney, and his vacancy in this Office will be greatly felt, but I am confident that he will be even more of an asset as a circuit court judge and I will have to accept that as a consolation.

Yours truly,

Jeen H. Kwak  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
City and County of Honolulu

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**From:** Ikeda, Charlene [cikeda@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 11:05 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Rom Trader

Rom Trader is a colleague at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I worked under Mr. Trader while he was the Division Chief for the Felony Trials Division. Mr. Trader has always been willing to assist a fellow colleague. Even if Mr. Trader has a 1001 things on his plate, he always had an open door policy and has always been there to assist to the best of his ability. I believe that as a Circuit Court Judge, Rom Trader will be fair and execute his duties as a Judge to the best of his abilities.

Charlene Ikeda

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**From:** Murata, Landon [lmurata@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 2:26 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

GM 167 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Taniguchi

I am honored to be able to write in support of Rom A. Trader for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Trader for approximately four years. When I began my career in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in 2004, Mr. Trader was involved with some of the trainings held for new deputies. I worked under Mr. Trader from 2005 to 2006 when I was assigned to his Domestic Violence Misdemeanor team. Although I transferred out of his division in 2006 to join the Career Criminal Division under a different supervisor, I have continued to seek his counsel on a number of occasions, and on any number of matters. This is because he is, in my opinion, one of the most skilled and excellent attorneys in our office. He is what every attorney should be -- intelligent, dedicated, hard working, prudent, and possessed of an incredible moral and ethical fiber. His integrity is beyond reproach. I believe Mr. Trader will bring these same qualities with him to the bench, qualities which are not only helpful, but which will be invaluable in making him a great jurist. He will bring these qualities with him, not because they will be useful, but because they are a part of who he is. While I cannot speak for anyone but myself, I have no doubt that by this time you have received a ton of submissions with similar messages, from both sides of the criminal bar. I ask that when you consider Mr. Trader for this position, you look at him as more than "just" a prosecutor. I ask that you look at him and see him for what he is: an experienced, excellent, and honorable attorney who will be an incredible addition to our Judiciary.

Sincerely,

Landon M. M. Murata, Esq.

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**From:** Myles Breiner [mbreiner@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 10:36 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader

## To Whom It May Concern

I have known Deputy Prosecutor Rom Trader for over twenty years. I respect Rom's honesty and integrity. As a former deputy prosecutor and as President of the Hawaii Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (HACDL), I have been on both sides of the "legal equation" with Rom. Notwithstanding our professional differences, Rom Trader is a consummate attorney, forthright and even tempered. I believe Rom's extensive trial and administrative experience make him an invaluable addition to the State Judiciary.

Myles Breiner  
Attorney at Law

Michelle Mineko Leilani Puu-Lozier  
94-268 Kiaha Loop, Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
January 9, 2009

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Taniguchi:

I was overjoyed to learn of the gubernatorial nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Rom was my supervisor when I first started presenting cases to juries in the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Division. Domestic Violence cases often present with the most emotional and trying situations in our office. Rom was consistently thoughtful, informative and patient as I made my way through that experience. I was full of questions, for which he was always available to provide thorough answers. Day or night, weekday or weekend, made no difference to Rom. No question was stupid and no answer was complete until it appeared to him that the light bulb went on in my head.

I learned a great deal from Rom about jury presentation, both factual and legal analysis. But, more importantly I learned that my ethical reputation should never be sacrificed. Rom rightfully values ethics above everything else. Some lawyers think winning is everything. To Rom, winning is nothing if you forfeited your ethics to achieve it.

I understand that the committee members may believe that us Prosecutors would write in support of any fellow Prosecutor nominated for a position on the bench. I can only speak for myself, but for me that cannot be further from the truth. In all honesty, some of us are not equipped to deal with the unfamiliar complexities of civil litigation nor do we all possess the appropriate judicial temperament. Rom deals with some of the most complex issues in this office. He does so with unwavering tenacity and devotion. I truly cannot envision a more fitting individual for the bench.

Respectfully,

/s/Michelle M. L. Puu-Lozier  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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**From:** Thomas, Loren [lthomas@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 9:10 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Gubernatorial Nominee Rom Trader GM 167

Dear Committee Members,

I submit my testimony in support of Rom Trader for his appointment to the circuit court bench. I have known Rom since law school and have worked with him at the Dept. of the Prosecuting Attorney for the past 19 years. Rom is one of the hardest working and most dedicated attorneys I know. Rom mentored me when I was assigned to the sexual assault team in the 1990s and, he was then and still is, an exemplary example of patience, hard work, diligence, compassion, professionalism and respect for others in the field including other attorneys and their clients. He has demonstrated outstanding managerial skills as the chief of the Domestic Violence Division which is without a doubt one of the most difficult divisions within our department and in the practice of criminal law generally. I know the stress and challenges involved in supervising and Rom has handled the extra duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. He leads by example and never shuns serious cases and jury trials. To the contrary, he has always taken some of the most difficult and challenging cases within the office. He is also one of the fairest deputy prosecutors I know. I am confident that he will make an outstanding judge because although he has been a prosecutor these many years, he is fair and balanced when it comes to case assessment and prosecution. He brings the right temperament and demeanor befitting of a judicial position. I believe that is a critically important attribute that may at times be overlooked but one in which I believe is essential to the bench and the overall smooth functioning of the court system. There is no need to belittle or treat attorneys, staff or members of the public with anything less than courtesy and respect and I know that Rom will always treat others with the utmost respect because that is his nature. Rom will bring years of courtroom experience and legal knowledge to the bench. In my opinion, his 20+ years of courtroom experience makes up for any perceived weakness some private attorneys may see in his lack of civil practice. I give him my highest vote.

Loren J. Thomas



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**From:** Tsushima, Stephen K. [stsushima@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 12:39 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

RE:

DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2009  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

**Note: Pending referral to JGO.**

GM 167 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Rom Alex Trader for the position of First Circuit Court Judge.

I have known Rom for approximately eight years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney as a colleague and a friend. Rom is a hard-working, passionate, dedicated, and intelligent attorney who has established himself through his accomplishments as both a successful trial lawyer and division chief. He is, in my opinion, quite frankly, the best trial attorney in our office. Losing him will be a tremendous loss for our department, but an equally important gain for our judiciary.

As such, it is my privilege to have this opportunity to share these comments with you. If you have any questions at all regarding my comments on this confirmation, feel free to reach me at my work phone: 768-7455.

Thank you for your time and consideration for Rom Trader for the above-stated position.

Sincerely,

**STEPHEN K. TSUSHIMA**  
DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
Appellate Division  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
City and County of Honolulu  
1060 Richards Street, 9th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph: 808.768.7455  
Fax: 808.768.6436  
Email: [stsushima@honolulu.gov](mailto:stsushima@honolulu.gov)

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**From:** Brady, Tom (USAHI) [Tom.Brady@usdoj.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Judicial Appointment and Endorsement of Rom Alex Trader

I am writing to offer my whole-hearted endorsement and support for Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom Alex Trader in regard to the vacancy on the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I met Rom Trader back in the late 1980s while he was a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Ronald Greig. As a law clerk, Rom treated all the parties with respect and dignity. Shortly thereafter, Rom joined the Prosecutor's Office as a deputy Prosecuting Attorney and quickly became a valuable and reliable public servant.

Mr. Trader has the intellect, integrity, and judicial temperament that would complement the position as Judge of the First Circuit Court. On paper, Rom Trader has all the legal experience and accolades which would justify his nomination to the bench. He is a smart, successful prosecutor that has handled some of the most difficult and complex criminal cases in the past twenty years. But I believe it is the intangible traits that make Rom Trader an excellent selection for the bench. Above all else, Rom is humble and treats everyone he meets with dignity and respect.

Perhaps Rom Trader's most significant legal skill is his decision making ability. A successful trial attorney like Rom Trader requires a sharp legal mind and ability to make multiple decisions involving complex legal issues every day. Rom Trader has been doing that day in and day out for the better part of 20 years.

In sum, Rom Alex Trader will be an excellent choice to serve as Judge on the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.

Again, I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-2850.

Thomas J. Brady  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Office of the U.S. Attorney  
PJJK Federal Bldg.

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Rm. 6100

Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

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**From:** Myron Takemoto [mhtakemoto@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 9:48 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Rom Trader, Esq. for confirmation as First Circuit Court judge

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

This letter is being respectfully submitted to you in support of confirmation of Rom Trader, Esq. to become the next judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Over the past fourteen years, I have had close contact with Mr. Trader. I was employed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu from October 1994 to November 2004. Mr. Trader was my immediate supervisor for approximately five (5) years. Mr. Trader was a fair, even tempered supervisor who instilled in me the necessity of being thoroughly prepared for a jury trial. Under Mr. Trader's tutelage I prosecuted robbery, burglary, assault, sexual assault and homicide cases.

Since November 2004, I have been in private practice focusing primarily in the field of criminal defense. While in private practice, I have had extensive dealings with Mr. Trader in relation to trial cases being handled by Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys under his supervision. Every single Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and criminal defense attorney that I have had contact with has had positive experiences with Mr. Trader. Mr. Trader is known to be fair, open minded and to treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

Mr. Trader is a highly respected trial attorney who has extensive experience in trying difficult, high publicity cases. I firmly believe that a trial judge needs have extensive trial experience to make sound legal and factual decisions. Mr. Trader has never shied away from making difficult decisions. This is an invaluable asset which every judge should possess.

Mr. Trader's integrity and ethics are impeccable. Without hesitation, I strongly recommend that Mr. Trader be confirmed as the next judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 536-2900. Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Myron Takemoto, Esq.

January 12, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Judicial Nominee Rom Alex Trader

Dear Messrs Taniguichi and Takamine:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of judicial nominee Rom Trader.

Over the past three years, as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have had the privilege to work with Rom. As the Chief of the Domestic Violence / Juvenile Offender Division, Rom is a consummate leader. He leads by his example, and is renowned for prosecuting the most difficult cases within the office. His knowledge of trial strategy, tactics, and preparation is unsurpassed.

When confronted with a legal issue, Rom cites relevant cases and statutes without interjecting his personal views or opinions. Simply put, he follows the law. This important trait is often lacking in our judiciary where judicial activism is apparent.

Rom's unassuming nature makes him very approachable. His office door is always open, and he is willing to provide guidance and tutelage to anyone in our office, it is not limited to the division which he leads.

Rom would be an equitable and decisive judge.

Sincerely,

Jon S. Jacobs  
95-1008 Pakau  
Mililani, HI 96789

January 9, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Sonja P. McCullen, Esq.  
2029 Nuʻuanu Ave. #1501  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Ph. (808) 554-3014

Thursday, January 15, 2009; 10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 167  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, ROM A. TRADER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN TEN YEARS

Senator Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Members,

I am writing to strongly urge confirmation of Rom Alex Trader to fill the judicial vacancy in the First Judicial Circuit. As you well know, a judge must have integrity and legal ability, as well as be intelligent, fair, decisive, and diligent. Mr. Trader not only possesses these qualities in abundance, he also has the ideal temperament befitting a judge.

Saying that Mr. Trader's trial experience is extensive would be an understatement. Mr. Trader has effectively litigated a countless number of cases during the previous twenty years with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. He could accomplish such a feat only by possessing knowledge of the law, knowledge of the rules of procedure and evidence, and the ability to analyze. Through his trial experience, Mr. Trader has repeatedly demonstrated that he has the legal ability, intelligence, and diligence to manage a courtroom.

For thirteen of the twenty years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Trader has worked in a supervisory capacity, responsible for up to thirty trial attorneys. In this capacity, I have observed him to have the utmost integrity. He treated all individuals with dignity and respect. He did not favor or disfavor any one person. He acted fairly by giving each person individual consideration. He always made decisions based on the facts and the law with an open mind in considering all issues. He always communicated with others in a clear and logical manner. Most importantly, Mr. Trader is a great listener. Based on my observations of Mr. Trader, it is abundantly clear that he has the integrity, fairness, and decisiveness required of a judge.

Most importantly, Mr. Trader is professional and possesses the perfect judicial temperament. As an attorney and supervisor, Mr. Trader was always punctual and prepared, efficiently managed his calendar, acted in a dignified manner with patience and self-control, and treated people with courtesy.

For these reasons, Mr. Trader is the perfect choice to fill the judicial vacancy in the First Judicial Circuit. I strongly recommend confirmation of Mr. Trader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonja P. McCullen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sonja P. McCullen, Esq.

**MOSELEY BIEHL TSUGAWA LAU & MUZZI**

A Hawaii Limited Liability Law Company

Michael L. Biehl  
Alan K. Lau  
Roger S. Moseley  
Christopher J. Muzzi  
Eric H. Tsugawa

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1100 ALAKEA STREET, 23<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 98813

TELEPHONE: (808) 531-0480  
FACSIMILE: (808) 534-0202

Renee M. Furuta  
Tedson H. Koja  
Natalie F. Wilson

January 12, 2008

**Facsimile & E-Mail (808) 586-6461**

Senator Brian Taniguchi

Members of the Chairman Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

415 S. Beretania St.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing of Circuit Court Judge Rom A. Trader

Date of Hearing: January 15, 2009

Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations:

I would like to express my firm support for the nomination of Rom A. Trader, Esq. as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Trader for twenty (20) years since 1989, and met him while I was employed as a prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, from 1989 to 1995, during which time I knew him very well.

As a prosecutor, Mr. Trader was appropriately zealous but always mindful of his ethical duty to exercise prosecutorial discretion in a manner consistent with justice and fairness. His conduct was exemplary in this respect.

It should be obvious from his resume that Mr. Trader has vast courtroom experience and superior legal skills and has been involved in many high profile criminal prosecutions. This will certainly translate well to make him an excellent circuit court judge.

Equally important is that Mr. Trader possesses certain personality traits which make him particularly well-suited to serve as a judge. By his very nature, Mr. Trader is thoughtful and level-headed, as well as, firm but fair. These are essential judicial traits that I fully expect will become part of his judicial demeanor.

The only potential criticism that can be leveled against Mr. Trader is his lack of civil experience. As a practicing civil attorney for the past fifteen (15) years, I can say that this causes me absolutely no concern. No attorney, even one whose exclusive



Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Members of the Chairman Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee  
January 12, 2009  
Page 2

practice is in the area of civil law, has the breadth of knowledge or experience to be familiar with the array of legal issues which a circuit court judge must deal with. In today's world of specialization, attorneys will typically have only superficial knowledge of issues outside their expertise. And, even attorneys who specialize in particular areas must confront unfamiliar issues on a daily basis. This is the nature of the legal practice and tackling unfamiliar issues are what attorneys are trained to do.

The critical factor is whether the nominee is diligent and intelligent enough to apply his or her legal training to the task at hand. In Mr. Trader's case, the answer is without a doubt, yes. There have been many outstanding judges who had no previous civil experience prior to being appointed to the bench and I expect Mr. Trader to be in the same category.

I was extremely pleased to learn that Mr. Trader had been nominated to serve as a circuit court judge. The legal community and our State would be well-served by allowing him to exercise his talents and abilities in this capacity and I urge you to confirm his nomination.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very Truly Yours,



Tedson H. Koja

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**From:** Mike Parrish [michaelparrish@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 10:12 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader nomination

I write you on behalf of Rom A. Trader, and respectfully encourage you to appoint him Judge, First Circuit. I have known Rom both professionally and personally for more than 14 years. We worked together at the Honolulu prosecutor's office and we maintain contact because I value Rom's legal analyses in criminal cases I now prosecute on behalf of the Department of the Attorney General. Rom is an exceptional attorney who is always well prepared and well versed in the law. The people of the State of Hawaii will no doubt benefit from his work ethic, and his steadfast resolve to be fair with everyone he encounters throughout the judicial system. Rom's pleasant demeanor, humility, and unwavering adherence to high moral standards, will also serve the people well. In short, Rom will make an excellent judge and will be an asset to the Judiciary.

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**From:** Terry M. Revere [terry@myrhawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 9:39 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader Thursday January 15 hearing at 10:00 AM

Dear Committee Members:

I practice exclusively in the civil arena. A large part of my practice involves insurance defense work. I have had many cases that involved both civil and criminal issues which necessarily involved interaction with the Prosecuting Attorney's office. While I do not know him socially, on several occasions I interacted with Ron Trader on the issues of subpoenas, parallel criminal/civil cases and other matters. I has always found Rom to be very fair, highly intelligent and sensitive to the needs of the civil system. I think that if he becomes a Judge he will be able to do an excellent job handling either civil or criminal cases.

Thanks,

Terry Revere

Motooka Yamamoto & Revere  
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 801  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 532-7900, Ext. 516  
Facsimile: (808) 532-7910

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*Charlotte J. Word, Ph.D.*  
*P.O. Box 5207*  
*Gaithersburg, MD 20882*  
*301-527-1350*  
*cjword@comcast.net*

January 11, 2009

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Rom Alex Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm and with absolutely no reservations that I write this letter in full support of Rom Alex Trader and his confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee to fill the vacancy on First Circuit Court. I have known Rom Trader professionally for just under 15 years. I am an expert in human DNA Identification Testing and have been retained by the Honolulu's Prosecuting Attorneys office on numerous occasions to testify in admissibility hearings and trials regarding DNA testing results performed at the Cellmark Diagnostics laboratory where I was employed from 1990 to 2005. I have also been retained by the Prosecutors office as a consultant to review work performed by the Honolulu Police Department and provide expert testimony regarding the data. I have worked directly with Rom and other members of his office in Honolulu since the mid-1990s on approximately ten cases, some of which were high profile homicide cases, in which DNA testing of evidence had a key role. In addition to working with Rom in person when I came to Honolulu to testify, I have frequently spoken with him on the telephone and exchanged emails regarding a number of other cases and various issues regarding evidence and DNA testing.

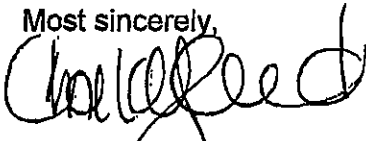
In all of my interactions with Rom, I have found him to be completely professional in all aspects of his conduct, absolutely fair, non-judgmental and always eager to do what is right and the most ethical in all situations. We have had frequent discussions regarding discovery to be provided to opposing counsel and issues that may have an impact on how DNA test results may be presented to and impact the trier-of-fact. In all situations, he acted in the most forthright and ethical manner wanting all information to be accurately and fairly presented to the defendant, opposing counsel, the jury and the court. Unlike some other members of his profession who I have met throughout the United States during my approximately 300 court appearances, Rom Trader has never suggested how my testimony should be presented and never hinted that any information should be withheld or presented in a light perhaps more favorable to the State. He accepted all of the scientific data for what they were and always expected all data obtained to be presented including any errors or weaknesses. He was always thoroughly prepared for his cases, had a clear understanding of the evidence and its role, including limitations, in his case and executed his job with the utmost of professionalism.

Rom Trader has always behaved in the most respectful manner in the courtroom, with his colleagues, to his staff, the crime laboratory staff and to me. It is clear from my many visits to the State's Attorneys Office and to the crime laboratory that Rom is highly respected and held in the highest regard by the other attorneys and staff in his office as well as the crime laboratory personnel. It is also clear that many people seek him out and rely on him for his expert advice and counsel. He is a kind and patient man who carefully and thoroughly reviews and considers all sides of an issue before making thoughtful and educated decisions.

Rom Trader believes in and embraces life-long learning. He accepted the task of understanding the emerging field of DNA testing and how it could be used in criminal cases when it was first being introduced in Hawaii even prior to the Honolulu Police Department beginning testing. He has kept abreast of the many developments over the past 15-20 years as new techniques and testing methods have been introduced into the laboratories and the courts. He has never been afraid to ask questions and seek information in areas new to him. He has also been a strong advocate for additional education and training for the attorneys in his office as well as the analysts in the crime laboratory. He does thorough research, aiming to see the whole picture and willingly seeks guidance and counsel. These traits will serve him well as a judge.

In closing, there is no doubt in my mind that Rom, with his exemplary code-of-conduct, would be an excellent judge and would hold the position with the great pride and respect such a position deserves. The people of the State of Hawaii would be well-served to have Rom Trader as a judge in the First Circuit Court as he would act fairly, ethically, considerately, always within the law and with the utmost respect for and dedication to the people he has been chosen to serve. I consider it a great honor to have been asked to support Rom Trader's nomination and I whole-heartedly and ardently support his appointment to the First Circuit Court. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most sincerely,



Charlotte J. Word, Ph.D.

Chris Nishimoto  
P. O. Box 240624  
Honolulu, HI 96824

January 9, 2009

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Application of Rom A. Trader for Judge of the First Circuit Court  
Date: January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.  
Hearing Room 016

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am currently a Paralegal Assistant assigned to the Screening and Intake Division at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. I have been employed at the Prosecutor's Office for almost eighteen (18) years.

I had the opportunity to work with Rom for approximately five (5) years when he was the Division Chief of the Trials Division and approximately two (2) additional years where he currently is the Division Chief of the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division. During those years, Rom has been my immediate Supervisor. Rom has always treated people with a high degree of warmth and respect, which earns him the same in return. Rom would always make himself available to anyone who had a question or concern whether he was in the middle of preparing for a case for trial or reviewing paperwork submitted to him by staff and other Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. It is evident that he is always willing to help others and also has a genuine compassion for others.

With the trust in his compassion and fairness, and my confidence in his ability, I hope that you will give him the opportunity to demonstrate such, and appoint Rom A. Trader to Judge of the First Circuit Court. With his experience and knowledge as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Rom would be a tremendous asset to the judiciary.

Sincerely,



Chris Nishimoto  
Paralegal Assistant

January 12, 2009

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairman  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capital  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Consideration of Rom A. Trader for the Circuit Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:00am.

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

This letter is in support of Rom Trader for the position of Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Rom Trader for sixteen years in both a professional and social capacity. I first worked with Mr. Trader at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. After leaving the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, I continued to work with Mr. Trader on joint cases in my capacity as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii and currently as an Assistant Chief Counsel with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mr. Trader is an outstanding trial attorney who has an excellent understanding of court procedures, rules of evidence, statutes, and case law. He has successfully handled many complex and high publicity criminal cases throughout his career as prosecutor. He is well respected by fellow attorneys and has the reputation of being a tough but fair prosecutor. Mr. Trader is a person of the highest integrity, exercises good discretion, and makes tough decisions on a routine basis.

Mr. Trader's professionalism, extensive legal experience and dedication to public service make him an ideal candidate for the position of judge. I highly recommend that Rom Trader be selected as a judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 734-0417.

Sincerely,

  
Heith M. Kaneshige, Esq.

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**From:** Akama, Dudley G. [Dudley.Akama@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 1:16 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader circuit court confirmation

Please accept this as favorable testimony in favor of Rom Trader as circuit court judge of the first circuit.

Rom has integrity and judicial temperament. His 20 years as prosecutor credits him with a depth of court experience and dealing with attorneys.

I have worked with him recently when he was prosecutor in mental health cases. He has always been fair, prepared, and responds to phone calls.



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**From:** c keller [cynkeller1@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 1:55 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation Hearing for Rom Trader, Circuit Court Judge; GM 167, 1/15/09

Please confirm the Governor's nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court Bench. Mr. Trader is one the fairest, most compassionate people in the criminal justice system. His experience as a deputy prosecutor is varied and extensive, and has prepared him well for the job. He has taken on some of the most complicated cases in the office and brought them to a successful resolution, gaining the respect of the citizens of Hawaii as well as his peers and coworkers. Not only has he been an actor in the process, but he has also actively participated in the policy formation and community education by serving on committees that considered issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and homicide, working with coalitions to bring parties together for the common goal of public safety and justice.

As a victim advocate in the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, I have had the pleasure of working with Rom on many cases over 21 years. He has the highest ethical standards and compassion for the victims of crime. Rom has made some tough decisions but he has always treated the parties with respect. He would meet with victims and families and discuss cases, and explain fully his reasons for certain actions. Victims have always felt like they had a voice when Mr. Trader represented them, and at least felt like he at least listened, then made an informed decision. And I believe he has earned the respect of his colleagues in the defense community as well as a fair-minded participant in the criminal justice process.

The State of Hawaii needs a Judge like Rom Trader. Thank you for considering my comments.

Cyndi Keller  
Victim Advocate  
Honolulu Prosecutor's Office

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**From:** Hino, Tracy (USAHI) [Tracy.Hino@usdoj.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 2:46 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Judicial Nominee Rom Trader

My name is Tracy Hino and I have been an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to both the civil and criminal divisions of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the past 14 years. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the City and County of Honolulu for 12 years.

I have known Rom Trader for more than 20 years and I highly recommend him for the position of Circuit Court Judge. I do not make this recommendation lightly, in fact, this is the first time I have ever made a judicial recommendation to the Senate.

For the past 20 years, Rom has demonstrated beyond all doubt that he can make tough well-reasoned decisions on a daily basis.

On the other hand, Rom's decisiveness has always been tempered by his easy-going, mediating, and commonsensical can-do approach to issues and his willingness to revisit and reevaluate prior decisions if warranted.

Along those lines, Rom has always tried to encourage and develop communication and to explore new and different options in the course of litigation which is a rare, exciting, and refreshing change.

In short, I truly believe that Rom would make an excellent Judge and that his appointment would reflect positively upon the Judiciary and the Senate confirmation process.

Your truly,

Tracy Hino

440-9258 (direct)

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 167  
Consideration and Confirmation of Rom A. Trader  
As Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

By Joanne T. Tashima

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of Rom A. Trader as Judge of the Circuit Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Trader for twelve plus years while working at the Prosecutor's Office, City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, both as a co-worker and also as a friend. While working with Mr. Trader at the Prosecutor's Office, I came to appreciate and respect his wisdom, knowledge, and abilities as one of the finest and competent deputy prosecutor in the office. As the Division Chief of the Domestic Violence / Juvenile Offender Division, Mr. Trader was always open to comments, and welcomed all views and opinions. I found him to be straight forward and unafraid to make decisions, even if it was an unpopular one. He also gained the respect and admiration from people out in the community and from those that he dealt with from other agencies.

The Judiciary needs a Judge with the ability to understand the laws, and who is compassionate, exhibits good judgment and has the ability to communicate. I believe that Mr. Trader possesses all of the above and is more than capable of doing the job.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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**From:** Nitta, Sheila [snitta@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 4:40 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Judicial nominee Rom Trader, hearing Jan 15, 10:00 am

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

GM 167  
Thursday January 15, 2009  
10:00 a.m.  
Gubernatorial Nominee Rom Trader

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in regard to judicial nominee Rom Trader. I have known Mr. Trader for many years as a fellow deputy prosecutor. I have worked side-by-side with him in various assignments and he is currently one of my supervisors. I had mixed emotions when I learned Governor Lingle had selected him to fill the Circuit Court vacancy. On the one hand, I was very happy for Mr. Trader and pleased that he was nominated to become a Circuit Court judge, but sad that our office would lose such an experienced supervisor, excellent trial attorney, and wonderful friend.

I feel Mr. Trader would make an excellent judge. He is well-versed in the law and has a superior work ethic. Mr. Trader has thousands of hours of courtroom experience, and is a good problem-solver. In addition, he is very compassionate towards people who have been victimized or down-trodden. He is a good consensus-builder. He has handled many high-profile and difficult cases over the years. In spite of working with many difficult witnesses, victims, attorneys, and judges over the years, I have never heard him speak ill of them. He takes everything in stride and manages to stay above the fray. I have turned to him many times for legal advice and appreciate his wisdom and knowledge.

There are those who may question why the governor has nominated another attorney from the Prosecutor's Office to fill a Circuit Court vacancy. I would like to briefly address that concern. As an attorney with over twenty-four years of experience practicing in the courtrooms of the State of Hawaii, I have made appearances in front of hundreds of different judges. Those judges come from varied backgrounds, but not many of them are former prosecutors with Mr. Trader's level of experience. Mr. Trader's appointment as a judge would simply add balance to the bench. That being said, I would also like to comment that the best judges are able to put aside any predispositions and prejudices they may bring to the bench, and instead, use the skills, knowledge, and experience they developed in the practice of law to become excellent judges. I can state, without reservation, that I believe Mr. Trader will be one of those excellent judges.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

*Sheila B. Nitta*  
*Deputy Prosecutor*  
*808-768-6456 Office*  
*808-768-6552 FAX*  
*1060 Richards St., 9th Floor*  
*Honolulu, HI 96813*  
*snitta@honolulu.gov*

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Senator  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol 5th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi

This is a letter of support for Mr. Rom Trader who is being considered for a position in the State of Hawaii Courts as a Judge.

I have known Mr. Trader professionally since 1995 when I was an Assistant Chief of Police for the Regional Command of the Honolulu Police Department. In the years that I have known Mr. Trader, I have found him to be a competent, fair, and assertive Prosecutor.

He consistently worked in the best interest of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, City & County of Honolulu. He has served in leadership roles as a Division Chief in cases involving Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Felony Trials.

He served as a Team Captain of the Robbery/Burglary and Theft/Forgery Branches of the Prosecuting Attorney's office. It was during this time that I first met Mr. Trader, and I found him to be truly passionate in the pursuit of justice.

I have witnessed his handling of a Sexual Assault case which resulted in the conviction of the four males involved. His competence, compassion and skill as a prosecutor resulted in the successful end of the case.

He has also worked on many high profile cases throughout his years as a Prosecutor in the State of Hawaii which often ended successfully.


He has served as an Adjunct Professor - Prosecution Clinic at the University of Hawaii - Richardson School of Law. In 2007, he was selected as the Honolulu Police Department's Citizen of the Year for all that he has done for the community. In 2008, he was named the Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Men's March Against Domestic Violence.

Mr. Trader truly cares about the Justice system and how it affects our community. This is evident by his participation in more than ten community activity groups. These groups are varied and involve, volunteering at the Central Union Preschool; Board of Directors of a Condominium Association; lectures within the community and training of community members and law students in various aspects of law.

I believe Mr. Trader has proven himself as a valuable asset of our community and would be able to do more as a Judge in the State of Hawaii Court System.

I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to call me at (808) 753 5617 should the need arise.

Sincerely,

  
Lee D. Donohue  
Chief of Police (Retired)  
Honolulu Police Department

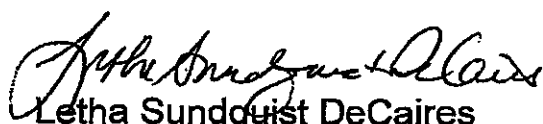
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Deputy Prosecutor Rom Trader to fill a vacancy on First Circuit Court. I am writing to you as a private citizen. However my 20 year experience with DPA Trader stems from my work as a police detective and now as a police administrator.

During that time period I worked with DPA Trader on numerous cases including domestic violence and sex assault. He was always prepared, articulate and even in his approach to everything he did. I have the utmost respect for him as an attorney and I believe that he would make a wonderful judge.

We need more judges who are balanced and grounded in integrity and goodness. Who having seen difficult and awful things still has hope and belief in the goodness of people. Rom Trader is just that sort of human being. Please consider him for this post.



Letha Sundquist DeCaires  
1022 Loho Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

**Hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009 1000 hours.**

*fax 596-6659*



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**From:** Sam King [sam@kingandking.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 3:46 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** romtrader01@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Rom Trader Confirmation Hearing

I understand that prosecutor Rom Trader has been submitted by Gov. Lingle for a Circuit Court judgeship. I have know Ron for over 20 years. I have been a criminal defense attorney my entire legal career, and Rom has been a prosecutor. Rom has always conducted himself fairly, professionally, and as a gentleman in all my dealings with him over these many years. Rom is always willing to listen and consider all sides to an issue. I think Rom will make an excellent Circuit Court judge with his qualities of fairness, intelligence, and experience. I am sure he will also have excellent demeanor on the bench. I strongly urge the appointment of Rom as a Circuit Court Judge. Sam King ([sam@kingandking.com](mailto:sam@kingandking.com); 521-6937)



January 13, 2009

JGOTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my support of Judicial Nominee Rom Trader.

So that you understand the perspective I write from, I wanted to share a little bit about my background. Currently I am a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, Deadbeat Parent Unit. Prior to working for the State, I was in civil practice at Henderson Gallagher & Kane and Char Hamilton Campbell & Yoshida.

I began my legal career twelve years ago at the Prosecutor's Office and was hired by Peter Carlisle. It was at the Prosecutor's Office where I met Rom. I was newly assigned to the Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit. My stay in this unit was by far the most stressful and emotionally-taxing time of my legal career thus far. As you know, many of these cases involved child-victims having to discuss very personal and embarrassing incidents and there was no shortage of raw emotion and deep indescribable hurt. Prosecuting these cases was challenging legally as well as juggling all the personalities involved, thus it was very important to have a great mentor. Rom was that mentor to me and many others.

Rom was not my immediate supervisor but in fact the (Family) Division Head, yet, I often went to him for practice pointers and guidance. I trusted his expertise, people skills and demeanor under pressure. He was a teacher that properly encouraged, guided and even reprimanded, but always with humility. His door was open to any deputy that sought his advice. I was also fortunate enough to second chair him in a trial and can attest to his depth of knowledge, litigation expertise and cool headed demeanor. His style is reminiscent of the many learned practitioners of the past who were consummate gentlemen litigators.

I hold Rom in my highest regard and I believe he would make a good choice if you decide to confirm his nomination to the bench. He is and has been a dedicated civil servant, fierce litigator, and poised and diplomatic leader.

Sincerely,

Lynn K. Kashiwabara

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**From:** Anderson Hee [ahee@starprotectionagency.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 6:59 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader

Aloha Senator Taniguchi:

I am writing this memo to support Mr. Rom Trader, who is scheduled for his confirmation hearing for the position of Judge in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Trader and I have known each other for over 20 years, both professionally and personally. I am currently the Vice President of Star Protection Agency, the largest locally owned security company in Hawaii. Prior to this I was a Honolulu Police Detective and I worked with Mr. Trader on many occasions. He not only prosecuted defendants, but was a stickler to see that all proper procedures were followed to ensure the defendant got a fair trial. He was also able to show his compassion to victims of crimes and able calm them prior to testifying. I retired from the HPD in 2002 as a Lieutenant and started working at the State Dept. of the Attorney General as a contract Special Agent. While working there I was able to start the "Cold Case" homicide unit, which investigated old homicide cases. Mr. Trader contributed input to several of the homicide cases that the unit investigated.

Rom Trader is a man of integrity, fairness and honesty and I hope he is confirmed.

Sincerely,

Anderson Hee  
Ph: (808) 532-3911

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**From:** Jeff Albert [albertj001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 6:34 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader

Honorable Brian Taniguchi

I am writing on behalf of Rom Trader as a nominee for Judge of the First Circuit.

I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney on Oahu from 1988 to November 2005, when I retired. Since 2005 I have been a Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney serving in a pro bono capacity. Prior to my service in the Prosecutor's Office I was, inter alia, clerk to a federal district judge in New Jersey, a Hays Fellow at NYU, Assistant General Counsel, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Professor of Law, George Washington University, Visiting Professor of Law at American University, the University of Hawaii, and Western State University, Special Assistant to Member Zagoria, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Assistant to the President, Hawaii Teamsters.

I have known Rom since 1989 when we both began work in the Felony Division of the Oahu Prosecutor's Office. Rom is a dedicated and thoughtful public servant with impeccable ethical standards, an infinite capacity for detail, a Herculean capacity for difficult and demanding work, and a puckish and infectious sense of humor. It was my great pleasure and honor to have come to know him. I believe he would be an outstanding judge of the First Circuit and I enthusiastically recommend him for that position.

If there is any other information you require please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey M. Albert

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**From:** KRISTIE NOVAK [aeracura@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 7:33 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader Confirmation

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair Judiciary Committee  
RE: Rom Trader Confirmation

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

My name is Kristie Novak. I am on the Board of Directors of Prospect Park, an 11-unit townhouse property in Makiki.

I have known Rom Trader for the past three years since I bought and moved into my townhouse unit at the Prospect Park where Rom and his family also have a unit. Two years ago, I was voted as Secretary to the Board of Directors and Rom, President.

Since this time, I have worked with Rom on the Board. This Board has tackled many situations of varying degree. The decisions that we have reached together have been made with thoughtfulness, directness, fairness and always with common sense. Throughout my relationship with him, both as a neighbor and as a member of the Board, I have found him to be a caring, fine, upstanding individual with great character.

I would like to chime in with the no doubt countless others in this state who would welcome his service to our community. The State of Hawaii would be greatly enhanced with him serving as First Circuit Court Judge.

I appreciate your consideration and hope that you and your committee vote favorably on his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Kristie Novak  
Secretary  
Board of Directors of the Prospect Park

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**From:** Lani Lujan [llujan@lujanaguiguiperez.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 8:41 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of the Confirmation of Rom Trader for Circuit Court Judge

**TO:** Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson  
Senate Judiciary Committee

**FR:** Leilani V. Lujan

**RE:** Confirmation of Rom Trader for Circuit Court Judge

**DATE:** January 13, 200 (Guam time)

Hafa Adai, Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting my comments in strong support of Rom Trader's confirmation as a Circuit Court judge. Prior to returning to Guam in February 2008, I lived in Hawaii for 20 years. During my 20 years in Hawaii, I graduated from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, worked as a law clerk in the First Circuit Court, became a Deputy Public Defender on Oahu and Maui and was in private practice, concentrating on criminal law.

I first met Rom when I worked as a law clerk for Judge Simeon Acoba, who was then a First Circuit Court judge. Rom always was professional, respectful of all parties, fair, accessible, well prepared and prompt. When I started practicing law, I dealt with Rom in many criminal cases in his capacities as the assigned attorney or the supervising attorney. I was exposed to another side of Rom – the fierce advocate – because I pursued criminal defense which automatically made us opponents. Having prosecuted some of Hawaii's most publicized cases, Rom's litigation and trial experience and skills are well-known and highly respected. In either capacity as an assigned attorney or supervising attorney, Rom stayed true to the same attributes of professionalism, fairness, respectfulness, accessibility, preparedness and punctuality, which his years of working as a prosecutor did not erode but rather strengthened.

Ask just about any criminal defense attorney and she/he will tell you that the overriding duty of a prosecutor is to do justice. While people may differ on what justice means, I strongly believe that Rom fulfills his overriding duty to do justice to the people of Hawaii who find themselves in criminal court. To be clear, Rom is a strong advocate as mentioned earlier. In our adversarial system, he is a formidable opponent and a tremendous force for the prosecution. But Rom also brings the human aspect to prosecution, striking that often elusive balance between strong advocacy and compassion for others.

Having practiced in the circuit courts on Oahu and Maui, I am very familiar with the quality of the current judges in those circuits. Given his wealth of experience and his attributes, including his strength of character and compassion, Rom would be an immense and much needed asset to the judiciary. I enthusiastically and strongly support his confirmation and humbly ask that you do so as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Leilani V. Lujan*  
Law Office of Lujan Aguigui Perez LLP  
238 Archbishop Flores Street, Suite 300  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

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**From:** Matthew Perry [mhperrysone@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 4:56 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader judicial nomination

To: Brian Taniguchi, Judiciary Committee Chairman  
From: Matthew Perry  
Re: Rom Trader Judicial Nomination

I'm am writing to express my endorsement of Rom Trader who as been nominated to be a circuit court judge.

I have worked with Rom as a part of the board of directors for the condominium project we both live in, Prospect Park. Rom is the current president of the board and has provided conscientious leadership in an equitable manner. I particularly like his ability to put the goals of the condominium Association ahead of any individual's interest, so that we, the board, can act in the best interest of the Association as a whole.

He seems like a smart, fair, and honest person who would make a good judge.

Sincerely, Matthew Perry.

**Matthew H Perry**  
IT Manager  
960 Prospect St #3  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
808-523-3948  
[mhperrysone@yahoo.com](mailto:mhperrysone@yahoo.com)

January 13, 2008

To: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: First Circuit Court Gubernatorial Nominee **Rom A. Trader**

My name is Cynthia Mishina, and I am writing this letter on behalf of First Circuit Court Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader. I have worked at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in a majority of the divisions for the past 36 years. During those years, I have had some contact working with Rom. But for the past four years, I have worked as a Paralegal Assistant directly under Rom in his capacity as Division Director of the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender (DV/JO) Division.

When Rom was a co-Division Director of the one of the largest Divisions, the Trials Division, I remember him to always make a decision when someone had a problem. He was never one to procrastinate in making a decision or pass the problem on to another deputy. The staff could always count on him when they had a question or problem.

Now that I work directly under him in the DV/JO Division, he is exactly the same way. He is decisive, but never shortcuts or compromises his decisions. Whenever I have a question or problem, he will always take the time to go over the problem with me, discussing options or giving me scenarios to help me understand how to solve the problem. His guidance and experience is immeasurable. He has never made me feel inadequate whenever I have a question, no matter how minor it is. He is understanding and kind, and his door is always open.

I have also observed Rom's interaction with the deputies in the DV/JO division. I have witnessed telephone calls he receives from the deputies who are in Family Court, handling complex and sensitive domestic violence cases. Because of the nature of domestic violence cases, the deputies call Rom numerous times from court for his expertise and direction. He treats them with respect, never impatient or annoyed at questions that he must have heard dozens of times from previous deputies. In the office, I have observed him discussing cases with the deputies one-on-one, in their offices, never acting that he is above them.

As a Circuit Court Judge, I believe Rom will be firm, yet compassionate. He will bring integrity, honesty, and, most of all, fairness to the courtroom. He is also a team player, who will assist his co-workers and staff readily and willingly. Rom will make an excellent judge.

Thank you.

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**From:** BARRIE CHIACO [barrie@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:30 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** First Circuit Court Judicial Nominee Rom Alex Trader

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing this letter to provide public comment on First Circuit Court Judicial nominee Rom Alex Trader. As the DNA/Serology Technical Leader of the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific Investigation Section, I have had the opportunity to work professionally with Mr. Trader on numerous occasions over the past 10 years. I believe Mr. Trader to be a highly competent attorney who possesses the character and disposition to successfully serve on the First Circuit Court.

Two qualities that make a good judge are knowledge of the law, and an even-handed respect for others, or as it is sometimes said, a judicial temperament. Mr. Trader has demonstrated these qualities numerous times throughout the years. His knowledge of the law as it relates to criminal cases is admirable. His ability to objectively weigh the probative value of scientific evidence makes me believe he would be respected by both the prosecuting and defense attorneys in his courtroom.

In my opinion, one special quality that makes Mr. Trader a unique nominee is that he is one of only a handful of attorneys in Hawaii that have a sound understanding of forensic DNA and it's proper application in a criminal case. As any attorney can tell you, presenting forensic DNA evidence to a judge or jury is no easy task. Mr. Trader has been the lead attorney or has assisted his office in practically all of their high profile forensic DNA cases. He is regarded as the "go to" attorney when it comes to forensic DNA in criminal matters.

In closing, Mr. Trader's experience and dedication as a prosecuting attorney warrants further consideration as a judicial nominee. He possesses many qualities and traits that make him well suited to serve on the First Circuit Court. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [barrie@mac.com](mailto:barrie@mac.com).

Sincerely

Barrie Chua-Chiaco



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**From:** De Alwis, Kanthi [kdealwis@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:20 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader's confirmation to the Circuit Court

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chairperson  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

This is in support of the confirmation of Rom Trader's appointment to the Circuit Court bench.

I have known Rom Trader in his capacity as a prosecutor for approximately 17 years. I have worked with him on many criminal trials as an expert witness. During many pretrial conferences as well as in trial, Mr. Trader consistently demonstrated dedication and commitment to bringing justice to our community. I find him to be a highly capable, intelligent, and compassionate individual who strives for excellence. His knowledge and experience in litigation have made him a well respected member of the Prosecutor's Office and among other law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Trade is approachable and down to earth. He has organized many educational seminars to young lawyers through our department and his mentoring and support has allowed his staff to develop confidence and work to their fullest potentials.

I have the utmost confidence that Rom will serve the judiciary with fairness and integrity and promote the best interests of our community. I respectfully request that the Senate confirm the appointment of Rom Trader.

Thank you

Sincerely.

**Dr. Kanthi De Alwis**  
**Chief Medical Examiner**  
**Department of the Medical Examiner**  
**City and County of Honolulu**  
**835 Iwilei Road**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96817**  
**(808) 768-3090**  
**[kdealwis@honolulu.gov](mailto:kdealwis@honolulu.gov)**

January 13, 2009

To: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

From: Marlene DeVincent

Re: Judicial Nominee Rom Trader

Hearing Date: January 15, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m., 1 Page.

I have been with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for 38 years. I am the clerical division supervisor for the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division. Rom Trader and I have worked with each other, on and off again, through the years, and full time from January 2000.

In January 2000 Rom became the division head of the then called Sex Assault/Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division. If confirmed, Rom will bring honesty, integrity, character and a wealth of knowledge to the position of judge. Rom is respectful, confident, organized, dependable, punctual, fair and pleasant to work for and work with. He has been my immediate boss for the last 9 years and I have found these qualities to be true in Rom Trader.

In this 61-year-old woman's humble opinion, the State of Hawaii would do well to select Rom Trader as her next judge.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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**From:** Lau, Lynette [llau4@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:44 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: ROM A. TRADER  
Nominee for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit  
Senate Confirmation Hearing: 1/15/09 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am writing to express my support for Rom A. Trader for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I believe Rom is an excellent choice for the position.

He has been a trial attorney for 20 years and most of those years were spent handling difficult, complex murder cases. He has been the Division Chief of Domestic Violence and Juvenile Division for almost ten years.

I have known Rom for thirteen (13) years in the office, as a deputy prosecutor in the Juvenile Offender team, and later as a Team Captain in the Juvenile Offender Team. He has been my supervisor for 10 years during which time I have had the privilege of working closely with him. I have sought Rom's advice on a daily basis as a trial attorney and as a team captain. Rom has always been very receptive to deputies seeking advice and makes himself available for us even during after-hours and on weekends.

Rom has done a superb job as a prosecutor and a division head. He is very intelligent, and is highly capable of handling complex legal issues. He is not afraid to make difficult decisions. He is open to others' views, but is an independent thinker. He is articulate and communicates well with others. His writing is excellent. When Rom is called about a question that has come up in trial, he responds, either with his extensive knowledge, or researches the matter and comes up with a quick, well-reasoned response.

Although Rom's departure would be a great loss to this Office, he would be an asset to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I hope that you will appoint him to serve the people in this capacity.

Yours Truly,

Lynette J. Lau

**THE LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM M. DOMINGO**  
547 HALEKAUWILA STREET, SUITE 102  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 521-4323  
FACSIMILE: (808) 585-9912  
EMAIL: [wmdomingo@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdomingo@yahoo.com)

January 13, 2008

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol Building

Re: CONFIRMATION OF ROM A. TRADER  
Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit

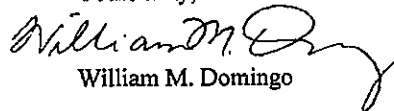
Dear Senator Taniguchi and members of the Judiciary committee,

It is with great pleasure that I whole-heartedly give my support for Rom Alex Trader's appointment as Circuit Court Judge. I have know Rom for over 20 years; from law students through our present roles as adversaries in the criminal courts.

Rom has all the tools to be a great judge. He is intelligent, passionate, an excellent trial attorney but most of all Rom possesses the perfect demeanor to handle the job. He is well liked and well respected among his peers and adversaries. As a long time public defender and now private defense attorney, I have always treasured the times we faced each other in court. We did two murder cases in the nineties and many more felonies. He always was well prepared, very courteous to all involved, passionate about his victims, yet always carried himself with the dignity of his office and an integrity beyond reproach.

In closing, senators, the appointment of Rom A. Trader to the bench will most certainly be a watershed event for the Judiciary and especially for the people of the State of Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Mahalo and Aloha.

Yours truly,

  
William M. Domingo

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**From:** taro nakamura [taronakamura@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:16 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Rom Trader for Circuit Court Judge

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Hearing: January 15, 2009 1000 hours.

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and all Senate Committee members,

I write to you today to offer my support of Rom Trader to the position of Circuit Court judge of the First Circuit.

I have had the privilege of knowing Deputy Prosecutor Rom Trader since 1994 when he played a vital role in the prosecution of Raita Fukusaku, the Japanese National who murdered Kototome Fujita and her son Goro Fujita. He helped restore public confidence in the judicial system and public safety in Hawaii at a time when the national, even international, spotlight was upon Hawaii. Since then he has taken on many difficult trials and has risen to the position of a Division Chief in the Prosecutor's Office.

Although the relationship between the Prosecutor's Office and Law Enforcement can be a bumpy one at times, I have always respected Mr. Trader's leadership, opinion and counsel. I am confident that many people will support Mr. Trader's nomination and cite his past work experience, credentials and excellent people skills. I would like to especially highlight the fact that he has many years of actual trial experience as a trial deputy. I believe that this trial experience is critical to competently carry out the responsibilities of a Circuit Court judge.

Mr. Trader has an innate ability to remain fair and impartial and still show compassion and caring for all parties involved in any particular incident. He is not the product of any established network and owes no allegiances to anyone in his pursuit of Truth and Justice. It is for all of these reasons that I believe Rom Alex Trader would make an excellent Circuit Court judge.

Taro Nakamura  
Honolulu, Hawaii

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**From:** shannon kagawa [skagawa74@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:17 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Shannon Kagawa Gonzalez and I am writing in support of Rom Trader for a position with the First Circuit Court. I am currently a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County and State of Hawaii. Rom was my supervisor from 2001 - 2002 when I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Unit. As a supervisor, Rom was very straight-forward and a great teacher. Being in the Domestic Violence Unit was difficult, because of the emotions involved and the complexity of these relationships, often making cases difficult to prosecute. However, Rom was always there to help guide the younger attorneys, like myself and offer another perspective on how these cases could be handled. It was definitely a pleasure for me to work for him and more importantly to learn from him. No matter how busy he was he would always take the time out to either watch us in trial and offer constructive criticism or praise (if it was warranted). Although I am no longer with the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, there are times that I will seek out the advice of Rom regarding certain cases and he has always been more than willing to help and offer his opinion.

I truly believe that Rom Trader will make an excellent judge for the First Circuit Court. He has the necessary experience, knowledge, dedication, fairness, temperment and demeanor to fairly preside over criminal or civil cases.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinions regarding Rom Trader.

Sincerely,  
Shannon M. Kagawa Gonzalez

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A

The William S. Richardson School of Law

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Chairperson Senator Brian Taniguchi

January 13, 2009

Dear Chair Taniguchi:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support of confirmation of **Mr. Rom Trader** for the position of Circuit Court Judge.

I have known Mr. Trader for 10 years, first as a law student and over the years as a very successful and leading prosecuting attorney. I have found him to be a very solid and fair-minded individual and quite competent and thorough in his work. At the same time he is approachable and very personable. His performance among peers and in the courtroom is well-regarded and he is an excellent attorney. He also has a reflective and analytical nature which greatly assists him in his work.

In recent years, I have come to know him even more closely as our children share a common baby-sitter. In addition to his professional work and his distinguished community awards in recent years, I know he has contributed greatly in the community in working with agencies to end sex assault and domestic violence.

I think he would make a terrific judge and be an asset to the community. I heartily recommend him without reservation.

Ronald C. Brown  
Professor of Law  
Richardson School of Law  
2515 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

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**From:** Mow, Paul R. [pmow@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:07 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Rom A. Trader for confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Hearing: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

Date: January 15, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

In 1989, I worked as a systems analyst for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney under Keith Kaneshiro. I had the pleasure to meet Rom Trader who, at that time, was a young deputy prosecuting attorney. I was immediately impressed by Mr. Trader's highly professional appearance. He always stood up straight, his suits were neatly pressed and clean. The first thought in my mind was that he *looked* like an attorney. The years have gone by and I myself have become a deputy prosecuting attorney. Rom Trader still impresses me. Rom is a brilliant trial attorney who has worked vigorously to put some of the worst criminals Hawaii has ever seen behind bars, many of them sex offenders and murderers. Not only is he phenomenally intelligent and hardworking, but he also cares for his co-workers. No matter how tired or busy he was, Rom would always be ready to cover an appearance for a prosecutor in need, organize a training session for attorneys from all Hawaii counties, share his vast knowledge of case law with anyone who asked, or mentor law students from the University of Hawaii. He is a great attorney because he is a great person. Never one to pat himself on the back, he is a humble warrior in pursuit of excellence within the legal profession. Today, when I look at Rom Trader I don't see an attorney anymore, I see a person who was meant to be a judge.

*Paul R. Mow  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
Trials Division - Team 2  
1060 Richards Street, 10th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 768-1008 or (808) 768-6461  
Fax: (808) 768-7513*



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**From:** Secor, Gary [gsecor@rcchawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:58 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Mr. Rom Trader-Candidate for Circuit Court Judge

January 13th 2009

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair-Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Rom Trader who I understand is a candidate for a Circuit Court Judgeship. As you know, Mr. Trader is an attorney with the City Prosecutors Office. Mr. Trader also serves as a member of Review Board for Sexual Misconduct for the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu. I am also a member of this Board. On this Board, and in my previous position as Vicar For Clergy in the Diocese of Honolulu, I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. Trader and to seek his advice regarding issues that came to the attention of this Board and the Office of Clergy/Diocese of Honolulu.

In my experience, Mr. Trader has provided us with valuable counsel and insight. His input has been truthful, well-considered, and balanced. I have no reason to doubt his character. I believe that his candidacy should be given every consideration.

If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Gary L. Secor  
Pastor-Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Vicar Forane-East Honolulu Vicariate  
5919 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821  
808 396-0551x222  
Fax: 808 396-1380  
Cell: 808 286-1332  
Email: [gsecor@rcchawaii.org](mailto:gsecor@rcchawaii.org)

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**From:** Goodhue, William W. Jr. [wgoodhue@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 11:43 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Rom Trader Judge Confirmation

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chairperson  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

It is my great pleasure to provide this recommendation for the appointment of Rom Trader, Esq., as Judge. I have known Mr. Trader for approximately eight years since my appointment as Honolulu First Deputy Medical Examiner, and have worked with him over the years in investigation and prosecution of a number of criminal cases.

Mr. Trader has outstandingly broad experience as senior Honolulu Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in a wide variety of criminal felony and misdemeanor proceedings, as well as in civil litigation. His assignment to and successful prosecution particularly in recent years of numerous high profile domestic violence homicide and child abuse homicide cases attest not only the superb regard in which his colleagues hold him but also to his skill as an attorney in bringing justice to the wronged, and in providing top-notch service to our community.

Mr. Trader is a consummate professional and an eloquent communicator. He is compassionate and interacts proactively with everyone he encounters. His integrity and professional ethics are impeccable.

Mr. Trader's professional prowess and community service have been recognized by a number of awards, and he engages in many public service activities.

I recommend Mr. Trader for appointment as Judge most highly and without reservation. His appointment will insure continuation of outstanding judicial service to our deserving community.

Sincerely,

William W. Goodhue, Jr., M.D.  
First Deputy Medical Examiner  
Department of the Medical Examiner  
City & County of Honolulu  
835 Iwilei Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-5017  
(808) 768-3062  
[wgoodhue@honolulu.gov](mailto:wgoodhue@honolulu.gov)

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**From:** Marc Toshio Nakamura [mtnakamu@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 11:51 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader Judgeship-Strong Support

Measure: GM 167

Time of Hearing: 1/15/09 at 10:00 am, Conference Room 0016

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Rom Trader's nomination for a judgeship with the First Circuit Court. I was one of many deputies that worked under Rom and it is clear that he has the temperment, legal ability, and strong ethics necessary for the position. Rom is one of the fairest and most compassionate attorneys I know and the decisions he makes regarding pleas, charging cases, and trial tactics are guided by a simple philosophy of what is the right thing to do.

Even though Rom has years of experience, he treats everyone whether it be a young prosecutor in his or her first day in traffic court to the most experienced prosecutor with dignity, respect, and humility. Rom is an extremely humble person who always deflects credit and readily credits others for his accomplishments. I believe that Rom would be an asset to the bench and write in favor of his confirmation to this position.

January 9, 2009

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State of Hawaii

FR: Lynne Goto Uyema, Esq.

VIA: EMAIL TRANSMISSION TO JGOTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov.

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER.

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am writing in an individual capacity, in support of the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, ROM A. TRADER, to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I am currently the Chief of the Screening and Intake Division and a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney working under Prosecuting Attorney Peter Carlisle. I have been with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney since 1992. During my career, I have had the honor of working with Mr. Trader as both his subordinate and his teammate.

In all the years I have known and worked with Mr. Trader, I have found him to be even-tempered and personable. He is considered one of our more experienced trial attorneys, capable of handling the most difficult and serious of cases. He has an intimate knowledge and understanding of court rules and procedure and, in his most recent position as the Chief of the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division, he was called upon to make difficult decisions on a daily basis. Mr. Trader is always careful to consider both sides of every case in his analysis and is a true advocate for "doing the right thing" rather than "going for the win".

I believe Mr. Trader's disposition and experience will make him a successful jurist, and I respectfully request the committee support Mr. Trader's confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Lynne Goto Uyema

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 167  
Consideration and Confirmation of Rom A. Trader  
As Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Tommy Johnson, Deputy Director for Corrections  
Department of Public Safety

Judiciary and Government Operations Committee  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 15, 2009; 10:00AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Rom A. Trader to become a Judge in the First Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Mr. Trader clearly possesses the education, extensive experience, leadership, mature judgment, and judicial temperament desired of persons worthy of appointment to the bench.

Over the past 20 plus years as a prosecutor, he has demonstrated through his actions that he possesses the innate qualities and finely honed skills required of a judicial appointment. During his career as a prosecutor, Mr. Trader has prosecuted no less than 27 murder and/or attempted murder cases and numerous sexual assault cases. Many of his previous cases and some of his current cases are high profile, and is he currently prosecuting approximately 8 separate murder and/or attempted murder cases.

He has gained the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the legal community, including defense attorneys and many, many persons in the community. Mr. Trader has a reputation for fairness and mature judgment. His integrity is without question non-negotiable and his work ethic second to none.

Finally, I can state without reservation that he possesses the necessary skills, in-depth experience, integrity and fairness to be an outstanding judge. I strongly support Mr. Trader's nomination and respectfully request that you advise and consent on this highly qualified, extremely capable, and dedicated public servant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Trader's nomination.

Lynne Jenkins McGivern, Esq.  
P.O. Box 240801  
Honolulu, HI 96821-0801  
(808) 539-0438

January 13, 2009

*U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL (jgotestimmy@capitol.hawaii.gov)*

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Support for Judicial Nominee Rom Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am pleased to recommend Deputy Prosecutor Rom Trader for the vacant position with the First Circuit Court., and ask that the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor vote in favor of his confirmation.

Currently I am a partner with Ashford and Wriston LLC. However, from 1990-2000, I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii. From approximately 1997-2000, Rom was my direct supervisor and also the Division Director of the Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse, and Juvenile Offender units.

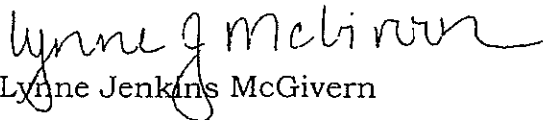
During the decade that I worked in the office with Rom, and during the years that he was my direct supervisor, I thought that he treated me and all others with the utmost respect and courtesy. He was extremely well liked by co-workers, staff, and opposing counsel, including the deputy public defenders. Moreover, Rom was known as a "go to" guy and was a great resource on any and every aspect of criminal and trial work. He was not only a teacher, but a leader. He also works extremely hard.

Rom has vast trial experience and is one of the premier homicide prosecutors in the state. He has tried some of the most notorious and high publicity cases in Hawaii and has done so with much success. Moreover, he has chosen in large part to specialize in handling Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence cases, including infant homicide and other child abuse cases. All of these types of cases are amongst the most difficult cases to do, much less with continued and ongoing success for many years.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
January 13, 2009  
Page 2

In sum, if Rom is appointed to the judiciary, he will be an asset to the community and to the courts. I thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and invite you to contact me if you would like any further information. I can be reached at 539-0438.

Very truly yours,

  
Lynne Jenkins McGivern

LJM/st [595526/1-5020]

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**From:** Suzuki, Gayle F. [gsuzuki@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 12:43 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Judicial Confirmation Hearing for Rom Trader

Dear Chairperson Senator Brian Taniguchi and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I humbly request your confirmation of Mr. Rom Trader as the next Circuit Court judge. I have known Rom since starting at the Department of the Medical Examiner in 2002, and have worked with him on a number of cases. In every instance, I have found Rom to be very knowledgeable, thorough, and fair in handling the cases. I highly respect him as a professional and as an individual, and cannot think of a more suitable person for this position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gayle Suzuki, M.D.  
Deputy Medical Examiner  
City and County of Honolulu  
Department of the Medical Examiner  
835 Iwilei Road  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 768-3090  
Fax: (808) 768-3099  
E-mail: [gsuzuki@honolulu.gov](mailto:gsuzuki@honolulu.gov)



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**From:** mkelley@matsonkelleylaw.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 12:54 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Nomination of Rom Trader

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

This email is in support of the nomination of Rom Trader to fill a vacancy on the First Circuit Court. I am a former deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. Since I left the Prosecutor's office I have gone into private practice on the Island of Maui. I strongly support Rom Trader's nomination. During my time as a prosecutor I observed Rom's trial and managerial skills. Several times when I was employed as a prosecutor, I was under Rom's direct supervision. I can personally vouch for his excellent supervisory skills that would make him a great judge and manager of the court room. In addition, he was extremely well versed in the law. I also believe that his temperament and demeanor are appropriate for a person being nominated for a judicial appointment. Finally, Rom is one of the hardest working individuals that I have met and I have been in awe of his tireless devotion to serving and protecting the community. Accordingly, I pledge my full support for his nomination and believe that he would make an excellent and fair judge.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matson Kelley

**Law Office of  
MATSON KELLEY**

24 N. Church St., Suite 202  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
Telephone: (808) 244-4994 • Facsimile: (800) 948-7344

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**From:** Brandon Gonzalez [bgonzale6@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:29 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Alex Trader, Circuit Court Judge First Circuit, Letter in Support

January 13, 2009

Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairman Taniguchi:  
Re:

Re: Rom Alex Trader, Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, Letter in Support

Please accept this letter in support of Rom Alex Trader's nomination for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Rom Alex Trader is a dedicated public servant, experienced trial attorney, effective administrator, successful educator, and extremely qualified to be a judge.

Rom Alex Trader is a dedicated public servant. As a deputy prosecuting attorney, Rom Alex Trader has served the people of Hawai'i by advocating for victims and maintaining the objective reasonableness required of all prosecutors to be fair in dealing with both the accused and victimized. Rom Alex Trader would arrive before normal business hours and remain at work after normal business hours. Rom Alex Trader has demonstrated that he takes his duties as a public servant seriously. Rom Alex Trader will continue to effectively serve the people of Hawai'i as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Rom Alex Trader is an experienced trial attorney. As a deputy prosecuting attorney, Rom Alex Trader has successfully prosecuted the full spectrum of criminal cases in the State of Hawai'i. Rom Alex Trader has an unparalleled understanding of litigation and jury trial experience. Unfortunately, many members of the bar today have little to no experience in conducting a trial, let alone a jury trial from start to finish (i.e. investigation to indictment to discovery to pre-trial motions to jury selection to jury instruction to verdict to sentencing to post-trial appeals). Litigation is not something that can be learned from a book but it must be experienced.

Rom Alex Trader is an effective administrator. Rom Alex Trader supervises an entire division within the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Rom Alex Trader has experienced firsthand the responsibility of organizing, administering, and supervising a large workforce of clerical staff and attorneys. Rom Alex Trader has the temperament and experience to ensure his courtroom would run efficiently and fairly.

Rom Alex Trader is an educator. In addition to overseeing the Prosecution Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law, Rom Alex Trader is a teacher and mentor to his co-workers. Rom Alex Trader was instructive, learned, and reflective when dealing with his own cases or the cases of fellow deputy prosecuting attorneys. When addressing issues of fellow deputy prosecuting attorneys, he would refer to the rule, the case law, and the statute that would be most relevant to the issue being discussed. He demonstrated and shared his knowledge of case law, rules of evidence, rules of procedure and how it applied to the active criminal prosecutions under his supervision. He demonstrated an analytical

approach (based upon legal precedent, rules, experience) in considering/resolving issues.He encouraged the deputy prosecuting attorneys under his supervision to do the same.

Rom Alex Trader is qualified to be a judge.Based on my observations, Rom Alex Trader possesses the knowledge, experience, and tools to be an effective Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.He is driven to do the very best that he can do when he is given a task.

I am presently an attorney practicing primarily in civil litigation.I am a former deputy prosecuting attorney that had the privilege of having Rom Alex Trader as a teacher, mentor and supervisor.I worked under Rom Alex Trader's supervision from 2001-2003 while he was the Division Head of the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender/Sexual Assault Division.In 2003, I accepted employment as a Deputy Corporation Counsel with theCountyofHawai'i.Many of the values and lessons I received from Rom Alex Trader have been applicable and useful in my transition to civil litigation and risk management work.

Rom Alex Trader is extremely qualified to be a judge and would serve the people of the State ofHawai'i well.

While I was born and raised in Moiliili, I now reside on the island of Hawai'i and will not be present to testify in person.Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandon Gonzalez

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**From:** McCormick, Gregory M. [gmccormick@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:35 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate confirmation of Rom Trader

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

My name is Gregory McCormick and I am a Detective with the Honolulu Police Department, assigned to the Homicide Detail. I am writing to you to offer my support and recommendation of judicial nominee Rom Trader to fill the vacancy on the First Circuit Court.

I have known Rom for approximately six years, have conferred several murder cases with him, and have sought his advice on other matters related to criminal investigations. He is by far the most knowledgeable prosecutor I have met, he maintains his composure despite working long hours on very difficult cases, and he is well liked and respected by all those that know him. I strongly recommend him for this position.

If you have any questions or seek further comment, you may telephone me at any time at 630-1427.

Sincerely,

Gregory McCormick  
Detective – Honolulu Police Department

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**From:** Mark Yuen [markyuen14@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 1:50 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Hearing JGO, Thursday January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., GM 167, Rom Trader's nomination to the Circuit Court.

RE: Hearing JGO, Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., GM 167, Rom Trader's nomination to the Circuit Court

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi and other esteemed members of the Senate Judiciary,

I write this letter in support of Rom Trader's nomination to the Circuit Court. I have worked with Mr. Trader since 1996 when I first started working at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have worked directly under Mr. Trader's supervision for approximately 3 years and have worked with Mr. Trader in other cases. I believe Mr. Trader exhibits many qualities that will serve him well as a circuit court judge.

First of all, he is extremely knowledgeable with respect to trials and is clearly one of the best trial attorneys in the Prosecutor's office. His reputation is solid and well-deserved and he is always well-prepared and extremely thorough, characteristics that I believe are necessary to be an effective trial court judge.

Secondly, Mr. Trader is extremely humble. I actually first heard of him when I interned with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in 1995. I recall hearing how great of an attorney he was especially after he was involved as one of the attorneys in State v. Fukusaku, which was at the time, a very high profile case in the early 90's. When I finally had the chance to meet him, I was impressed with how humble and gracious he was. Throughout my years in the office, I continuously am amazed in how he carries himself. He never brags about his victories or belittles anyone. I truly believe that Mr. Trader has the right temperament to be a solid judge.

Thirdly, Mr. Trader is a leader. In my humble opinion, the measure of a true leader is how hard he or she works in order to set an example to those working below them. An example of how hard Mr. Trader works is that when it comes to difficult cases, Mr. Trader never passes them off. Rather than resting on his laurels, Mr. Trader takes the most difficult cases in his division. I believe he currently is carrying seven or eight homicide cases which are as you probably know, some of the most difficult criminal cases to try. One of the cases that he is currently carrying is a case that I know well since I accepted the case at conferral. Mr. Trader took the case, which is one of the most convoluted cases that I have ever seen, because it was believed at the time to be related to domestic violence. As it turns out, the domestic violence element was merely a smoke screen. However, instead of passing the case off since it was not related to domestic violence, Mr. Trader kept the nightmare of a case because he believed it would have unfair to pass the case off. This small example represents what Mr. Trader is all about-a true leader.

In closing, I believe that Mr. Trader will be an excellent judge. Our office will miss him greatly but his nomination as a Circuit Court judge is well-deserved and fitting given the qualities and characteristics that Mr. Trader has.

Thank you very much for your attention and time,

Mark Yuen

---

**From:** Gary Rockwood [grockwood@maunakearesort.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 2:12 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Appointment for Rom Trader

**Importance:** High

To whom it may concern: Senator Brian Taniguchi

I am sending this email as a strong recommendation that Rom Trader who I understand is being considered for appointment to the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court on Oahu. I strongly support Rom Trader in the position of Judge and feel that he would do an outstanding job to assist our Court system and provide the appropriate justice that we need here in Hawaii's

I have known Rom Trader since December of 2000. At this period I was the Director of Human Resources for the Sheraton Waikiki and Royal Hawaiian Hotels. On December 1, 2000 a very tragic incident occurred at my hotel where as my Executive Chef was stabbed to death in his office at the Sheraton by a disgruntled employee. Obviously this was one of the most tragic events that I have experienced. Rom Trader and I met as he took over this case for prosecution. I worked with him very closely and was extremely impressed with his operational style and the way he conducted this trial. During this period, Rom insured that the family of our Executive Chef was taken care of and assisted by the "Victims Support Program". He personally checked and double checked that all was taken care of. Not only did he take care of those issues, he was instrumental in keeping the staff of my hotel totally informed on how the case was proceeding. All in all his professionalism, dedication and vast experience turned this very intense and emotional event into something that we all better handle.

If you review Rom's background and his experience, I think that you will find that he is the best candidate to take over as our Judge for the First Circuit Court.

Please contact me by phone or email if you would like me to elaborate further on my comments. I would be more than happy to appear or discuss this appointment in more detail.

Thank you very much for allowing me to express my opinion and my recommendation.

Very Respectfully,

Gary R. Rockwood  
President  
**Mauna Kea Resort Services LLC**  
62-100 Kauna'oa Drive | Kohala Coast, HI 96743  
Direct: 808.880.3420  
Main: 808.880.1111 | Fax: 808.880.3227  
Email: [grockwood@maunakearesort.net](mailto:grockwood@maunakearesort.net)  
Website: [www.maunakearesortrentals.com](http://www.maunakearesortrentals.com) | [www.PrinceResortsHawaii.com](http://www.PrinceResortsHawaii.com)

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Trish K. Morikawa  
272 Awakea Road  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

January 13, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: Judicial Nominee Rom A. Trader  
Hearing date - January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the nomination of Rom A. Trader as a Circuit Court Judge. I have had the privilege of working under Rom Trader at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Rom was my supervisor for approximately two years while I was on the Sex Assault Team. Rom's office was next to mine for most of that time. I know many individuals who want to be as far away from their supervisor as possible. But it was quite the opposite for me. Rom was always more than willing to listen to the facts of my cases and the issues or problems I may have had. He would offer advice and guidance and many times lend a hand when I needed something covered at court.

Rom wasn't just a good supervisor, he was also a great teacher. On all of his cases, which were usually the big, high publicity cases, he would practice his openings, his closings, and even go over his evidence and questions with us. I learned so much from these "trainings." Rom would also ask us for comments on how we thought he could improve, and most of the time he incorporated our ideas and thoughts into what he did.

As he has proven through his work experience, Rom A. Trader is an excellent candidate for this position. Rom is intelligent, humble, and dedicated to seeking justice and serving the community. He possesses all of the qualities that we seek in a judge. For all of these reasons, I think Rom would make a great addition to the Judiciary.

Sincerely,  
Trish K. Morikawa

Robert K. W. Lee, Jr.  
355 Aoloa Street D103  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
808-630-9668

January 13, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takemine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
The Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature

Re: Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii,  
Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader, for a term to expire in ten years.

Dear Senators:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Rom Alex Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

In my twenty-six years as an investigator with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, eleven years of which I have served as the chief Investigator, I have seen many talented attorneys pass through this office. Many of those talented attorneys are currently serving on the bench or in other positions which serve our community. In addition to the vast experience working with the attorneys at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I have also had experience working with judges and court support staff at Circuit Court. It is from this experience and knowledge which allows me to write this letter of enthusiastic support of Mr. Trader for appointment to the First Circuit Court.

Mr. Trader joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in 1988. During his tenure at this office, I have had the opportunity to witness his professional development and advancement. Mr. Trader started as an entry level deputy prosecutor, assigned to prosecute minor crimes and offenses. Over the years, and under three different administrations, he advanced to the position of supervising deputy prosecutor, and division chief deputy prosecutor. While a division chief deputy prosecutor, Mr. Trader continued to carry a demanding trial case load which included high profile murder prosecutions. Even with all these responsibilities Mr. Trader found the time and patience to mentor deputy prosecutors, to serve on special hiring committees within the office, and to offer assistance to all other members of the office.

Mr. Trader's twenty years of dedicated work at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney demonstrates his commitment to public service and to the overall safety and welfare of our community. I have found Mr. Trader to be exceptionally tempered, discipline, objective and



Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takemine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
January 13, 2009  
Page 2

fair, as well as sensitive and compassionate. Mr. Trader possesses the right balance of personal and professional characteristics to serve our community fairly and well.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Robert K. W. Lee, Jr.

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**From:** curtis kubo [curtiskubo@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 2:49 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader

To whom it may concern,

I would like to support the nomination of Rom Trader for Circuit Court Judge. I am employed at the Honolulu Police Department's Crime Lab and had the opportunity to work with Mr. Trader in a number of cases. He is very knowledgeable in courtroom procedures and very professional in dealing with his witnesses. I would like to humbly ask that members of the Senate Judiciary Committee confirm Mr. Trader's appointment. Mahalo for your attention.

Aloha,  
Curtis Kubo

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**From:** William Bento [wmbatty@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 2:36 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Rom Trader

Dear Chairperson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Rom Trader to the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court. I have known Rom Trader for 30 years, 21 of which as a deputy prosecuting attorney. I can state that Rom is a person of integrity, honesty and determination. His years of trial work as a DPA make him extremely qualified to serve on the bench, but more than his experience it is his sense of fairness and justice which will make him a great jurist. Although we have not always fully agreed on matters for which we have advocated from different perspectives, I do believe that there has always been a mutual respect and understanding between us, which makes me certain that as a judge he will view all issues from all perspectives before rendering any decision. Furthermore, I believe that his decisions will be based on an adherence to the law and applicable procedure, as well as, being rooted in justice and fairness. For these foregoing reasons I strongly recommend his confirmation.

I hope that these words will aid you in your decision making regarding this appointment, and thank you for your consideration.

William M. Bento  
Deputy Public Defender  
Attorney at Law

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**From:** JLN [jln@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:59 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Support Letter for Rom Trader

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Rom Trader's nomination to the Circuit Court bench. I have known Rom since 1985 and have always found him to be a dedicated and sincere person who works very hard to ensure the applicable law is applied and justice prevails.

Rom truly cares about the community and will be extremely diligent and hardworking as a Circuit Court Judge. Rom has been a dedicated deputy prosecuting attorney for years and has a reputation with the defense attorneys as a fair and reasonable deputy prosecuting attorney.

It is without hesitation that I write this letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee in strong support of Rom Trader's nomination to the Circuit Court bench.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jill Nunokawa  
UH Civil Rights Specialist  
Former Deputy Public Defender

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**From:** Lau Ronald [ronaldlau@laulaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:25 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** rtrader@honolulu.gov  
**Subject:** GM167 Confirmation of Rom Trader as Circuit Court Judge: 1/15/09 at 10am

Dear Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Dwight Y. Takamine, and Members of the Senate Committee:

I speak in favor of confirmation of this candidate for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Trader is dedicated public servant and advocate for justice. A prosecutor has the dual duties of protecting the public and seeking substantive justice. He has had over 20 years of first hand dealings with our criminal justice system as a prosecutor, but has had to demonstrate his keen understanding of the public policy and public perception of justice. He has had many difficult cases which drew intense media attention, and yet he was able to present and represent the victims rights, the public's safety concerns, and his role as a prosecutor, all the while under the harsh glare of television's public pressure. In the over 14 years, I spent representing the State of Hawaii as a hearings officer, I can declare that he possesses the judicial temperament necessary to carefully weigh due process rights of the parties, the burdens of judicial administration, and the intellectual challenges of interpreting the unique legal regime of Hawaii's ordinances, laws, and Constitution.

As personal side, he and I were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and we spend years learning the law, lawyers, and the University of Hawaii. Even then he showed me his dedication and commitment to the profession and its role in shaping our community.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that this Committee approve and confirm Rom Trader's appointment as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Very truly yours,  
Ronald D.S. Lau, Esq.  
(808) 526-3200

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**From:** Laura Yoshida [yoshida286@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:34 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader's Nomination

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Rom Trader's nomination for Circuit Court Judge. I have known Mr. Trader for over ten years. As a criminal defense attorney, I have had the pleasure of working with a number of prosecutors and Mr. Trader has always been prepared and courteous. I feel he has the ability and the knowledge to be an effective judge and to efficiently run a courtroom. Please confirm Rom Trader.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Laura Yoshida  
Attorney at Law  
600 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 401  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-537-2026

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**From:** Sugita, Jennifer R [jsugita@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:33 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167, 1/15/09, 10 a.m.: Gubernatorial Nominee Rom Alex Trader

**Re:** GM 167

**Hearing Date & Time:** Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

This is in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rom Alex Trader. Since 2003, I have been practicing law in the State of Hawai'i. As a civil litigation associate in a private firm for over two (2) years, and then as a deputy prosecuting attorney at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney since July 2006, I have come to know many civil litigators, deputy prosecutors, and criminal defense attorneys. I have appeared before many permanent and per diem judges of the District Court of the First Circuit. In light of my experience with the above-mentioned attorneys and judges, I sincerely believe that Rom would be an invaluable asset to the Judiciary.

Rom is extremely well versed in criminal law, procedurally and substantively. As the Deputy Division Chief of the Domestic Violence Felony and Misdemeanor Division, Rom is not only its leader, but also an advisor and mentor to the felony and misdemeanor deputy prosecutors. Deputy prosecutors who have worked under Rom appear to truly respect him as a seasoned, intelligent prosecutor, and have remarked upon his strong work ethic and ability to carry so many responsibilities while prosecuting felony cases and advising and training his deputies.

In my capacity as the Team Captain of the Misdemeanor/Traffic Division, I have worked with Rom on certain domestic violence cases and procedural and jurisdictional issues, and it has always been a pleasure to do so. Our divisions constantly work with one another as domestic violence cases are frequently reclassified to District Court or upgraded to Circuit Court. Rom is not only aware of the needs of the domestic violence victims, but is also cognizant of our duty to the public and its safety.

Rom possesses an even temperament, which is, in my experience, an absolute necessity for a judge. There are those judges who delight in having the *position*, but resent or dislike having to perform its duties. Certain judges have been known to explode on the bench or in pretrial because they are asked to make a decision, preside at a trial, or are asked to reconsider their ruling. Knowing Rom, he would never act in the aforementioned manner if he were a judge. Rom is a remarkable attorney and a wonderful human being. Please confirm Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer R. Sugita

***Jennifer R. Sugita***

Dept. of the Prosecuting Attorney  
Misdemeanor/Traffic Division, Team Captain  
1060 Richards Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 768-7462  
Fax: (808) 768-6471  
Email: [jsugita@honolulu.gov](mailto:jsugita@honolulu.gov)

January 13, 2009

Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Confirmation of Rom Trader

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of Rom Trader's judicial appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. As a prior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I had the pleasure of working with Rom. He is an intelligent, hard working, fair, and dedicated attorney who was also my supervisor at one time in the Robbery/Burglary branch.

Given Rom's wealth of experience and background in our judicial system, he would be an asset to our courts. Although his background is in prosecution, I have found Rom to be extremely thoughtful, compassionate, caring, and full of integrity. When evaluating cases for prosecution, I was always impressed with his ability to see the big picture and the larger impact to the victims, our community, and the defendant(s). In sum, Rom Trader would make a wonderful judge and I am honored to submit this letter in support.

Thank you for your consideration and attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao  
Deputy Attorney General



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:20 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** dshimizu8991@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM167 on 1/15/2009 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 1/15/2009 10:00:00 AM GM167

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Daniel Shimizu  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2702 Laniloa Road Honolulu, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dshimizu8991@gmail.com](mailto:dshimizu8991@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/13/2009

Comments:  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chairperson, Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee Hawaii State Capitol Honolulu, HI  
96813

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee:

Re: GM 167; Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader

I have known Rom Trader for over twenty years and have no doubt that he will be a fine Circuit Court judge if confirmed by the Senate. Having represented the State of Hawaii on an appeal of a murder case that Rom prosecuted, I have personal knowledge of Rom's work and can attest that he possesses the requisite intelligence, experience, work ethic, temperament, and integrity for the position of Circuit Court judge. While a skilled and experienced litigator, Rom is also fair and scrupulously above board in everything he does. Rom truly is one of the "good guys" in the legal profession. Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Daniel Shimizu

4996 Waa Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821-1460  
808-532-7771 (Work)  
January 13, 2009

(Via e-mail)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chairman  
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Rom Alex Trader for First Circuit Judge  
Hearing: January 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Rom Alex Trader for the position of First Circuit Court Judge. I have known Mr. Trader for the past twenty (20) years as a fellow Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and believe him to be very qualified for this position. He is intelligent and hard working, and has been an excellent trial attorney, handling a number of very important and challenging cases in the Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Trader has been a dedicated public servant who has successfully advocated for numerous victims throughout the past two decades. He would have excellent judicial temperament because of his steady, even personality.

Mr. Trader is able to listen to the evidence, review the law, and then make wise decisions about cases. His departure would be a great loss to my department, but a big gain for the Judiciary.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 532-7771.

Yours truly,

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Sharlene Tom

TO: AWARDS COMMITTEE

VIA: KARL GODSEY, ASSISTANT CHIEF, INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU

FROM: THOMAS T. NITTA, MAJOR, INVESTIGATIVE BUREAU,  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

SUBJECT: **NOMINATION FOR 2007 CITIZENSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Honolulu Police Department's Mission Statement's opening lines:

We, the men and women of the Honolulu Police Department, are dedicated to providing excellent service through partnerships that build trust, reduce crime, creates a safe environment and enhance the quality of life in our community.

The Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department is responsible for the investigation of cases involving murder, robbery, sex assault, domestic violence, child abuse, financial fraud/forgery, auto theft and white-collar crimes. From these investigations criminals are prosecuted in partnership with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

One of the foremost partners at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is our nominee for the 2007 Citizenship of the Year Award, Rom Trader.

**NOMINEE**

Rom Trader  
Attorney – Division Chief  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
1060 Richards Street 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: 527-6437

**BACKGROUND**

A graduate of the University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law in 1987, Rom clerked for the Honorable Ronald B. Greig at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

In 1988, Rom joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney beginning in traffic court and was soon trying the most difficult cases. He is highly successful in child sex assault, murders and cases involving domestic violence.

**FULLFILLMENT OF SELECTION CRITERIA**

For the past eleven years Rom has served as the Division Chief at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Since 2000 he has supervised the Domestic Violence felony, misdemeanor and juvenile felony attorneys.

As a highly skilled trial attorney he has used his expertise in providing training to:

1. The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
2. Recruits at the Honolulu Police Department's Training Facility
3. Physicians and Crisis Workers at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center
4. Scientific Investigation Section personnel at the DNA and serology Unit of the Honolulu Police Department
5. Honolulu Police Department Detectives and neighbor island prosecutors on the art of trial advocacy.

Highly respected as a trial attorney he treats everyone with whom he comes in contact with great respect from hostile witnesses, victims, and defense attorneys. He works well with the defense bar, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center and partners with the Honolulu Police Department to have justice for the victims and the community in which we live.

As a prosecutor is he highly esteemed in the legal community for his integrity, ethics and compassion. This is shown in his daily interaction with attorneys, victims, police, the judiciary and members of the community. He is also a former board member of the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse

For all his training, experience and knowledge utilized as an advocate for the members of our community, Rom is a very humble person. Quiet and soft spoken in person, yet direct and articulate in the court area.

Recent notable cases, which he has taken to court, are in 1999 he convicted Defendant Peter Moses of Attempted Murder in the First Degree after severely wounding a police officer at the Makapuu Light house. Moses is currently serving a life term for that offense.

In 2000, after two mistrials, Rom inherited the case from another prosecutor and convicted the Mililani Rapist James Thompson on multiple counts of kidnapping and sexual abuse for assaulting five local girls. If a conviction had not been obtained the judge would have dismissed the charges. Thompson is now serving several consecutive life terms in prison.

**CONCLUSION**

Prosecutor Rom Trader is the Criminal Investigative Division's nomination for the 2007 Citizenship of the Year Award. The Vision Statement of the Honolulu Police Department "Serving and Protecting with Aloha" is edified by Rom's compassion, empathy, knowledge, and professionalism he has brought to his vocation. The respect he has gained from partnering with the Honolulu Police Department, agencies involved and of the lives he has positively touched, in making Honolulu a better place.

THOMAS T. NITTA, Major  
Criminal Investigation division  
February 12, 2007

Donna Kaneshiro  
2930 Kolomona Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822

December 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Character and Qualifications of Rom A. Trader

I have known Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom Trader for approximately 18 years. He is very generous, honest, loyal, and a trustworthy person. As a co-worker, I admire him, as a friend, I respect him.

Rom Trader is a hard working and dedicated attorney. He never complains and will often take on the most difficult cases. He sets and achieves high standards for himself. What he expects from others is no less than what he himself would and can do. He is often called upon for advice because of his vast knowledge and experience in the criminal justice system. His numerous accolades show how invaluable a public servant he is.

I would expect a judge to know and understand the law. A judge should be fair and impartial. I believe that a judge should be compassionate. Rom Trader displays these qualities and much more. He is a very caring individual. He has sympathy and empathy for others. He looks at a situation objectively and weighs all options before making a decision. Those are qualifications that I believe a judge should convey.

If Rom Trader is chosen to fill the vacancy for judgeship, he will be a great loss to our department. However, the Hawaii State Judiciary will gain a great judge who is respected and admired by many. The public will know that he always has their best interest close to his heart. He will enhance the integrity and honor that already exists in our legal system.

Sincerely,  
Donna E. Kaneshiro

January 13, 2009

Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 214  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First  
Circuit

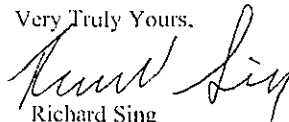
Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter as an expression of the unconditional support of our law firm in the confirmation of Mr. Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Our firm concentrates in the defense of individuals accused of crimes. For the past 11 years we have worked with Mr. Trader in his capacity as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

We have found Mr. Trader to be a fair, diligent, and tremendously talented prosecutor as well as a formidable adversary. We believe him to be an attorney of the highest caliber with sound judgment that will serve him and our community well on the bench. After many years of working in the criminal justice system with Mr. Trader, it is our collective personal and professional opinion that he is person of uncompromising integrity and scrupulous honesty.

We unconditionally support this nomination and look forward to seeing Mr. Trader on the bench. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 532-3800.

Very Truly Yours,



Richard Sing  
Jeffrey Hawk  
Benjamin Ignacio  
Thomas Waters

---

**From:** Kaluhiokalani, Kaleo C. (HPD) [kkaluhiokalani@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 3:00 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader: Judicial Confirmation

To the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Rom Trader to the circuit court bench. My name is Kaleo Kaluhiokalani, I am a Criminalist at the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific Investigation Section (the HPD Crime Lab). I have known Rom Trader for nearly eight years. I have worked with Rom on several court cases as an expert witness for the Prosecution as well as in other training projects outside the courtroom. Rom is a hardworking, intelligent and dedicated civil servant. What sets Rom apart is his dedication to the law profession and the high regard he has for honoring the law.

I will relate a short example as to why I feel Rom Trader should become a judge in the circuit court. The field in which I work is called Forensic Science. Forensic Science is the application of scientific principles to law. A majority of the newly hired personnel at the HPD Crime Lab enter into the forensic science field with strong scientific backgrounds, but lacking in experience in law and the criminal justice system. Rom has worked extensively with many of the newly hired forensic scientists to help teach and train them in court room procedures, ethics, rules of evidence, and expert testimony. As a result, Rom has helped the newly hired scientists at our laboratory bridge the gap between science and law. He has personally helped develop many new hires into effective forensic scientists who are well prepared for court proceedings and expert testimony. Our lab has greatly benefited from his service. Most importantly however, Rom has done this on his own time, despite an extremely demanding work schedule. Rom Trader is a great example of self-less dedication. Rom has always conducted himself with class, organization, respect and honor. I hope that this committee will take into consideration these few remarks and confirm Rom Trader a judge in the circuit court.

Sincerely  
Kaleo Kaluhiokalani



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

January 13, 2009

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Government Operations

Via Email: JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 167: Confirmation of Rom A. Trader for Judge of the First Circuit Court  
Hearing 1/15/09 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Nakasone, and I have served as a Deputy Public Defender for 12 years -- with seven years as a trial lawyer in the District, Family, and Circuit courts, and the last five in the Appellate Division, arguing cases before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have come to know Rom Trader over the latter part of my career, through our day jobs, and also as a neighbor. I strongly support Rom's nomination. He possesses the ideal combination needed in a judge in terms of skill, temperament, and common sense.

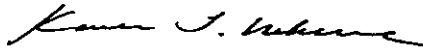
In his long and distinguished career at the prosecutor's office, Rom has earned the admiration and trust, of those who work with him, and more importantly, of those who have worked on the opposing side like myself. Rom has a profound respect for the law and the duty of a prosecutor -- to seek justice and fairness in every case he handles. I never had the opportunity to battle with Rom in a trial, but in my work in the Appellate Division, I have read over transcripts of hearings and trials that he has handled, and I have dealt with him occasionally in the course of the appellate work I do. From what I have seen, Rom is a formidable litigator, always prepared, and is a skilled strategist whose intimate knowledge of courtroom and trial procedure would serve him well as a judge. His reputation, amongst those of us on the opposing side, for honesty and fair dealing even in the most heated cases, or under intense media spotlight, I believe is unparalleled. He has never been one to employ underhanded tactics, and has always represented the State of Hawai'i with great integrity.

Living in the same neighborhood as Rom and having children around the same age, I know that Rom has a healthy work-life balance, as a dedicated father and husband. He is a responsible and engaged member of his community, and serves on his condominium association's Board of Directors.

Finally, I wanted to share with the Senators a personal anecdote about Rom which, I feel, reveals a bit of his personality and what kind of judicial attitude he will display. In front of Rom's house is a small but neatly maintained garden, maintained by Rom. I come from a family of gardening enthusiasts, and have learned that maintaining a garden is an endeavor that takes incredible patience and discipline, and there is no glory or reward, except a sense of personal satisfaction in seeing the fruits of your labor. Gardening also instills a humility and respect for nature.

Rom's character reflects all of these traits -- of patience, discipline, reflection, and humility. These are all qualities, in my years of practice before the district, family, circuit, and appellate courts, that I feel are necessary to be a great jurist. To those who have concerns that Rom's predominantly criminal law background may be too narrow, I would add this: a great jurist has the humility to discern areas of law that are unfamiliar to him or her, combined with the discipline to tackle and master these areas. Rom will do this.

Sincerely,



Karen T. Nakasone, Esq.  
Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawai'i

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*Mari A. McCaig*  
*P.O. Box 513*  
*Ka'a'awa,*  
*Hawaii 96730*  
*Phone: (808) 768-7422*  
*Mobile(808) 927-6008*  
*Fax: (808) 550-6513*  
*Email: [mmccaig@honolulu.gov](mailto:mmccaig@honolulu.gov)*

January 13, 2009

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am writing this letter in support of Rom Trader's candidacy to the Circuit Court bench of the First Circuit on Oahu.

I have known Rom for 20 years, since he started work at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in 1988. During this time, I have worked with Rom as a Victim Advocate on several felony cases. Some of these cases were extremely difficult both in terms of the complex legal issues presented and the emotional and physical trauma suffered by the victims and surviving family members involved in the crime.

It is a rare combination for a prosecutor to have not only a bright legal mind but to also demonstrate a genuine sense of compassion for victims and a commitment to justice and fairness for offenders. Rom possesses a vast understanding of the law and is also, simultaneously, able to maintain a respectful and empathetic approach to the needs of victims, witnesses and surviving family members. I have been constantly struck by this complex combination of skill sets in my work with Rom on various cases over the years.

In addition to his legal and trial skills, he is known throughout the Prosecutor's office as a good supervisor, and a patient, knowledgeable and inspiring mentor. His office is open to others in the Department seeking counsel or interpretation of complicated legal and judicial matters.

Many times victims and witnesses are reluctant to become involved in the criminal justice system. This is especially true when they have little or no understanding of the law-enforcement system and the criminal justice process. In collaborating with Rom, I have been constantly impressed by his ability to work with victims and witnesses in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner in preparation for the rigors of trial and court testimony.

I cannot think of anyone more eminently qualified to be a judge both in terms of legal experience and judicial temperament than Rom Trader. His talent at examining the essential elements of the law and how it applies to the governing and prosecution of human behavior are attributes essential for the making of a fair and impartial judge.

In closing, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my strongest possible support, without any reservation, to Rom Trader's application for this Circuit Court position. Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mari McCaig  
Victim Witness Advocate  
Phone: 808 768-7422  
E-mail: [mmccaig@honolulu.gov](mailto:mmccaig@honolulu.gov)

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**From:** Arthur Kuwahara [ahk@lkwyl.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 4:27 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination of Rom A. Trader

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi:

On behalf of my law firm and myself, it gives me great pleasure to support the judicial nomination of Rom A. Trader, Esq. as judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Over the years as a deputy prosecutor, Mr. Trader has exemplified the character of a true advocate for the residents of the City and County of Honolulu and has demonstrated his skills as an experienced and learned litigator that I hold in high regards. I am equally impressed with Mr. Trader's initiative to get involved in our legal community and the community at-large. These are all traits that will make him an excellent jurist. As a circuit court judge, I believe Mr. Trader will enhance the confidence the public has in our judiciary.

Accordingly, please accept my support for Governor Lingle's nomination of Rom A. Trader as judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Arthur H. Kuwahara  
Kim & Kuwahara  
345 Queen Street, Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 536-4421 (ext. 115)  
Fax: (808) 521-3566  
E-mail: [ahk@lkwyl.com](mailto:ahk@lkwyl.com)

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**From:** Kitaoka, Don S [dkitaoka@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 4:40 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader - Nominee for Circuit Court Judge

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson  
Senate Judiciary Committee

I have known Rom Trader for the last twenty years in both professional and social settings. Mr. Trader is an excellent candidate for judicial office. He possesses all of the best attributes of an effective judge: intelligence, judicial temperament, decisiveness and compassion. He is even-tempered and deliberate in his actions. Whether in the courtroom or on the golf course, Rom has always striven for and achieved excellence in all of his endeavors. Rom can be counted upon to make rational and thoughtful decisions, while possessing the compassion necessary to administer justice. If Mr. Trader is appointed judge, he will always bring his A-game. In my often cynical view of the world, I am uplifted by Mr. Trader's nomination. I wholeheartedly endorse Rom Trader's candidacy for appointment to the Circuit Court bench.

Sincerely,  
Don S. Kitaoka  
Deputy Corporation Counsel  
City and County of Honolulu

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**From:** kahdlit@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 10:51 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Recommend confirmation of Rom Trader to circuit court bench

I am Barry Bright (lieutenant, ret., Honolulu Police Dept.).

I've had the opportunity to interact with Rom Trader on numerous occasions when I worked as a sex crimes detective from 1987 until 1993.

Rom is a hard worker who makes excellent decisions in a fair and impartial manner. He would be a valuable asset to our judiciary and I ask that he be confirmed for the circuit court bench.

I can be contacted at this e-mail or (808) 457-9009 for further comment.

Sincerely,

Barry Bright

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**From:** Efren and Evelyn Mateo [emateo5@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 7:45 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167, Rom A. Trader, 1/15/09 @ 10:00am

I'm writing in support of Rom Alex Trader for the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court.

I am currently employed at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorneys Office, Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division, where I have known Rom for the past 20 years. Rom is currently the Division Chief in this unit.

Through my experience of working with Rom, I have known him to be a very fair and compassionate individual. He is always very professional and respectful to his fellow deputies and staff. As a prosecutor, Rom is very committed to serving the public and helping to ensure that the community is safe. He is intelligent, hardworking and an excellent trial attorney.

I truly believe that Rom's dedication and vast knowledge of the law would make him a great asset to the judiciary as a Judge of the First Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Evelyn E. Abad-Mateo



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**From:** Dhakhwa, Laxmi Adrian [ldhakhwa@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 7:58 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m. hearing on GM 167 Re Recommendation for Rom A. Trader

Dear Honorable Chairman Taniguchi, Honorable Vice-Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations,

Rom Trader would make an excellent judge because he has the requisite knowledge of the law as well as the practical understanding of the "real world". His experience in the specialized fields of domestic violence and sexual assault has given him the appropriate insight as to the particular dynamics of both victims AND defendants, such that he is not merely a one-sided advocate in each and every case. As a supervisor with the authority to approve of plea agreements for regular "line" deputies, he is compassionate for victims; yet he can distinguish between those defendants who merely made a mistake and the incorrigible ones who deserve to be incarcerated for the protection of the community.

Rom has the appropriate temperament, as he is even-keeled and down to earth. In the seven years I have known him, no person is considered below him. This office has had the privilege of having Rom represent law enforcement and the community at-large. I have no doubt he will serve the community even better should he be appointed as a Circuit Court judge.

Thank you for this opportunity. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me (768-6439).

Sincerely,

**Adrian Dhakhwa**

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Domestic Violence - Felony Division  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
1060 Richards Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(ph): 808.768.6439  
(fax): 808.768.6552  
[ldhakhwa@honolulu.gov](mailto:ldhakhwa@honolulu.gov)

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**From:** Carol Lee [clee@hscadv.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:36 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments in Support of Rom Trader

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson  
Judiciary Committee

It is my understanding that Rom Trader is going through the confirmation process for a Circuit Court Judgeship. It is with great pleasure that I write to offer my encouragement for appointing him to the position.

I have known Rom for nearly twenty years—most of the time he has been with the Honolulu Prosecutor's office. Rom is clearly a man of integrity and high moral character. He is liked and respected by his co-workers and other members of the community who encounter him in their work.

Rom has dedicated his career to the pursuit of justice, with sympathetic consideration for the plight of victim's and the effects that crime has on them. He is tough on crime while understanding the circumstances that sometimes precipitate a life of committing such offenses.

Rom has specialized in domestic violence for the last several years, so I have had the opportunity to work with him more closely. Within the last couple of years, I have come to know Rom better as we have served together on the state-legislated Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. He has worked tirelessly to help his collaborators understand the system, including its shortcomings, and how it sometimes serves as a deterrent and sometimes fails to protect. He takes his role as Prosecutor very seriously and believes strongly in justice.

It goes without saying that Rom is very good at what he does. It is his relationships with everyone he encounters that make him outstanding in his job and his community. That is why I can recommend, without reservation, that Rom be appointed to a Circuit Court Judgeship.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can offer further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Sincerely,

Carol C. Lee  
Executive Director  
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
716 Umi St. Ste 210  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808) 832-9316 x 104

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**From:** Asing, John [jasing@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 6:32 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony

My name is Detective John Asing of the Honolulu Police Department. I would like to humbly inform you of my opinion regarding selectee Rom Trader for a Circuit Court Judge position.

Rom Trader is a hard working, dedicated, honest, and fair prosecutor. It is of my opinion that Rom Trader is the finest trial prosecuting attorney currently working for the City. I have had numerous serious felony cases involving Mr. Trader and each time, Rom has handled the case with the highest grade of professionalism and fairness.

I support Rom Trader 100% and I truly feel that he is the best candidate for this appointment to the Circuit Court Bench. This blessing for Rom is bittersweet because we will miss him dearly being in the Prosecutor's office. This is truly an example of the Prosecutor's loss being the Circuit Courts gain.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely, Detective John Asing

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**From:** akubone@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 7:11 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Nomination of Rom Trader to be First Circuit Court judge

Honorable Brian Taniguchi,

I am writing on behalf of the nomination of Rom Trader to become a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Rom will be an outstanding choice for the bench because of his trial experience, knowledge of the rules of evidence and strong sense of basic fairness. I worked with him for fifteen years at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. During that time I came to know him as an excellent supervisor and tireless advocate for victims of crime. Just as importantly, he was a prosecutor who did his cases "by the numbers" and never cut corners when it came to his cases. He strongly believes that you either win your case cleanly or you do not deserve to win it at all. This is the attitude he imparted to all the deputy prosecutors he supervised or worked with.

Based on his qualities and strengths, he will be an excellent judge whether he hears civil or criminal cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important nomination and for your consideration.

Julian T. White, Esq.

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**From:** David M. Hayakawa [dhayakawa@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:24 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader's Judicial Nomination

Senator Taniguchi and the Judiciary Committee.

I submit this email in support of Rom Trader's nomination for a First Circuit Judgeship. I have know Rom for over 20 years when we attended law school together at Manoa. After law school, I went to the Public Defenders and Rom went to the Prosecutors. Over the years we have had at least six felony jury trials together, including a murder trial and several high-profile trials. Based on all of my experiences with Rom over the years, it is my belief that he is the model of what a prosecutor should be like. He is tough, but fair. There are never any surprises. Integrity and common sense are accurate terms to describe the way he practices law

I have written many letters in support of judicial nominees over the years and the only other nominee that I have ever felt this strongly about was when I supported Derrick Chan's nomination.

Based on my 20+ years of daily practice in both the Criminal and Family Courts, which includes almost 100 jury trials, I have no doubt that Rom will be an excellent judge. I urge you to support his nomination. I will be in Family Court at the time of Rom's hearing, but if you have any questions, please contact me on my cell phone at 782-5677.

Sincerely, David Hayakawa

January 14, 2009

To the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee **ROM A. TRADER**, for a term to expire in ten years.

Written testimony for hearing on January 15, 2009 at 10 A.M.

I have known Rom A. Trader for almost twenty years. I am honored to call him a colleague and friend. I have always found him to be a kind, considerate, and even-tempered individual. Rom has diligently represented the State of Hawai'i as a deputy prosecuting attorney for two decades. During that time he has demonstrated the ability to work well with members of the defense bar, judiciary, HPD, and of course, victims of crime.

Rom will make an excellent judge. He is smart, fair, and compassionate. Thank you for the opportunity to recommend him for the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i.

Delanie D. Prescott-Tate

January 13, 2009

**VIA E-mail [JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)**

**Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations**

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Robert Bunda  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
The Honorable Sam Slom

Re: *GM 167 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee Rom A. Trader, for a term to expire in ten years*

Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Hearing Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of nominee Rom A. Trader. I support without hesitation the appointment of nominee Rom Alex Trader for the position of Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Trader since he was a law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1984. While he was a Circuit Court law clerk in 1987, I suggested that he apply to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. In 1988, he was hired as a deputy prosecutor and continues to work for the people of the State of Hawai'i to this day.

Rom has been a dedicated public servant who has always been fair and even-handed in his role as a deputy prosecuting attorney. He possesses excellent trial skills with a daily understanding of the role that evidence, court rules and case law play in the judicial process. Rom not only exhibits the highest personal integrity, but he possesses the appropriate moral courage to be a jurist.

In his position as a prosecutor, Rom has always demonstrated compassion for victims while maintaining fairness in his dealings with defendants and their counsel in all phases of the criminal justice system. His overall demeanor and personality indicates that he would possess an even-handed and fair judicial temperament.


January 13, 2009

Page 2

I had the privilege of supervising Rom in the early 1990s when I headed the Sexual Assault Branch in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Since I left government service to work in private practice, we have had minimal professional contact, but I have remained friends with him and his family. I have followed his prosecutorial career in the media and have watched with admiration his continued dedication to prosecute the most emotional and, oftentimes, most difficult cases.

Though Rom has not had civil litigation experience, he is extremely diligent and, as such, will be able to handle all matters as a jurist. As a trial attorney who has practiced both in the criminal and civil courts, I can honestly state without any hesitation that Rom Alex Trader will make an excellent judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Minkin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David J. Minkin  
Five Waterfront Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
500 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



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**From:** Todd Hirai [todd\_hirai@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 8:30 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader - Confrimation Hearing comments.

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi;

I am writing in support of Rom Trader's confirmation as Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit. I have known Mr. Trader for several years and have found him to be honorable, intelligent and passionate about justice. Characteristics that I believe make a good judge. Thank you.

Todd Hirai

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**From:** abrax64@gmail.com on behalf of Andrew Park [parkandr@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 8:17 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Measure GM 167: support of confirmation of ROM A. TRADER

Measure: GM 167

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Aloha. I am a recent William S. Richardson School of Law graduate and am currently employed at the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's office. A large part of why I decided to work here is because of Rom Trader. I had the good fortune to be assigned to the felony domestic violence [felony DV] division while I interned at the Prosecuting Attorney's office during the summer after my second year in law school. Working in Rom's division was a positively wonderful experience and solidified my decision to seek long-term employment with this office. I found Rom to be an excellent teacher and mentor, as well as a fair and thoughtful boss. There is one particular vignette that illustrates all of these qualities. While doing my internship with felony DV, I was working on a case where an investigator had obtained statements and admissions from a suspect that were suppressable under the Constitution--I alerted Rom to this and informed him that both my "gut" and the totality of the circumstances told me that the defendant "did it", but Rom was quick to point out that, regardless of what I felt, the Constitutional protections we have in place are of the utmost importance and, regardless of how heinous an offense may be, it is important for us as public servants to do what is fair--Justice, after all, is the main goal of our office, not convictions.

In this one exchange, it was impressed upon me exactly what kind of a person Rom is--the kind of person that would be a perfect candidate for the bench.

I am presently working in the Traffic and Misdemeanor Division of the Prosecutor's Office and my primary goal was to work my way to a point in my career here where I would be able to request a transfer to felony DV--Rom's division. However, I believe that, while I am certain that having a mentor like Rom in the office would be great for my own professional development, Rom could be of even greater service to the First Circuit were he to be appointed. While I may not be a person of status or significant consequence, I have had the opportunity to work with Rom, and I unequivocally support his nomination to the First Circuit Court.

Very Sincerely,  
Andrew T. Park  
95-712 Kelewaa Street  
Mililani, HI 96789

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**From:** Rebecca Lester [rebeccasue13@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 8:44 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Trader

Rebecca Lester  
87-1072 Kaipoi Street  
Waianae, Hawaii 96792  
(808) 640-3606

January 14, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Judiciary and Government Operations  
[jgotestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:jgotestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am writing in support of judicial nominee Rom A. Trader. I have known Rom for over three years. For the past two years, he has been my immediate supervisor in the domestic violence felony unit at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office.

Rom is one of the best supervisors I have worked for while at the prosecutor's office. I was first assigned to the domestic violence felony unit when Glenn Kim was seeking judicial confirmation. At that time, the unit was undergoing a lot of changes. Despite these adjustments, Rom took me under his wing and mentored me in becoming a domestic violence prosecutor.

As a supervisor, Rom has shown me how to properly evaluate a case when deciding on an appropriate charge, provided support and critique in handling difficult domestic violence victims, and theorized and strategized with me in preparation for trial. Moreover, he has always made himself available to me when I have questions be it after working hours or on weekends. When I seek Rom's assistance, I know I will get a straight answer and his explanations will simplify any issue.

Rom will make an excellent judge. Besides having the requisite legal knowledge, Rom has the necessary temperament to be a fair and impartial judge. Over the last few months, I have seen him balance his own case load along with managing the supervision of not only the domestic violence felony unit, but also the domestic violence misdemeanor unit and the juvenile offender unit. Rom exercises patience with his deputies and treats everyone with respect and fairness.

Please accept this letter in support of Rom A. Trader as judge of the First Circuit. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss Rom further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 640-3606.

Very Truly Yours,  
Rebecca Lester

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.

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Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

This is my fourth attempt in trying to write you a letter in favor of Rom Trader for the position of Circuit Court Judge. My previous letters either sounded like a eulogy or a Miss Hawaii biography. I guess the difficulty lies in trying to convey how appropriate Rom would be as a judge without sounding like a political campaign ad (no offense).

Simply put, Rom is a *good guy* in every sense of the term. As a deputy prosecuting attorney, he truly does seek justice. This means he does not revolve his career around how many convictions he has won or how many years of prison he has sentenced people to, like so many other deputy prosecutors in the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Instead, he has always strived to do what is right, not only for the victims, but for the offenders as well.

As a deputy prosecuting attorney, it is easy to fall into the “us against them” mindset, with the “them” being defense counsel and defendants. This way of thinking leads one to forget that both “sides” involve people. People that deserve every right afforded them under the statutes and Constitution. I have seen Rom Trader repeatedly demonstrate that a person can be a VERY effective deputy prosecutor, and still respect the rights of the accused and seek justice for their victims. For me, this balancing act can be very difficult, because there are times when taking “shortcuts” will have a desired effect that would benefit a victim’s cause better. Rom, on the other hand, does not have any difficulty navigating this path of moral ambiguity. His sense of right and wrong is that clear to him.

No one can tell the future, but in looking at the past, Rom’s history shows that the decisions he will make as a judge will be well thought out and researched and given with compassion, intelligence and fairness.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Scott Spallina,  
Captain of the Elder Abuse Justice Unit  
Acting Captain of the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Unit  
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

January 14, 2009

I would like to provide testimony for the confirmation of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court. I am a victim advocate in the Prosecuting Attorney's office for the last 15 years. Rom Trader has handled many of my High Pub domestic violence cases. He has always taken the time to listen to the concerns of the victims, before making the appropriate decisions for the cases. He is a very fair and impartial person.

As supervisors of one of the largest units in our office, Rom has provided new deputies the needed guidance required for them to perform their duties. Rom has taken on some of the most horrendous, complicated cases and still has the time to sit with his deputies to answers questions and provide guidance.

I feel Rom will be a great Judge, he looks at all aspects of evidence and makes decisions that are fair and just. Please confirm Rom Trader for Circuit court Judge.

Thank You,

Marjorie Miramontes  
Victim/witness Advocate

January 12, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Consideration of Rom A. Trader for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit  
Hearing Date: January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Rom Trader's consideration for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have had the privilege and the pleasure of working with Mr. Trader at the Prosecutor's Office for the past seventeen years. Our paths first crossed when I was a summer law clerk in 1991, and Mr. Trader was a felony trial attorney.

Earlier in my career in the Prosecutors Office, Mr. Trader and I were co-counsel on two high publicity cases, one involving a double homicide committed by a defendant who was extradited from Japan (*State v. Fukusaku*) and another involving the Mililani serial rapist (*State v. Thompson*). These were but two of the many, many complex, high publicity that Mr. Trader has successfully tried throughout his career. Mr. Trader was also my Division Chief when I was assigned to the Sexual Assault Branch. He always provided insightful trial strategies and guidance on many legal issues. He is unselfish with his time and knowledge. It goes without saying that he is an extremely highly skilled attorney with an outstanding work ethic.

More recently, I shared the privilege of assisting Mr. Trader with the Prosecution Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law. He is a highly effective teacher and continues to motivate us all. I am currently the Chief for the Misdemeanor and Traffic Division of our office. I have often asked Mr. Trader to assist me in training our new deputy prosecutors in areas such as direct and cross-examination. Despite the demands of his own extremely hectic schedule and running his own division in our office, he is always more than willing to assist.

Mr. Trader is a dedicated, compassionate, and highly skilled attorney with an outstanding work ethic. He is highly effective not only because of his ability to analyze complex legal issues, but also because of his ability understand and appreciate divergent points of view and respectfully communicate with. His talent comes not only from his mind, but also his heart. Fair, open-minded, and resolutely prepared, Mr. Trader is very well-respected by his fellow deputies, staff, other members of the bar, and the judiciary.

He has routinely demonstrated that he is committed to seeking justice and serving the community.

Mr. Trader is humble, so one may not immediately recognize the success he has earned as a trial attorney, teacher, educator, advocate, and mentor. However, his track record, work experience, and awards received speak volumes about him. Finally, Mr. Trader is a kind and compassionate person. Simply put, he cares. He has the rare perfect balance of mind and heart.

As he has proven through his work experience and public service, Rom Trader is an excellent candidate for judge. He is dedicated and highly skilled, will perform his duties fairly and efficiently, and is committed to serving the public. We as a public would be indeed fortunate to have him as a judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 768-7518.

Very truly yours,

Renee R. Sonobe Hong

Franklin D. Pacarro Jr.  
Trials Division Chief  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
1060 Richards Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

January 13, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **Confirmation of Rom Alex Trader for First Circuit Court Judge**

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I support the nomination of Rom A. Trader to the position of First Circuit Court Judge. I have known Rom for twenty years and have had the privilege of working with and consulting Rom on cases in our office. For many years, Rom has been the expert in the office when it comes to trying DNA cases. He is an extremely hard worker and he is always very well prepared. He has the administrative skills that a judge needs to manage the court's calendar and case load. I believe that Rom's organization skill is one of his greatest attributes that he will bring to the bench. Rom is intelligent, articulate, and humble.

Rom has the respect of his colleagues in and outside of the office because he has tried the difficult cases and he has been very successful. Rom's legal intellect is unmatched and he can decipher the most difficult court decisions and explain them with ease. Rom will truly be missed in our office should he become a First Circuit Court Judge. Rom has championed the rights of women and children for years and devoted countless hours to keeping our community safe. If anyone deserves to be a Circuit Court Judge it is Rom Trader. Rom is an evened keeled person who does not get flustered under pressure and he will be able to make the difficult decisions. When it comes to making a decision, Rom will do what is right and just.

I believe that Rom will be a welcomed and a strong asset to the judiciary. Although Rom's background is in criminal law, he has all the skills to make an easy transition to civil law. I believe that Rom has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. Rom's integrity is impeccable and his moral courage is unquestioned. In addition to the aforementioned attributes, Rom will make an excellent judge because he is fair and honest. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on his nomination. Please feel free to contact me at 768-7474 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Franklin D. Pacarro Jr.  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



**VIA FAX (586-6659) AND EMAIL**

**TO:** The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**BY:** Dawn L. Kishi  
Attorney at Law

**SUBJECT:** **CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR ROM TRADER, ESQ.**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2009**  
**10:00 a.m., Conference Room 16**

To Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am Dawn Kishi and it is my honor and privilege to submit this testimony in support of Mr. Rom Trader's confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Trader for over 18 years, when we both worked as deputy prosecutors for the City and County of Honolulu. Since that time, I have returned to school to study for a doctorate in clinical psychology, but have kept in touch both personally and professionally with Mr. Trader, and have followed his distinguished career. I therefore stand in good stead to speak of Mr. Trader's intellect, commitment, overall temperament, and personal character.

Mr. Trader was and always has been a committed public servant. He is an individual who quietly and without regard for himself, utilizes his career in furtherance of justice, finding proactive solutions to legal, mental health and social issues, and issues of humanity at large. Mr. Trader possesses supreme intellect, a deep sense of duty and honor, and the character and wherewithal to live a life of public service for the betterment of his community, while providing an uncommon level of love, support and devotion to his wife, daughter and extended family. Many may try to fulfill all such roles, however few succeed to achieve the execution to such heights as Mr. Trader has.

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Confirmation Hearing for Rom Trader  
Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.  
Written Testimony of Dawn L. Kishi  
Page 2

Mr. Trader truly stands apart from others as not only a gifted legal scholar, but as one of the most dedicated and hard working individuals in the legal profession. He has worked tirelessly over the decades, on some of the most difficult and high profile cases prosecuted in the City and County of Honolulu. Through it all, Mr. Trader has remained fundamentally selfless, kind, benevolent, compassionate, humane, fair-minded and ethical. He has always practiced law as well as lived his personal life by the highest moral code and ethical standards. In spite of all he has accomplished, he remains a good-humored gentleman of integrity, respected by all, grounded in principle, and profoundly committed to the welfare of others.

Mr. Trader has distinguished himself as one of the finest members of the Hawaii Bar, and he will certainly be the finest appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. His keen sense of personal and social responsibility, extraordinary intellect and strong work ethic may sometimes obscure from our vision one of his greatest characteristics and gifts, his humility. There truly can be no finer appointment to the Judiciary, and I can categorically state that Mr. Trader embodies all of the qualities of a leader and all of the personal traits, the temperament and the constitution necessary to serve honorably as a judge. It is with the highest regard and wholly without reservation that I respectfully support Mr. Trader's nomination and confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn L. Kishi  
Attorney at Law

Portia Muniz  
92-7037 Kahea Street  
Kapolei, HI 96707

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Rom A. Trader  
Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi:

I am writing in support of consideration and confirmation of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am currently a paralegal with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and first met Mr. Trader in 1990. Although I have not had the direct privileged of working with Mr. Trader, I have known and observed Mr. Trader to be a very hard working and professional individual. Mr. Trader is very highly and well respected by his colleagues and myself.

Mr. Trader is also a very warm, caring and compassionate person, and he is a great father and husband. I found Mr. Trader to be a very trusting and dependable person who is always willing to lend a hand to anyone.

I recommend without any reservations the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Trader.

I thank you for this opportunity and for your consideration. Please feel to contact me if you have any questions at 383-4197.

Sincerely,

Portia Muniz

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**From:** Kickland, Patricia S [pkickland@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:17 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** written testimony in support of Rom Trader

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Rom A. Trader in his nomination to the Circuit Court, hearing January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

I served as a deputy prosecutor under Mr. Trader's supervision from November 2007 to June 2008. Mr. Trader has excellent legal reasoning skills. He is capable of making difficult decisions. And he treats his staff with respect.

For example, as for his legal reasoning, when I would be in the middle of a trial and need an answer to an unexpected legal question, Mr. Trader would know the answer. He could analyze issues whenever I asked for advice; we young attorneys could count on Mr. Trader to be available and to be accurate. His legal knowledge and analytical ability would be appreciated by all lawyers who would appear before him in the future.

Mr. Trader also is capable of making difficult decisions. When our office reviews domestic violence cases, Mr. Trader would often be the last word on whether we would charge a suspect with a crime. Mr. Trader never flinched from making tough calls in family violence cases. He is willing to put his signature on tough decisions. As a judge, Mr. Trader would act decisively and thoroughly manage any caseload.

Finally, Mr. Trader consistently respected his staff. He showed respect for everyone who worked under him, regardless of education level or trial experience. Mr. Trader wanted us to be the best we personally could be at whatever task we were assigned. To that end, he supported us and encouraged us, and never belittled us. As a judge, Mr. Trader would encourage lawyers to excel in their profession and would treat court staff well.

Please support Mr. Trader in his nomination to the Circuit Court.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Kickland

Patricia Kickland  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Office: 808-768-7400  
Fax: 808-768-7513  
Email: [pkickland@honolulu.gov](mailto:pkickland@honolulu.gov)

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,  
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
and Government Operations**

January 15, 2009

GM167: Nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Rom for about twenty years on a professional basis. We have opposed each other in court in a number of serious felony cases. We have also worked together as administrators for our respective offices. Throughout the years, I have developed the utmost respect for Rom's legal skills and professionalism.

In our cases against each other, he was always a very formidable opponent who was always well-prepared and a zealous advocate for his position. However, this passion was always balanced by his commitment to ethics and fairness. In other words, Rom has never been a win-at-all-costs prosecutor. He has always had a keen understanding of the role he played in the criminal justice system and never over-stepped any ethical boundaries.

It is this understanding which I think will make him a good trial judge who will always be mindful of his duty to see that justice is served in each case. His legal abilities are exceptional. He has extensive knowledge of the Constitution, penal code and court rules. Rom also is very personable and has a wonderful sense of humor and cool demeanor. He will always maintain his composure even when confronted by the most complex legal issues.

I believe that Rom Trader will be an excellent judge and serve the office with distinction. It is with great pleasure that I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

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**From:** Gary.K.Senaga@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:14 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Circuit Judge Rom Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have no doubt that Mr. Trader will prove to be an excellent judge and will serve our community well. I have known Mr. Trader for almost 20 years beginning when I became a deputy prosecuting attorney at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. Since that time until today, my respect and admiration for Mr. Trader has only grown due to his dedication to public service, hard work, integrity and superior knowledge of the law and trial practice.

I have always known Mr. Trader as a supervisor providing leadership and support for those around him and the office generally. I worked under and with him while a trial deputy in the felony trials and special prosecution sex assault unit at the Office. He helped me become a better trial attorney by teaching trial techniques and the application of the law to the facts of a case. He showed me how to present the testimony of adult and child victims of sex crimes, a key aspect of any successful sex assault prosecution. He showed by example how to conduct one's self in the courtroom and present a case. His experience, knowledge and character will definitely be invaluable as a trial judge.

Mr. Trader may lack civil law experience, however, his intelligence and work ethic will more than compensate for this. And in time, he will be more than capable in handling civil law issues. His tremendous experience as a trial attorney and knowledge of the rules is excellent foundation whether presiding over a civil or criminal matter. I am sure most parties and attorneys who will come before him will be satisfied, if not impressed, with his decision-making and control of the courtroom.

Being responsible for co-workers, staff and the public as a supervisor and deputy, Mr. Trader has shown compassion, patience and fairness. He has a keen understanding of the nature of people. He has also shown courage and decisiveness. Managing and dealing with people, especially trial attorneys with big egos, is never easy and oftentimes problems occur. As far as what I have seen and know, he has handled tough situations with the utmost fairness and class. I believe his judicial temperament will be acceptable to everyone.

Mr. Trader has a reputation in the community for honesty, trustworthiness and citizenship. He is very respected among his colleagues and friends. I know of nothing that would reflect adversely upon his appointment to the circuit court bench.

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# University of Hawaii at Manoa

The William S. Richardson School of Law  
2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Phone (808) 956-6546, Fax (808) 956-5569

Jan. 14, 2009

Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Rom Alex Trader, nominee for First Circuit Court.

Dear Committee

I would like to strongly recommend Rom Trader for the Circuit Court Judge

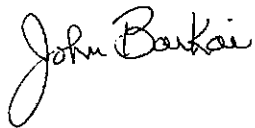
I have known Rom since he was a law student of mine before his graduation in 1987. He was a student in my Prosecution Clinic class and later became a prosecutor. He is a first-class prosecutor of the highest reputation and has the qualities to be an excellent judge.

I worked with him on a Hawaii State Bar Association training a couple of years ago and he did a wonderful job. He has served as a guest judge and critiquer for my class many times over the years. He even taught my class for a full semester and served as an Adjunct Professor at the U.H. Law School while I was on sabbatical.

Furthermore, I think he has a good temperament and would work well with the parties, witnesses, lawyers, and court staffs.

I have been a full-time law professor at our school for over 30 years. Rom is a credit to our law school and our community. I think Rom would be an excellent judge, and therefore I encourage you to confirm him.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Barkai".

Professor John Barkai

Leah L. Takeuchi, Esq.  
1060 Richards Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have had the privilege of knowing Rom and working with him since I first interned as a summer intern with the Prosecutor's Office back in 1996. I have always been impressed with his professionalism, integrity and his work ethic and personally, he has been a great role model for me. I believe that his many years of experience with criminal law and the criminal law process, as well as his excellent ability to work with different people and agencies will contribute to his success on the bench. As a supervisor with his own trial caseload involving many of our city's high profile cases, he would still make time to listen and teach other deputies. He has a strong commitment to finding the fair and just result. Rom is one of those people that truly lead by example and I am confident that he will continue to do that while serving on the bench.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leah L. Takeuchi  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



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**From:** Yong Bunye [yongbunye@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation Hearing of Rom Trader's Nomination to Circuit Court, Jan 15, 2009 @10:00 a.m.

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations,

I respectfully endorse the confirmation of Deputy Prosecutor Rom Trader as Circuit Court Judge.

I have known Mr. Trader since he joined the department in 1988 and have found him to be able to think on his feet and very personable. He is able to stand work stress admirably. His integrity is unimpeachable.

Thank you very much,

Salustiano R. Bunye  
Investigator  
Dept of the Prosecuting Attorney  
City & County of Honolulu  
Tel. 768-7445

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**From:** Kenneth J. Mansfield [Mansfield@m4law.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:33 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167 Relating to Rom A. Trader

**BEFORE THE**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

**GM 167 RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION**  
**OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE**  
**ROM A. TRADER**

**TESTIMONY OF**  
**KENNETH J. MANSFIELD, ESQ.**  
**Bar No. 7227**

Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 am  
State Capitol Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Committee Members:

My name is Kenneth J. Mansfield, and I am an active member in good standing of the Hawaii Bar. I think extremely highly of Rom Trader, and therefore it is my great pleasure to testify in strong support of his confirmation to the First Circuit Court.

I have known Rom for eight years. We first met as adversaries in a criminal trial in which Rom was prosecuting our client. Rom was at all times a highly skilled, even-tempered and effective attorney. He has an obvious mastery of courtroom procedures, a natural ability to evaluate evidence, and a sharp intellect to interpret the law, all of which would enable him to be a strong, effective judge. Though we were adversaries in that case (in which the State prevailed), as a Hawaii citizen and a parent, I admire that Rom has made a career of protecting Hawaii, and in particular, Hawaii's keiki.

More recently, I have had the opportunity to get to know Rom on a personal level, as our daughters attend Central Union Preschool together. Aside from being a great father, Rom is a frequent volunteer for school events. I'm sure you've heard of the recent fire at Central Union. What you should also know is that the weekend before the Preschool reopened, Rom was part of a small group of volunteer parents responsible for building a protective barrier fence around the damaged building. This was a long Saturday of hard, physical labor. Their work made the campus safe again for 3-5 year old children, allowing Central Union to receive the necessary State approvals to reopen. It is not an overstatement to say that without Rom and other parents like him, Central Union would not have been able to reopen on its own.

There is no question in my mind that Rom has the professional and personal qualities we need in our Judges – professional expertise, strength of character and conviction, and commitment to our community. Rom has what it takes to make an outstanding Judge, and I would be proud to see him on the Bench.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of such a good citizen and qualified candidate. I respectfully urge this Committee to strongly recommend Mr. Trader's confirmation.

TESTIMONY FOR : GM 167 – JGO Committee Hearing  
Thursday, January 15, 2009  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 016

RE: GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE ROM TRADER – IN STRONG SUPPORT  
OF CONFIRMATION

Submitted by: Laura Maeshiro Wakai, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, the Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice  
Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii.  
I have worked under Mr. Rom Trader from March 2007 to December 2007 in the  
Domestic Violence – Misdemeanor unit.

Our job as prosecutors can be demanding. Anytime one is charged with a criminal  
offense, it is our job and ethical duty to ensure that each matter is handled with the  
careful, comprehensive attention that each matter is entitled to, from charging to trial,  
while fighting for the victims in each case. This is important to emphasize, because it  
cannot be done without an understanding of the law. The same goes for judges when  
they decide important matters in front of them, whether criminal or civil.

I strongly support Rom Trader's nomination. As a supervisor, Rom Trader gave newer  
deputies like myself guidance in all areas from charging a case, how to handle various  
motions before the court, and of course all issues relating to trial. Mr. Trader is someone  
I have looked up to, because he *knows and understands the law*, and everything he  
does is with the utmost professionalism, and with respect for all those around him. I  
have since left his division, but I have learned a great deal from Mr. Trader by observing  
the way he handled all matters and cases that came into his division, and I know I have  
become a stronger trial attorney under his leadership.

From my very first day at the Prosecutor's office, I have appeared before numerous  
judges. I have handled numerous cases. I can fully understand the importance of  
fairness, impartiality, professional conduct, and *knowledge of the law* that should be  
present with all judges. A judge should be one that is knowledgeable, with the  
appropriate character – someone who the community can look up to. Mr. Trader  
possesses all these traits, and is strongly suited for the very important role of a circuit  
court judge.

**For these reasons, I strongly support Mr. Trader, and respectfully ask that he be  
confirmed to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.**

Sincerely,  
Laura Maeshiro Wakai

**DEAN K. YOUNG, LLC**  
*A Limited Liability Law Company*

January 14, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the newly nominated judge of the First Circuit Court, Rom A. Trader. Rom has always displayed a strong work ethic, high level of integrity and a passion for the community. During my time as a deputy prosecutor and now as a private criminal defense attorney, my dealings with Rom have led me to believe that he will be an excellent judge. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 536-0020.

Sincerely,

Dean K. Young, Esq.

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**From:** Domingo, Leeann [ldomingo@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:49 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** CONFIRMATION HEARING ON JANUARY 15, 2009 AT 10:00 AM FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT OF ROM A. TRADER

**Importance:** Low

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi**  
**Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations**

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rom A. Trader, whose nomination for a Circuit Court judgeship is before your committee on January 15, 2009.

I am pleased and honored to be able to recommend Rom A. Trader for a Circuit Court judge position. I have known Rom for the past 15 years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Out of these 15 years, I have been one of his clerical staff for the past 7 years.

Rom is a very reliable, organized and well prepared deputy prosecuting attorney. As such, he has made my work and responsibilities much easier. Rom is the division chief of the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division. At times, especially when preparing for a trial and/or giving advice to the deputy prosecutors in this division, it can get very busy and stressful. Because Rom is very knowledgeable, attorneys from other divisions would seek advice from him. Rom as never forgotten his responsibilities as a division chief and most of all as a deputy prosecutor. He is more than willing to help out anyone as best as he can.

If Rom is selected to be the next Circuit Court judge, it will be a big loss to our office and we will miss him very much, but I know it will be a huge gain to our community as he will undoubtedly be an excellent judge.

Yours Truly,

**LeeAnn A. Domingo**  
**Clerical Supervisor**  
**Domestic Violence Felony Unit**

Linda I. Nishimura,  
1060 Richards Street  
Honolulu, Hawai`i, 96813  
January 14, 2009

The Senate,  
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Interim of 2009  
Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Rom A. Trader,  
Nominee, Circuit Court of the First Circuit,  
Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 am

Aloha Kakou:

In the 21 years that I have been with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom Trader for much of that time.

As a victim/witness advocate in the Domestic Violence Division, I have almost daily contact with Rom - both for cases that we have together, and because he is the Division Chief for Domestic Violence. I enjoy working with Rom, and I am impressed with him.

In addition to the daunting task of managing a division that is historically understaffed, Rom also carries his own caseload. In the cases that we share, he is always well-prepared and thorough. And he is able to balance the urgency of trial with an empathy and genuine concern for our victims - something that is not always easy to do. In the face of public criticism in the handling of domestic violence cases, it is to his credit that he is able to maintain his equilibrium and his sense of humor and fair play.

I have mixed feelings about Rom leaving the office because I have enjoyed working with him so much. He is a very decent human being whom I respect immensely - both as a professional and as a person - and will, in my view, be difficult to replace. But our loss will definitely be a gain for the judiciary. I can't think of a better candidate for the Circuit Court than Mr. Rom Trader.

Mahalo for your consideration. If I can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Nishimura,  
Victim/Witness Advocate  
Dept of the Prosecuting Attorney  
Domestic Violence Division  
ph. 808-768-7401  
e: lnishimura1@honolulu.gov



January 13, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Division Chief Rom Trader on almost a daily basis for the past twenty years. I recommend him without reservation for a Circuit Court Judgeship. We were both original members of the Sex Assault Team at the Prosecutor's Office in 1990. At that time, Rom Trader began a long career of protecting the women and children in this community.

Rom Trader has spent his entire professional life in public service, and has received public recognition for his service to the community. In 2007, he received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Honolulu Police Department. Last year, he received the 2008 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Domestic Violence community. Only a handful of employees from my office are aware of the latter recognition since Mr. Trader did not tell anyone about this award.

Mr. Trader was my supervisor for three years. He is very humble, and is not abusive of his position as Division Chief. It is often said that you can tell what type of person someone is once he assumes a position of power. As a supervisor, Mr. Trader treats those whom he supervises with great care and respect. Mr. Trader has one of the heaviest case loads of anyone in our office, yet he routinely assigns the most difficult cases to himself instead of passing them off to others. At any given time, he carries between eight to ten murder cases in addition to his responsibilities of supervising approximately twenty deputy prosecuting attorneys.

During the past eight years, there were several instances when his Division was short-handed, or when new prosecutors without much experience were assigned to work under him. When his Division was short-staffed, Mr. Trader maintained a positive attitude, decided to forgo vacation and took on extra work. He made do with whatever circumstances he was given, and inspired others to carry on despite the staffing difficulties. Notwithstanding whatever difficult circumstances he faced, Mr. Trader always rose to the occasion.

Mr. Trader is not afraid to take an unpopular position in our Department regardless of any personal, adverse consequences it may

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Page 2  
January 13, 2009

have for him. He has the moral courage to fight for what he believes is just and right.

Rom Trader is one of the best trial attorneys in the State of Hawaii. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Hawaii, and is qualified to teach advanced trial advocacy at the best institutions of our country. He has tried many complex jury trials involving homicide, sexual assault and domestic violence. He successfully tried the Mililani Rapist case (State v. James Thompson). This case was taken to trial twice by another prosecutor and ended in mistrials on both occasions. Mr. Trader took the case to trial a third time, and received guilty verdicts. Defendant Thompson is now serving consecutive, life sentences.

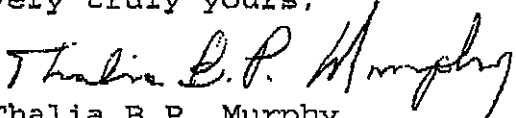
Mr. Trader has a great deal of compassion which is exemplified by his extensive work with victims of violent crime. He has displayed extraordinary compassion not only to the victims and their families, but also to the defendants. He underscores to those whom he supervises the importance of being fair to the accused.

Mr. Trader is even-keeled, methodical and thoughtful. How someone treats their support staff is very telling. Most of his support staff have worked for him for years. This is by choice. Basically, he treats everyone with whom he comes into contact with deference and respect. Mr. Trader knows how to advocate a position in court, yet remain respectful of the judge and other parties. I believe that many members of the defense bar also support his candidacy.

In short, Mr. Trader is well-respected in our community as a man of integrity, who is honest and of high, moral character. He recognizes that every case, no matter how small, effects people's lives. I believe that anyone who would appear in front of him would sense his compassion towards others, his sense of fairness, his strong work ethic and professionalism.

My Office would suffer a severe loss by Mr. Trader's appointment to the judiciary. Mr. Trader extends his help and aloha to everyone here. He truly is irreplaceable. Over the past two decades, there are hundreds of men, women and children who are safe because of the hard work and dedication of Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom Trader.

Very truly yours,

  
Thalia B.P. Murphy  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

January 13, 2009

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
via hand delivery: State Capitol, Room 219.

Re: Rom Trader First Circuit Court confirmation hearing January 15, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I write in strong support of Rom Trader's nomination as a circuit judge to the First Circuit Court.

I am a criminal defense attorney. Over the years, Rom Trader and I have been on opposite sides of some of the state's most high profile and complex criminal cases. Rom is a top-notch courtroom litigator and extraordinarily well versed in the law. He has a practical nuts and bolts courtroom knowledge that will serve the judiciary well. Rom is also quick thinking, which I have found to be a key attribute to efficient courtroom management.

Rom has a reputation as an honest, open-minded person who tackles issues without preconceived ideas or biases. He is a person who believes in case by case individualized justice. Rom is an attorney who has "seen it all", so he has a vast reservoir of perspective (perhaps the most underrated of judicial traits). I believe that he will undertake his judicial responsibilities by listening to the competing viewpoints and employing a balanced, common sense approach to decision-making.

I feel that Rom has the comportment necessary to be a fine judge. He is even-keeled and unflappable. He is mindful of the roles of respective counsel. I have no doubt that he will treat victims, defendants, witnesses and other individuals in his courtroom respectfully, and firmly when necessary.

In my view, there is no wiser choice for the present First Circuit Court vacancy than Rom Trader.

Best regards,

  
Todd Eddins

**Todd Eddins**  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1320  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
808.538.1110

January 14, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: Senate Confirmation hearing on January 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for  
Judicial Appointment for Rom A. Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rom A. Trader, whose nomination for a Circuit Court judgeship is before your committee.

I have been employed at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney as a Legal Clerk III for the past 20 years. I have known and worked for Rom for the past 16 years. I worked with him as a deputy prosecutor for one (1) year in the Organized Crime Unit, (2) years in the Trials division, where he was our team captain, and nine (9) years in the Domestic Violence, Felony Unit, where he is our Division Chief.

As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Team Captain, and Division Chief, Rom is very knowledgeable and versed of Hawaii's laws. He is very intelligent, hardworking, organized and is always well prepared for all of his trials, which include a substantial number of murder cases. He is an excellent trial attorney. I calendar his court hearing's and he is always on top of things.

Rom, being our division chief is always more than willing to help out in any way he can and the prosecutors can always go to him because of his open door policy with questions and seek advice on their cases even when he's busy preparing for trial. We can also go to him with staff concerns and will always lend an ear. It's amazing how he gets all of his work done with all of his high publicity cases. I have seen him come in early in the morning, staying late after hours and coming in on the weekends to finish all his tasks. I helped him last year when we had two murders just days apart. I had to prepare all of the paperwork to get the case ready for Grand Jury within 2 days and we were both here on the weekend. He is very professional as always and very patient so we could finish everything.

I have no doubt that Rom will be fair to both the state and defense. He has always been professional and respectful to both the prosecutors and defense attorneys. He is truly an asset to our community and he will be a great circuit court judge.

Yours truly,

Lyn Y. Waters  
Domestic Violence, Felony Unit

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

RE: Testimony in Support of the Nomination for Rom A. Trader,  
Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

My name is Scott Bell and I am a deputy prosecuting attorney for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Rom A. Trader as judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. A career prosecutor with ten years of experience, I have worked closely with Mr. Trader and consider him a mentor, a valued colleague and a friend.

Mr. Trader possesses the integrity, legal ability and experience, intelligence and wisdom, compassion and fairness, decisiveness and judicial temperament that qualify him as an ideal nominee for the First Circuit Court bench.

#### Integrity

Mr. Trader is a man of unassailable integrity who diligently adheres to the high standards of professionalism imposed on a prosecutor. Throughout his career he has exhibited an abiding commitment to see that justice is done. Mr. Trader always does the right thing for the right reasons.

#### Legal Ability and Experience

Mr. Trader is a seasoned trial attorney who, after more than two decades of experience with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, has tried scores of cases. Many of these cases have been high profile. He has demonstrated the highest level of trial advocacy. The fact that Mr. Trader has been a career prosecutor in no way diminishes his qualifications to serve.

#### Intelligence and Wisdom

Mr. Trader is a student of the law. He keeps abreast of developments in the law. His knowledge of the law and his extensive litigation experience have made him wise. He does not hoard this wisdom. Rather, he continuously trains deputies under his supervision. My office views him as a valuable resource for advice and counsel.

#### Compassion and Fairness

Mr. Trader is compassionate and fair, He always seeks a fair resolution. He understands that, in the practice of criminal law, there are real victims who seek redress for their grievances in an imperfect system. He is sensitive to the needs and rights of these victims.

Mr. Trader also treats defendants fairly. He does not use the law or his office as a prosecutor as cudgels. It is my observation that the Mr. Trader has the respect of the bench and the criminal defense bar because of his over-arching commitment to fairness.

#### Decisiveness

Currently Mr. Trader is the division director for the Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender Division. This division handles cases that are pressure packed and emotionally charged. As a division director he supervises more than fifteen attorneys and an equal amount of staff. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Mr. Trader shoulders a full trial caseload.

The demands on Mr. Trader's time are great. Each day he is confronted with questions and issues that require immediate, decisive action. His decisions are thoughtful, reasoned and precise. The timeliness and quality of his decisions garner him great respect.

#### Judicial Temperament

Mr. Trader is preternaturally calm. He is self-assured without pretension or arrogance. He is respectful of the opinions and perspectives of others. Throughout his career he has demonstrated that effective advocacy and professional civility are not incongruous. He shuns rude, callous or strident behavior, preferring polite discourse instead.

For the foregoing reasons, Rom A. Trader is an outstanding candidate for the position of judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I strongly support his nomination.

Very truly yours,

Scott Bell

**VIA FAX (586-6659)**

**TO:** The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**BY:** Loretta Kishi  
Real Estate Broker

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR ROM TRADER**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2009**  
**10:00 a.m., Conference Room 16**

To Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is my supreme privilege to submit this written testimony in support of Mr. Rom Trader's confirmation to the Circuit Court bench. I have been a realtor for nearly three decades. Quite some time ago, I had handled two transactions for Mr. Trader. I found him to have an extraordinary grasp on the nuances of real estate law and transactions.

Mr. Trader always presented as an extremely honest, forthright and caring man who had the integrity of steel. I have lived in Hawaii as a simple and concerned citizen since the times of World War II, and I have therefore met and worked with many people in my lifetime, but absolutely none have measured up to the stellar, ethical, humane and intellectual impressions that Mr. Trader left upon me. Mr. Trader has the integrity like none other, and therefore, he transcends the everyday issues of pettiness or ego.

As a citizen of Hawaii for over 70 years, I have never been moved to submit testimony to this legislative body. Mr. Trader has changed that, and I humbly encourage your learned support for his confirmation. Although I am unable to attend the confirmation hearing, I may be reached at 783-9586.

Respectfully,



Loretta G. Kishi

Senate Committee on  
Judiciary and Government Operations  
State Capitol, Room 016

RE: Confirmation of Rom A. Trader  
Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Chair Brian Taniguchi:

I am currently employed with the City and County Prosecuting Attorney office and have been here for over 20 years as part of Victim/Witness Kokua's clerical staff. I have served under three very different Administrations and have adapted to various personalities that have come and gone over the years. It has been my great pleasure to work with a person the caliber of Rom Trader.

When Mr. Trader first joined our office, he was a fresh-faced, enthusiastic young attorney, ready to set the world on fire. He was friendly and approachable. He knew he could ask questions of the clerical staff and get answers. Those first few years, he was hardworking and diligent. He cut his teeth in every division and has touched all types of cases. As a legal clerk, you can track a deputy's rise via the caseload they carry. Rom has earned his position.

Presently, Rom is the Division Chief, overseeing Domestic Violence/Juvenile Offender as well as the newly formed Elder Abuse cases. His division is efficient and his staff is loyal.

I admire him for utilizing the services that Victim Advocates have to offer to the benefit of victims and witnesses as it ultimately helps his case. I have observed and heard him around victims, especially children, and found him to be kind and patient.

In short, if you were to ask me to give you one sentence that best describes Rom Trader, my answer would have to be that "he is a good man". In my humble opinion, he would make an excellent addition to the Judiciary and any consideration you might give him would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sandra P. Sarcedo  
Legal Clerk III  
Victim/Witness Kokua Services





**First Judicial Circuit** — THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII  
POST OFFICE BOX 3498 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96811-3498

Glennard H. B. Fong  
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

582F Hahaione Street  
Honolulu, HI 96825

January 14, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

This letter is written in support of Rom Trader, who is being considered as a judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I have known and worked with Mr. Trader for the past two years on a multi-disciplinary committee which is legislatively convened through the Department of Health. During that time, I have had the pleasure of observing his consistent professionalism as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. His understanding and articulation of the law, as well as even temperament has made him a welcome colleague and friend. His work and contributions in the criminal justice system reflect considerable insight, intelligence, analysis and sound judgement. He has displayed fairness, understanding, patience, and respectfulness to all parties in and outside of the courtroom. These qualities make him well suited to become a member of Hawaii's Judiciary.

It is therefore, an honor and privilege for me to submit this letter of support on behalf of Rom Trader who is applying to be selected as a judge in the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Kiehm".

Maureen Kiehm, MSW

Douglas Chin  
2423 Lanai Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 14, 2009

Subject: Confirmation hearing of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dear Committee Members:

I write this letter in support of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Having worked with Mr. Trader at the Honolulu Prosecutor's office for nine years, I believe that Mr. Trader possesses the temperament, knowledge, qualities and skills that would make him an excellent addition to the First Circuit and an outstanding jurist in our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Douglas Chin, Esq.



Ian L. Mattoch • Daniel P. Kirley • Mark F. Gallagher • Bruce A. Larson • Stuart M. Kodish • Emily K. Waters

## Law Offices of Ian L. Mattoch

Pacific Guardian Center, 737 Bishop St., Suite 1835, Honolulu, HI 96813 • Ph. (808) 523-2451 Fax (808) 531-2652  
[www.ianmattoch.com](http://www.ianmattoch.com)

January 13, 2009

VIA EMAIL: [sentaniguchi@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentaniguchi@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Hon. Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chairman of Senate Judiciary and  
Government Operations Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Taniguchi:

I am writing in support of your nominee, Rom Trader, Esq., for the position of Judge in the First Circuit Court. Mr. Trader has been a colleague, supervisor, and personal friend for several years. I have only the highest regard for him in all areas.

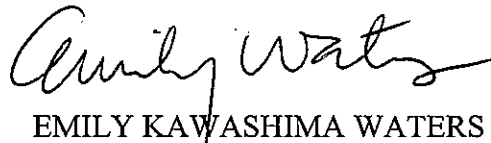
Mr. Trader was my supervisor when I was a deputy prosecuting attorney in the domestic violence misdemeanor division. This was a highly stressful division due to the nature and volume of the cases. Rom was ever the supportive and helpful supervisor and always the voice of reason. His even-handedness as a supervisor was remarkable and very appreciated given the intensity of the subject matter.

As a deputy prosecutor, Rom is respected by both sides of the criminal bar. His style has always been thorough and straightforward. He never engaged in petty gamesmanship and has been hugely successful due to his skill and professionalism.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly for this position, Rom has the perfect temperament to succeed on the bench. He deeply cares about the justice system and will undoubtedly be dedicated and attentive to all of those who appear before him.

I have no hesitation in supporting Mr. Trader for this position and urge you to do the same. Please do not hesitate to call me should you need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



EMILY KAWASHIMA WATERS

EKW:lww

**Hilo**  
586 Kanoelehua Ave., Ste. 200  
Hilo, HI 96720

**Maui**  
1 Main Plaza, 2200 Main St., Ste. 523  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**Waimea**  
Spencer House, Ste. 3  
65-1148 Mamalahoa Hwy.  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**Kona**  
75-127 Lunapule Rd., Ste. 15B  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**Lihue**  
4473 Pahee Street, Suite L  
Lihue, HI 96766

**Testimony of Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender  
State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations**

January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

RE: GM 167: Nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to recommend that Rom Trader be confirmed as the next judge of the Circuit Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Rom since our first year in law school in 1984. Throughout law school, I was impressed not only with his intellect and dedication to his studies, but with his compassion for his fellow students. Without a doubt, Rom was the hardest working student in my class.

Rom has carried his work ethic to the Prosecutor's office. He has earned the respect not only of his fellow prosecutors, but of the defense bar as well. Rom is known as a tough, no-nonsense prosecutor who treats everyone fairly. While some prosecutors can be officious and self-righteous, Rom is the epitome of class, and treats everyone with respect. I have no question that Rom will have the back-bone to make tough decisions at the judicial level. I am also confident that he will be fair to all of the parties that appear before him.

Rom has both the educational and legal background which makes him highly qualified to preside over cases in the Circuit Court which are of a wide variety and sensitive in nature. He will have a good judicial temperament and a keen ability to interpret the laws and mete out justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

60 N. Beretania St. #3201  
Honolulu, HI 96817

January 14, 2009

Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Senate of the State of Hawaii  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State Capital  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Rom A. Trader as Circuit Judge  
Hearing: January 15, 2009  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capital Conference Room 016

Dear Chairman Taniguchi, Vice-Chairman Takamine, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on the nomination of Rom A. Trader as Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I enthusiastically support Mr. Trader's nomination and respectfully urge this Committee to recommend his confirmation to the full Senate.

I have been a practicing attorney for over fifteen (15) years. During my first seven (7) years of practice, I was as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. For the past eight and half (8 ½) years, I have been in private civil practice. I have known Mr. Trader during my entire professional career and I have been an eyewitness to his legal skills, acumen, and judgment. He has complete command of the rules of evidence and rules of court. He is also blessed with the special and rare gift of being able to truly and effectively communicate with people that come into the judicial system - victims, jurors, and witnesses - and humanize what could otherwise be a sterile experience. Without qualification, Mr. Trader is one of the finest trial attorneys I know.

There may have been some concerns that another career prosecutor is being nominated for the First Circuit bench, potentially skewing the "balance" of the Court. I believe these concerns are unwarranted with Mr. Trader's nomination. He is a fine individual with the intellect to take on the challenges of the bench. Fairness is one of his greatest qualities and the support he enjoys from members of the criminal defense bar is evidence of this

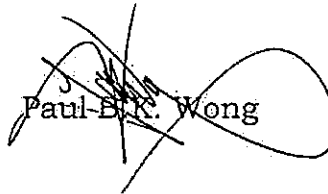
fact. He also enjoys the support of members of the civil bar like me who appreciate appearing before fair and thoughtful judges.

The Circuit Court in the State of Hawaii is first and foremost, a trial court, staffed with trial judges. Without doubt, the best trial attorneys make the best trial judges. This indisputable fact is why Rom Trader will make an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

Despite having had alternate opportunities, Rom Trader dedicated his entire professional career to serving the people of this community. He should continue to serve the people of Hawaii as Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be heard.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paul-B.K. Wong

# HENDERSON GALLAGHER & KANE

HARVEY E. HENDERSON, JR.  
J. PATRICK GALLAGHER  
JOELLE SEGAWA KANE  
LYNN B.K. COSTALES  
JACQUELINE W.S. AMAI  
GREG H. TAKASHI  
LEAH M. REYES

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JEFFREY Y. HIGASHI  
MERIDETH Q. McENTIRE  
ERIN MACDONALD  
HIRO S. TAKEI

lcostales@insurlawhawaii.com

January 14, 2009

Chairperson Senate Judicial Committee  
Senator Brian Taniguchi  
10th Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Judicial Nominee Rom Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

This letter is being submitted to you in support of judicial nominee Rom Trader. I have know Mr. Trader for over 10 years and was first introduced to him when he was actively prosecuting sexual assault cases. At the time, I was a law clerk for the Honorable Marie Milks (ret.) and was highly impressed by Mr. Trader's trial skills. In fact, his dedication to sexual assault victims and law enforcement influenced my decision to become a prosecutor.

While practicing as a deputy prosecuting attorney I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Trader. Mr. Trader was not just a fellow prosecutor, who was highly respected, but also a supervisor, who gladly and unselfishly imparted his knowledge to us younger deputies. His guidance was invaluable and he helped to teach me what is was to be a good prosecutor and more important, a good trial attorney.

My professional dealings with Mr. Trader ended over 10 years ago, when I left the prosecutor's office to pursue a career in civil litigation. I am now a partner in a defense law firm and have made the transition from criminal to civil with a certain degree of success. Despite my departure from the prosecutor's office, I continued my association with Mr. Trader, professionally and personally, over the years.

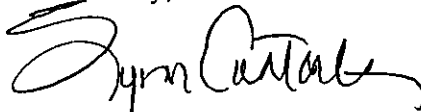
While I suspect that Mr. Trader's one criticism will be his lack of civil experience, the transition can be successfully made with dedication and hard work. Both of which, Mr. Trader does not lack. Whether it be criminal or civil litigation, I have no doubt he will meet the challenge head on with determination and hard work.

Chairperson Senate Judicial Committee  
January 14, 2009  
Page 2

You likely have been receiving numerous accolades regarding Mr. Trader, which is no surprise to those that know him. His reputation as a prosecutor is one of being reasonable and fair, without discrimination. A needed qualification for the position which he has been nominated. I am confident his fairness and skill as a trial attorney will be a great asset to the judiciary and he will serve the community with great honor and dedication. Indeed, these are only a few, of many, attributes which will make him a fine judge. Litigants as well as fellow bar members appearing before him, can expect nothing less than courtesy, professionalism, fairness and integrity.

I strongly support his nomination to the bench and ask that you respectfully confirm his nomination. I thank you for this opportunity to submit this on Mr. Trader's behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Costales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lynn Costales



**LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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841 BISHOP STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOWARD K. K. LUKE  
DAVID M. HAYAKAWA

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

January 14, 2009

*Via Facsimile No. 586-6659*

**Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations**  
**Hearing: January 15, 2009 10:00 a.m.**

**Re: Nomination of Rom Trader as Judge of the First Circuit Court**

Dear Senator Taniguchi and fellow committee members:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Rom A. Trader to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Trader since he graduated from The University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law and began a judicial clerkship in the First Circuit Court over twenty years ago. While I am not familiar with his professional work product as a law clerk, I can recall that Rom was always very cordial and appropriately friendly with the attorneys who appeared before the court. His easy manner and respect for all attorneys and litigants, witnesses, jurors, and courtroom spectators kept the court running smoothly and efficiently. I believe all experienced attorneys were of the belief that he would make an excellent attorney after the completion of his clerkship.

Approximately a year after the end of his clerkship, Mr. Trader started employment with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. Within a few months it became apparent that he had a very promising career as a trial attorney, whether he chose to remain a prosecutor or to seek professional employment elsewhere. As it turned out, Mr. Trader decided to remain a trial prosecutor. For approximately twenty years now, he has proven himself to be the preeminent trial prosecutor in that office, embodying all the qualities of a fair, compassionate, even-handed, and thoroughly competent deputy prosecuting attorney. He is exactly what a prosecuting attorney should be. He is thoroughly familiar with the area of his practice, is completely conversant in the rules of evidence and procedure, is hard-hitting but very ethical and fair, is

Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations

Page Two

Hearing: January 15, 2009 10:00 a.m.

Re: Nomination of Rom Trader as Judge of the First Circuit Court

empathetic towards the victims and witnesses in his cases, and is unfailingly respectful to opposing counsel and the court. Although his cases frequently involve high media attention, he does not grandstand for the media. He is always reserved and appropriate, in keeping with the solemnity of his professional calling.

I am fully aware that there will be an outpouring of support for Mr. Trader from the prosecutor's office. I am also aware that you will probably have before you more support for a trial prosecutor from the criminal defense bar than you have ever had in the past. The reason for the universal support for Mr. Trader is that he has consistently demonstrated over twenty years as a trial prosecutor that, while he is fully capable of striking very hard blows in court, he will never, under any circumstances, strike foul ones. Having been on the opposite side of Mr. Trader, I know that I have to be extremely well-prepared to face his prosecutorial skills and his easy and natural rapport with juries. Equally important, I also know that I never have to be concerned that he will be anything other than completely fair and just in the execution of his professional duties.

Finally, I realize that Mr. Trader has no experience in the civil area of law practice. I believe that this is a legitimate area of inquiry as he undergoes the confirmation process. I also believe that due consideration should be given to the complexity of his cases, his thorough familiarity with the courtroom environment, including judicial procedure, jury concerns, the rules of evidence that are applicable in all trial settings, and the sometimes novel and challenging behavior of witnesses, litigants, and, of course, the attorneys who appear in court. Mr. Trader has both the experience and the inherent character to run a courtroom smoothly and efficiently, with the appropriate balance between judicial decorum and flexibility for the concerns of all who appear in court.

In summary, I strongly urge you, without reservation, to confirm Mr. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. He will be an outstanding judge.

Very truly yours,



HOWARD K. K. LUKE

Pamela Oshiyama  
759 Pumehana Street  
Honolulu, HI 96826

January 14, 2009

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi**  
**Chairman, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**  
**State Capitol**  
**Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813**

Re: Recommendation for Judicial Appointment of Rom Trader, Esq.

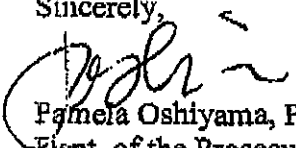
Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I have served in the Honolulu Prosecutor's office as a paralegal for 18 years. During that time, I have worked directly with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom Trader for a period of approximately 8 years. While our office will suffer a great loss should Mr. Trader be appointed to the Circuit Court judgeship, I highly recommend that you select Mr. Trader for this position.

Mr. Trader possesses the necessary legal acumen and tact that would enable him to be a fair and objective judge. His willingness to seek reasonable resolutions to the cases presented to him as our chief for the Domestic Violence Felony and Juvenile Offender Division displays his objective and practical style. He is a well respected attorney by his peers and staff.

I strongly urge you to seriously consider Mr. Trader as your next Circuit Court judge appointee. I am confident that he will provide the Judiciary with the necessary perspective that will serve the State of Hawaii proudly.

Sincerely,

  
Pamela Oshiyama, Paralegal  
Elemt. of the Prosecuting Attorney  
Domestic Violence -Felony

## Testimony

**Committee:** Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
**Measure:** GM167, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROM A. TRADER, for a term to expire in ten years.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 15, 2009  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Conference Room 016  
**Testifier:** Bridget Palmer Holthus

---

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Committee Members:

I am a former deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. During a large part of my service as a prosecutor, Rom Trader was my division supervisor.

Mr. Trader has the demanding job of managing a large division of several teams of attorneys and support staff in some of the most challenging areas of prosecution – including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse – where cases are difficult to prove and victims are often reluctant to cooperate in the proceedings. That Mr. Trader has continued to serve in this area for so many years demonstrates his enduring commitment to protecting women and children.

Mr. Trader has personally handled some of Hawaii's most serious and complex criminal cases, and has a thorough, practical understanding of the judicial process. He works to improve Hawaii's justice system by his leadership in many committees and community programs, and he shares his expertise by teaching and mentoring law students and less-experienced attorneys.

In my experience, Mr. Trader held his deputies to high standards of preparation and performance, but consistently made it clear that fair proceedings mattered more than wins. He is decisive, but he listens carefully to the views of others. Those who have had the privilege of working with him have witnessed his strong work ethic, his composure in stressful circumstances, his compassion for the less fortunate, and his down-to-earth approachability.

In the course of my work, I had the opportunity not only to form my own opinion of Mr. Trader, but also to hear the frank comments of many others. Many of Hawaii's most respected attorneys and community leaders – including members of the criminal defense bar – praised his diligence as a lawyer, his strong commitment to a safe and just community, and his unimpeachable integrity and fairness.

I believe that Mr. Trader is exceptionally well suited to serve as a judge, and I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend his confirmation.

---

**From:** Dean M. Yamamoto [cliahawaii@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 3:20 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Judicial Nominee Rom A. Trader

January 12, 2009

Brian Taniguchi  
Senator  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am writing in support of First Circuit Court judicial nominee Rom A. Trader. I have had the privilege and honor of knowing Mr. Trader both professionally and as a friend for nearly twenty years. His character is irreproachable and his work ethic is second to none.

In 1988, I was hired as an Evidence Specialist for the Honolulu Police Department and was employed within the Scientific Investigation Section for 14 years before transferring to the State of Hawaii, Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division. During that time, I was involved with over 3000 criminal investigations. My duties as an Evidence Specialist included testifying in Circuit Court as a witness for the prosecution. I have worked with Mr. Trader on many of the criminal cases that I was involved including sexual assault and murder cases.

One case stands out more than any other and exemplifies Mr. Trader's ability as a deputy prosecuting attorney. That case was the State of Hawaii v. Raita Fukusaku. This historic case displayed Mr. Trader's unique ability and skill as an attorney and as a person with character and integrity. Though I had a small part of the case itself, I had a first hand view of Mr. Trader's preparation and presentation at the trial. I met with Mr. Trader for many hours for pre-trial preparation and provided 40 hours of testimony during the trial. His knowledge of the law and his attention to minute details of the case were instrumental in the conviction of Mr. Fukusaku.

The State of Hawaii v. Raita Fukusaku was a very high profile trial that lasted for several weeks. The defense attorneys were aggressive defending Mr. Fukusaku and were loudly vocal during the trial. During the 40 hours that I was on the witness stand, not once did I observe Mr. Trader lose his temper or composure during the countless (and sometimes sarcastic) interruptions by Mr. Fukusaku's attorneys. Mr. Trader dealt with all of the situations in a courteous and professional manner.

Prior to and since that trial I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. Trader in many other cases. His work ethic and professional conduct have been unrelentingly consistent. His sense of fairness and what is right are unparalleled. These are all characteristics that I would like to see in a judge in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me to comment and support Mr. Trader's judicial nomination for the First Circuit Court. If you have any questions you can contact me at any time at (808) 291-4101.

Sincerely,

Dean M. Yamamoto

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**From:** sheehanl001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 3:16 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Nomination of Rom Trader

Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Please accept my wholehearted support of the nomination of Rom Trader to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Trader as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and to watch his career since I left that office in 1995. I have always found Mr. Trader to be rigorous in his pursuit of justice, and fair in his treatment of all people. Mr. Trader has the appropriate temperament to sit as a judge, as well as the intellectual ability to preside over litigation--both civil and criminal. Mr. Trader has the necessary balance of head and heart and will be a great asset to the courts of the State of Hawaii. You simply could not find a better person to be a judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Loretta Sheehan, Esq.

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**From:** lm.goto@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 2:44 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167 Gubernatorial Nominee Rom Trader, Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 am, Conf Rm 016

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in an individual capacity, in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, ROM ALEX TRADER, to the First Circuit Court.

I am currently a deputy attorney general working under Attorney General Mark Bennett. I have been with the Department of the Attorney General since 1997. Prior to that, I worked for twelve years as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. I have practiced in the area of criminal law for over twenty-three years.

I have known Mr. Trader for the past twenty years, and worked with him for about ten years while I was employed with the county prosecutor's office. I supervised him for a number of those years, and he came to be the person I relied on to cover for me when I was absent or unavailable.

I have worked closely with Mr. Trader and feel very confident in supporting his selection. Mr. Trader has practiced law in Hawaii for many years. He is very experienced and knowledgeable on the law and procedure. He has very strong litigation skills. Just as importantly, he is adept at communicating with others and working well with them. As a judge, he would have excellent judicial demeanor and temperament. With all of his experience, Mr. Trader would be a strong, capable and fair judge.

Mr. Trader would be a great addition to the Circuit Court, and the people of Hawaii would be very fortunate to have someone with his abilities and character serving on the bench.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about Mr. Trader.

Lance M. Goto

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**From:** Ryan.K.Shinsato@dcca.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 2:04 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Nomination support for Rom Trader

Dear Chairman Brian Taniguchi,

I am sending this letter in strong support of Rom Trader's judicial nomination. I first met Rom in 2002 when I worked at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I have always been impressed by Rom's thorough understanding of both the law and courtroom procedure. Rom is most recognized for his courtroom experience, but I believe that his command of the law and his ability to understand the most complex legal issues is what makes him so effective. Despite being career prosecutor, Rom is universally respected for his fairness and has the ideal temperament for the bench.

The thing I respect most about Rom is his integrity. As a prosecutor, you are constantly asked to make the toughest decisions and are challenged everyday to stay on the high road, in the name of justice. It constantly amazed me that no matter how tough the decision, Rom always made the right one. I know Rom will make a fantastic addition to our bench because of his ability to make the toughest decisions. I strongly support Rom Trader's nomination to the First Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Shinsato  
Staff Attorney  
Insurance Fraud Investigations Unit  
Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs



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**From:** Gary.N.Oakes@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:19 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** RE: Confirmation hearing for Mr. Rom Trader

I am an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender and I have been practicing law for twenty-four years. I first met Mr. Trader when he was a law clerk in the First Circuit Court. He subsequently joined the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, and over the many years since then, he and I have been opposing counsel on numerous cases.

Mr. Trader has always been a strong advocate for the State as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. And in addition to that he has always been fair, reasonable and honest in his handling of cases with me. It is my understanding that that is also the general opinion among the defense bar.

In his many years as a trial attorney Mr. Trader has acquired an excellent grasp of the substance of law and of legal procedure. He is a very intelligent and hard working attorney.

I believe that it is very important for a judge to have substantial experience as a trial attorney, in order to better appreciate the judicial process. It is also important for a judge to be fair, compassionate and even-tempered, in addition to being diligent and able to make decisions in a timely manner. I believe that Mr. Trader possesses these traits and that he would be an excellent Circuit Court judge.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Oakes  
Deputy Public Defender

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**From:** Edward.K.Harada@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:09 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation Hearing For Rom Trader as Circuit Court Judge

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary And Government Operations:

My name is Edward K. Harada, and I am a senior trial attorney with the Office of the Public Defender. I have been a Deputy Public Defender for almost 25 years, and I can speak with authority and personal knowledge of Rom Trader's qualifications and merit to be confirmed as the next Circuit Court Judge.

Rom is exceptionally qualified to be a circuit court trial judge. He has repeatedly proven himself to be an outstanding trial lawyer, and has a thorough knowledge of the rules of evidence, trial procedure, and substantive law. He has a sharp legal mind and excellent writing skills. Rom knows how trials should be conducted and has the ability and fortitude to run a courtroom accordingly.

Rom has the perfect demeanor to be a circuit court judge -- in the many years that I have dealt with him, he has always shown me, and all other others, curtesy and respect. Rom has always had the ability to listen politely, and seriously, to all the voices on the many sides of an issue before taking action. I have never seen him speak or act in anger, even when circumstances may have justified such a response. He has always had a "cool head" on him. These abilities served him well in making him a highly effective advocate, and these same skills will serve him even better as a circuit court judge.

Because Rom and I have had different and mostly opposing roles in our criminal justice system, we often were in court fighting very hard against each other. Rom always fought hard, clean, and fair, and he has earned great respect and admiration not only from me, but many of my colleagues. It was a honor to appear in court with Rom Trader as the prosecutor -- it will be an even greater honor to appear in a courtroom with him as a judge. Please confirm Rom Trader as the next Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

With Great Respect,

Edward K. Harada  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Deputy Public Defender

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**From:** Kaiulani Shinsato [kaiulanishinsato@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 12:58 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Rom Alex Trader

Dear Chairman Taniguchi,

I write in strong support of Rom Trader's appointment to the bench at First Circuit Court. I have known Rom for approximately five years. My husband, a former prosecutor, worked under Rom. Rom was highly respected as one of the best prosecutors in the office. He was also a fair and kind boss and mentor to my husband. Rom's extensive trial experience and temperament would, in my opinion, make him a perfect trial court judge. Since my husband left the prosecutor's office, we have remained personal friends with Rom and his wife, Dawn. Rom not only has the professional experience to bring to the bench, but I can personally vouch for Rom as a wonderful husband, father, and friend. Please strongly consider Rom Trader to fill the First Circuit Court vacancy.

Sincerely,

Kaiulani Kidani Shinsato  
Commission Counsel  
Public Utilities Commission

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**From:** Dawn.S.Shigezawa@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:48 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Rom A. Trader

On The Following Measure:  
JC1

Before The:  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2009

Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Vice Chair Dwight Y. Takamine:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of consideration of Rom A. Trader for Circuit Court Judge.

I have been fortunate enough to have worked with Rom at the Prosecutor's Office, and have known him now for many years, and can say that he is a highly qualified individual for the job. Rom has extensive trial experience and years of criminal law practice from which he can draw from. He is very intelligent, which will make him a quick study on any matter before him, and is extremely personable, which will make working with him a pleasure.

Therefore, Rom will make an excellent Circuit Court Judge and undoubtedly serve the judiciary and the Hawaii State Bar well.

Very Truly Yours,  
Dawn S. Shigezawa, Esq.

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**From:** Lori Nishimura [lsnishi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:39 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 167; Nomination of Rom Trader

Dear Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in my individual capacity in support of the nomination of Rom Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have been a deputy prosecutor for almost eighteen years now and have known Rom since I first started in the office. During this time I have been impressed with how helpful, hard working and down to earth Rom is. He is routinely someone everyone seeks advice from on how to handle a trial or legal issue. He is unfailingly willing to help despite his own heavy workload as a senior trial deputy and division director. I have also been tremendously impressed with his sense of fairness. I know that he has been willing to raise concerns within our office and with the criminal defense bar about issues such as DNA processing procedures that had the potential to negatively affect multiple cases in our office. I am convinced that Rom's innate sense of fairness, his dedication and strong trial and analytic skills will make him an exemplary judge.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Rom Trader's appointment and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lori Nishimura

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**From:** Stacey, Richard [rstacey@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony from Richard Stacey re: Rom Trader confirmation hearing Jan. 15, 2009 10 a.m.

January 14, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: Nomination of Rom A. Trader to the bench of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,  
Confirmation hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m.,  
Conference Room 016

Dear Chairman Taniguchi, Vice Chairman Takamine and other Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in reference to Rom Trader, a nominee for a seat on the bench of the Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit. Without reservation, I highly recommend Rom Trader for the position.

I am a career prosecutor currently employed as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. I have been with the office since 1995. For many years I handled a felony trial caseload. Currently I help supervise the newest deputy prosecutors who are fresh out of law school. I have also worked as a prosecutor in Massachusetts and Guam.

When I started doing felony trials here, Rom was already a supervisor with the Robbery/Burglary Team. One characteristic that stood out then and that has continued throughout the time I have known him, is that he does not just supervise, he goes beyond that. When his DPAs were swamped with trials, he would step right in and take their cases to trial himself. Years later, when he was a co-Chief of the Trials Division and my supervisor, he took an attempted murder case of mine to trial after I had been out with an illness. He took on these felony trials in addition to his own caseload and administrative duties.

For many years, Rom has been and continues to be one of the people that the rest of us go to for help or advice. He is always knowledgeable about case law, has done countless trials, including murder and sex assault and other heavy cases, and is a formidable trial attorney. He has always been a hard working, conscientious, intelligent attorney who has stood up for the rights of victims while being fair to criminal defendants. In his current position as the Chief of the Domestic Violence Juvenile Offender Division, he has had to make many tough decisions on cases, including those that cannot go forward due to problems with the evidence. These are the kind of decisions that have given him the experience necessary for him to excel as a judge. As a judge he will continue to be conscientious and hard-working, with a strong yet fair control of the cases before him. I will guarantee you that he will be one of those judges who will take cases from other courtrooms when help is needed, and he will not need to be asked twice. In my experience, Rom has had good relations with many members of the defense bar, and I believe that he has their respect and admiration as well.

On a more personal note, Rom is a friendly guy with a great sense of humor. Although his departure from our office will be deeply felt, Rom Trader will be a great asset to the bench. I will be happy to address personally any questions you may have. You may reach me at work at 768-7430. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Stacey

Rochelle Iwalani Vidinha  
1717 Kamamalu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
January 14, 2009

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Confirmation of Judicial nominee Rom A. Trader

Dear Mr. Taniguchi,

When I first heard that Rom was Governor Lingle's nominee for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, my immediate thought was "Wow, Rom will be a wonderful Judge." I did not think this because Rom is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I did not think this because I have known Rom for several years. I thought this because of the person that I know Rom to be ... a man whose integrity and moral character are sound, and whose legal experience and knowledge of the law are extensive. Above all, Rom is personable, caring, and his dedication is not to simply prosecuting, but to seeking justice for the people of Hawaii.

I have been Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for more than seven years. During those seven years, I was fortunate to work in the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Unit under Rom's supervision. Rom was an excellent supervisor. He was fair, professional, and, most importantly, he led the unit by example. Because I was new to the unit and the unique dynamics of domestic violence cases, I had many questions. Although Rom carried a caseload of his own, he was always approachable, patient, and willing to share his knowledge with this "rookie prosecutor" ... never making me feel ashamed for having to ask. After moving up to the felony trial level, I continued to seek out Rom's expertise, particularly when I had my first case involving DNA testing. Again, as always, Rom took the time to explain the intricacies of DNA collection, testing, and analysis, and referred me to experts in the field so that I could prepare for my trial.

Rom's professionalism, intelligence and knowledge of the law are an inspiration to everyone in our office. Our office will suffer a great loss when Rom leaves. The people of Hawaii, however, will gain a Judge who is fair, dedicated, and relentless in his quest for justice ... and that is what they deserve. Rom A. Trader will be a wonderful Judge.

Sincerely,

Rochelle I. Vidinha  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Law Offices of  
**BROOK HART**  
A LAW CORPORATION  
*Melim Building*  
333 Queen Street, Suite 610  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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e-mail: hartlaw@hawaii.rr.com

FAX: (808) 531-2677

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January 14, 2009

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary  
and Government Operations  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Written Testimony In Support Of Rom A. Trader

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I am honored to submit to your committee my written testimony in support of the nomination of Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rom A. Trader to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court.

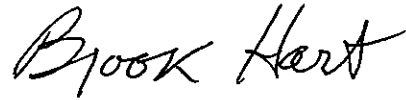
As a Honolulu-based attorney who specializes in criminal defense practice, I have had substantial contact and interaction with Rom during the approximately two decades that he has served our community as a prosecutor. Rom is well qualified to continue his public service in the position of a trial court judge. In my experience, Rom is an intelligent, industrious, fair-minded and ethical prosecutor of high integrity. Furthermore, he is knowledgeable regarding court rules, statutory law and case law; he exercises good judgment; and he possesses the appropriate temperament to be a good judge. Rom has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. He has also been a faculty member for the Hawaii State Bar Association's Trial Academy, and he has participated in the Men's March Against Domestic Violence.

In view of all of the foregoing, I strongly urge confirmation of Rom A. Trader as a Judge of the First Circuit

Court. I am confident that he will be a valuable addition to the First Circuit Court bench.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF BROOK HART  
A Law Corporation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brook Hart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

BROOK HART

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**From:** William.C.Bagasol@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 4:41 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony of William C. Bagasol, Deputy Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations GM 167: Nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

**Testimony of William C. Bagasol, Deputy Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations**

GM 167: Nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee members:

This is in full support of the nomination of Rom A. Trader to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I first met Rom nearly 30 years ago at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. More recently over the last two decades I have worked with him primarily as opposing counsel on felony matters. Through the years he has earned a reputation as a very experienced and excellent trial lawyer.

He has no doubt discharged his duties as prosecuting attorney vigorously. As a prosecutor, he is a cool balance of a hard nose advocate and a compassionate human being who has maintained his voice of reason. He has always displayed the appropriate decorum and respect to those who have contact with him. Throughout the twenty one years, Rom Trader has exhibited the highest level of ethics and professionalism. He is both intelligent and a hard worker. Given his attributes I have no doubt that Rom Trader will be an excellent judge.

HAWK SING IGNACIO & WATERS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. B-223  
Honolulu HI 96817  
T (808) 532-3800  
F (808) 532-3804

Brian T. Taniguchi  
10th Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Taniguchi:

I am writing to urge you to support the nomination of Rom Trader, Esq. as a judge in the First Circuit. I have worked for and with Mr. Trader over my 15 year legal career and have ever confidence in his ability on the bench.

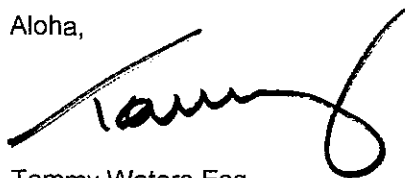
Before I was even a law student, Mr. Trader was a young deputy prosecutor and I was a student helper at the prosecutor's office. I remember him as a talented and most memorably, gracious attorney. After law school, while I was a law clerk the First Circuit Court, Mr. Trader appeared in the courtroom frequently. It was clear that he had remarkable trial skills. Again, the most memorable part was that, despite his success, he remained humble and gracious.

As an attorney in private practice, I have had many cases against Mr. Trader. His skill and demeanor remained constant. He has a clear understanding of the law, and a well honed grasp of the sometimes complicated and difficult rules of evidence,

I believe all of his experience and talents would serve our legal community well.

I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the bench should not be passed up. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Aloha,



Tommy Waters Esq.