

GM 521

From: Park, Wintehn [Wintehn.Park@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:23 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521 Testimony
Attachments: McKenna Testimony.pdf

Please see attached testimony from Rep. Colleen Hanabusa.

Wintehn K. T. Park

Legal Counsel
Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa
Honolulu District Office
(808) 541-2570

CONGRESSWOMAN
COLLEEN HANABUSA

HANABUSA.HOUSE.GOV

To: The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: GM 521(Sabrina McKenna)
Date of Hearing: February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 am
Place: State Capitol, Room 16

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of GM 521 nominating Judge Sabrina McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court for a term of ten years.

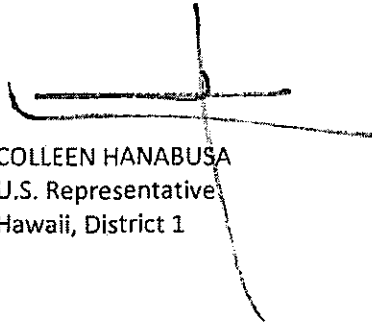
Judge McKenna received her bachelor degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1982. While at Richardson School of Law, Judge McKenna served as the Editor-in-Chief of the University of Hawaii Law Review. Following graduation Judge McKenna practiced law as an associate at the Goodsill law firm and as general counsel to Otaka, Inc. She also worked as an associate professor at Richardson School of Law. Judge McKenna served for two years on the State District Court before becoming a Circuit court judge in 1995. Currently she serves as the senior judge of Oahu's Family Court and was primarily responsible for the Family Court's move to the new facilities at the Kapolei court complex.

In addition to her impressive work accomplishments, Judge McKenna has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Richardson Law School Outstanding Alumnus Award, University of Hawaii Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Hawaii Woman Lawyers Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award, the Dr. Martin Luther King Friends Award from the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights and the Certification of Distinguished Service by the Hawaii Joint Police Association.

As an attorney I have had the opportunity to practice before Judge McKenna. I have found her to be knowledgeable of the law and able to understand and apply the facts before her fairly and compassionately. I do want to emphasize that this is a letter of support that I have been hoping to pen one day. The reason is that Judge McKenna is someone who stands on her own merits. It should not matter what her gender, ethnicity, religious belief or sexual orientation is or represents. What matters is that she is a person who is very qualified to hold this position.

Respective groups, be they women, women lawyers, AJA's, athletes (she did play collegiate basketball for the University of Hawaii and is a star on the Ete Bowl team), models (she was a model in Japan), singers (she turned down a recording contract with Sony), or GLBT's can all applaud and support her; but do not take away from her that she is an excellent choice by any universal standard.

Hers are characteristics that I believe all judges should possess, male or female, and which I believe will make Judge McKenna an effective member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.



COLLEEN HANABUSA
U.S. Representative
Hawaii, District 1

From: boshiro1 - Kenneth
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:17 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: GM 521 Testimony
Attachments: 11020106.pdf

Attached is testimony from Representative Blake K. Oshiro related to GM 521 which the Committee on Judiciary and Labor will hear on Friday February 4, 2011 at 10:00am in CR 016.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Aloha,
Ken Best
Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Blake K. Oshiro
State Capitol, Room 439
Phone: (808) 586-6032



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P. O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Senate Comm. on Judiciary & Labor
Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM521
Consent and Confirm Gubernatorial Nominee, SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA,
to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my strong support of
Gubernatorial Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna, to the Hawaii Supreme Court
as an Associate Justice.

The landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* underscored the
important role Supreme Court Justices have on the ability of students to access
equal opportunities to education; I am confident that Judge McKenna will
interpret Hawaii's unique constitution with the same integrity in matters of
equal importance. In addition to Judge McKenna's eighteen years of judicial
experience, she possesses the perspective and foresight to interpret laws within
the context of the pluralistic society in which those laws were designed to serve.

I first met Judge McKenna in 2001 at a community event for a local charitable
organization. Our paths continued to cross at numerous other events focused on
youth and families. Over these past 10 years, I have been consistently impressed
by Judge McKenna's personal investment in Hawai'i, and the community-based
programs that improve our State. Whether she participates as a referee for an
AYSO soccer match, a panelist at the HSBA's Professionalism Seminar, or as
Chair of the Hawai'i Supreme Court Probation Policy Committee, Judge
McKenna contributes in a ways that empower individuals and communities to
reach their highest potential.

Judge McKenna exhibits the qualities of an excellent jurist, and she will make an
excellent Associate Justice. Thank you for considering my observations as you
advise and consent on Governor Abercrombie's nominee to our State's highest
court.

Yours truly,

Kim Coco Iwamoto, Esq., Oahu-at-Large Member

January 28, 2011

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Support for the Nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court

I am writing in support of Sabrina Shizue McKenna's nomination as Associate Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court. As a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association, as well as in my capacity as a State Representative and former House Judiciary Vice-Chair, I am pleased to convey my endorsement of Ms. McKenna's nomination.

Judge McKenna's qualifications, knowledge and professionalism are well demonstrated through more than 15 years of service on the First Circuit Court, currently as the Senior Judge of the Family Court. During this time, she has earned high marks for her personal compassion, sensitivity to people, well-reasoned decisions, and high level of competence. I have appeared before her and consistently found her well-prepared, thoughtful and most importantly, fair. This experience will serve her well should she be confirmed to sit on the Supreme Court, reviewing cases by trial courts. Judge McKenna's high regard is clearly evident by the Judicial Selection Commission recommending her a candidate twice for associate justice, twice for chief judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and five times for appeals judge.

Judge McKenna previously worked as general counsel to Otaka, Inc., and as an associate at Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. Thus, I believe her experience in the private sector will also provide practical perspective on the bench. But most impressive and the personal reason why I support her nomination was because of her position as an assistant professor at the University of Hawai'i's William S. Richardson School of Law prior to her appointment on the bench. I was one of her students in my first-year seminar class and even though she gave me a "B" (to which I still assert I deserved a higher grade), I still have an extremely high regard for her and her skills.

Therefore, I am pleased to extend my support for Judge McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court and wholeheartedly recommend her for your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Blake K. Oshiro
State Representative

From: Myron Berney [myberney@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 7:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521
Attachments: GM521 Judge.doc

Medicine Buddha and Bodhisattvas
Natural Cancer Wellness Foundation
Dr. Myron Berney, ND LAc
808-392-3366

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011

TIME: 10:00 A.M

PLACE: Conference Room 016

GM 521 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee,
SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

I would like to know the Judge's position on the Federal Question concerning the Right to Privacy and Choice in Medical Care.

I would like to know the Judge's position on the Right to Life, not on the Abortion question, but on living persons.

Specifically, for Hawaii State Citizens do they have both the Right to Life and Choice in Medical Care?

Also, since the State of Hawaii under Article IX is empowered to "protect and promote the public health", can the State of Hawaii restrict health care delivery or have any power concerning individual [not public health] health care?

I would support the Judge if her answers:

1. 100% support the Right to Life and Privacy, Choice in Medical Care; and,
2. if her answer is Yes to Hawaii State Citizens having both the Right to Life and Choice in Medical Care; and,
3. if her answer is NO, the State of Hawaii can NOT restrict health care delivery; and,
4. NO, The State of Hawaii does NOT have any power concerning individual [not public health] health care.

Otherwise, I don't think that she will be confirmed.

Health Care is a Fundamental Human Right protected in the Constitution right up there with Freedom of Religion and Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the unanimous opinion of the US Supreme Court this right, although not listed in the letters of the Constitution, is 100% by the Constitution remaining SILENT, the Right of Privacy.

Any inkling of an adverse opinion is a automatic Constitutional Disqualification and a violation of the Vow to Support and Defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii.

I had the pleasure to hear Senator Hee on the Floor of the Senate reminding us of Equality and Freedom. How Wonderful to be an American!

These rights and freedoms includes all issues facing the Legislature, not limited to Health Care alone.

Thank you,

Dr. Myron Berney, ND LAc.
Medicine Buddhas and Bodhisattvas

January 31, 2011

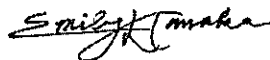
The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I have personally known Judge McKenna for a number of years now. Her son, Tyler, is my classmate and friend. She is an outstanding mother, with strict rules and also nurturing compassion for all of her kids. Judge McKenna, or as I call her, Aunty Sabrina, is always respectful to others.

I know that she would make a fine justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am proud to say that I know her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Tanaka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Emily Tanaka

(Emiktanaka@gmail.com)

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Committee:

I am writing in my personal capacity as someone who has known Sabrina McKenna for over 30 years. I wholeheartedly support her nomination for the honor of serving on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sabrina and I were law clerks together at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel during the summer, 1981, and were both at the firm for several years. We never lost touch, although our careers went separate ways. I have been privileged to get to know Sabrina's family also, as our children go to school together now. Needless to say, I feel I know her well, both as a professional and as a friend. Her career as an attorney and a judge gives her a perspective on life, and bears witness to her integrity, clear thinking and sense of justice.

Sabrina is a person of the highest character, devoted to her community, family and friends, smart and caring. She is humble, dedicated and has a great, self-deprecating sense of humor.

I fully support Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court, and am confident that she will serve the public with great integrity, honor and distinction.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Kailua, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: benkei4.jpg; People Over Politics.jpg

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: Sky Ohana (est. 2009)
Address: P O Box 37403 Honolulu, Hawaii 96837
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

Chair, Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee State of Hawaii Senate Right Honorable Committee Members

We support the confirmation of Justice Sabrina Shizue McKenna as the next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As a layman, I can not speak to her qualification, but hope that the Bar Association gives a good recommendation, which I am almost positively sure is forthcoming. Also as a nephew of a former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and a former AG, I personally know the cost to the family of one who serves for the public good rather than the corporate good.

When we first heard of her nomination and read in her background that she is a graduate of Yokota High School, at a Tachikawa Air Force Base, it brought back so many fond memories of our youth in Japan. Debbie, Taro, Harold, and I were often overnight guests of a school teacher who taught there. During the course of our friendship she married another teacher from the same school as the one Justice McKenna graduated from.

Another thing that impressed me the heck was when in her own words, I heard over the NPR broadcast in the car that while Sabrina's mother was a single mom and worked odd and late hours, her friends and their parents, as well as neighbors took turns helping out to make sure she was safe and taken care of. She credited all of them back in Japan for making sure that she turned out OK, educated, and headed in the right direction for public service.

With all this on our mind, and being aware of her reputation over the years, even though Justice Sabrina is about a decade younger, and may serve barely 18 years on the Supreme Court bench, unless she is destined for even bigger and better things, the State of Hawaii will be served with an objective and yet very human judge. I have full confidence in Justice McKenna. We urge your recommendation to the full Senate for a vote of confidence as well to advise and consent.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Editor, Sky Ohana (since 2009)
Kalihi Valley resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:56 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: toddhairgrove@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments:

From: Diane Hastert [ddh@hawaiilawyer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 6:53 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Confirmation Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna; Friday, February 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my **unqualified** support for Judge McKenna upon her nomination to be an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. By way of background, I have been an attorney in Hawaii since 1978, and am a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Board of Bar Examiners.

In my opinion, Judge McKenna is among the best trial judges I have appeared before for the following reasons:

- Her integrity is above question.
- She acts with courage – I have never seen her dodge a difficult issue.
- Her intellectual capability is enormous, and she is always prepared. As a result, win or lose, parties respect her clearly expressed decisions and know they have received fair and evenhanded consideration.
- She has both civil and criminal experience, which is very important to an appellate judge's capacity to absorb and analyze the countless legal issues faced.
- She has the respect and admiration of the entire community, as evidenced by the awards and accolades she has received.

If there are any questions concerning my support of Judge McKenna, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

Diane D. Hastert

Diane D. Hastert
Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert
1001 Bishop Street
1600 Pauahi Tower
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 531-8031 ext. 220
Fax: (808) 533-2242
ddh@hawaiilawyer.com
www.hawaiilawyer.com
Member Meritas - Law Firms Worldwide
Visit www.meritas.org

From: Sue Chouljian [suec@speakeasy.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hearing Notice HEARING_JDL_02-04-11_ - HI State Legislature

Dear Nominating Committee,

I am writing to express my support for a personal friend Sabrina McKenna. Sabrina and I are soccer moms and have daughters at middle school together. I've had the privilege of getting to know Sabrina and her family (Denise and their 3 kids) and feel strongly in favor of her appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court .

I first met Sabrina when we were travelling together to the mainland for our daughter's soccer tournament. From the beginning, Sabrina was up front and honest with me describing her home life; and rather it being an issue, it became just a fact. It wasn't until many weeks later that I found out what Sabrina did for a living.

My husband and I and our two kids have been to Sabrina's home several times for dinner gatherings. Sabrina is articulate, worldly, generous, a straight shooter and a great listener. Sabrina has always struck me as being a dedicated, involved, caring and supportive mom. She's also a great sports fan.

I am not an expert in the field of law, but from my experience as a community volunteer, physical therapist and mom, I do consider myself qualified to judge the quality and character of individuals. Sabrina McKenna is of high moral character and I feel confident as a citizen of Hawaii that she will make decisions that will help guide our unique state. Our family is very excited for her confirmation to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sue Chouljian MPT
987 Waiholo St.,
Honolulu, HI
96821
377-5565

From: Ruth Limtiaco [ruthl@thelimitiacocompany.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:45 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521 McKenna Confirmation

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF SABRINA MCKENNA

GM 521

Friday, February 4

10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and members of the Judiciary Committee

I am submitting this testimony in support of the appointment of Sabrina McKenna to the Hawai'i State Supreme Court. I have known Judge McKenna for nearly 20 years. She is an exceptional woman and has demonstrated a record of fairness and intelligence as a judge. I feel that justice will be in good hands with her presence on our Supreme Court bench.

Yours truly,

Ruth Limtiaco

Ruth Limtiaco

Chief Executive Officer | The Limtiaco Company
928 Nuuanu Ave., Penthouse, Honolulu, HI 96817
www.TheLimtiacoCompany.com

Office: 808.535.9099 ext 101 | fax: 808.535-9091
Email: RuthL@TheLimtiacoCompany.com



From: O'Malley, Michael J. [momalley@goodsill.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 9:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Attachments: McKenna.02.01.11..pdf

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This communication may be confidential in nature. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail, delete this e-mail and any copies or attachments, and read no further.
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Honorable Senators:

Attached is my letter of support for Judge McKenna's appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. O'Malley

Michael J. O'Malley
Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
A Limited Liability Law Partnership
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Direct: (808) 547-5836
Cell: (808) 226-2040
Fax: (808) 547-5880
Email: momalley@goodsill.com

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=====

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY

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info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

DIRECT DIAL:
(808) 547-5836

INTERNET:
momalley@goodsill.com

February 1, 2011

VIA EMAIL (JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
State of Hawaii

Re: Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Honorable Senators:

I am writing to offer my unqualified support for the nomination of Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

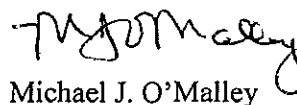
I am a partner in the Honolulu law firm Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel and have practiced for almost 30 years. I got to know and work with Judge McKenna when she was an associate at my firm.

I believe Sabrina possesses all of the attributes and character traits one would seek in naming a person to the Hawaii Supreme Court. She is very bright and extremely hard working. Even more important, however, she is a people person with compassion and understanding for all those with whom she interacts. Sabrina is a "lawyer's lawyer" and would apply the law to the facts of any case presented him. She is a team player who works well with others to develop consensus and find solutions to difficult problems.

I have no doubt that Sabrina McKenna would serve the Hawaii Supreme Court with honor and distinction and do you proud should he be nominated and confirmed. The people of Hawaii would be well-served with Judge McKenna on the bench.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you or any of your representatives at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. O'Malley

From: Ronald C. Brown [ronaldc@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:17 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Letter of Support for Sabrina McKenna Nomination; Hearing February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Committee:

Though there is much detail I could contribute – all positive, I hope it can suffice that I highly recommend her for the position on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. She has an excellent legal mind; she is very professional and holds the highest standards, personally as well as professionally; she has wonderful leadership qualities, and inspires those around her.

If her prowess on the basketball court also counts, she is tops there also. I have known Sabrina as a student, as a colleague at the Goodsill law firm, and as a fellow faculty member at the UH Law School. These days, I try to send my best students to her to clerk.

If I can provide further, more detailed information in her support, please contact me.

Ron Brown
Professor of Law
UH Law School

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

GM 521

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, SABRINA SHIZUE

Testimony

Status

Aloha,

I wanted to email you my endorsement of Judge Mc Kenna for the opening on the Supreme Court. I have known the judge and her family for 10 years. She would represent you and the people of Hawaii in a positive and credible manner. Judge Mc Kenna is unswerving in her support and unbiased renderings of the law. She is always careful to maintain the highest level of professional and personal decorum.

My family and I recently moved to California for business reasons but still maintain a business in Hawaii.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider her appointment.

With much Aloha,

Michael Kosmin
808-987-4649
26270 Big Sky Court
Tehachapi, CA, 93561

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:28 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: cohamura@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Carol Ohmura Steitzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cohamura@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:31 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ronks212@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ronald Steitzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ronks212@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:34 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: haruks@rocketmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Haruki Omura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: haruks@rocketmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 10:37 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc: marika.o926@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marika Omura
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: marika.o926@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

February 1, 2011

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
From: Barbara «GreetingLine»
Re: Judge Sabrina McKenna nomination to Supreme Court

Aloha,

I am writing to support the nomination of Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Justice.

In my opinion, you could not find a better person for the position than Judge Sabrina McKenna. She and her family are among my very dearest personal friends and have been for 12 years. I admire and respect Sabrina as a person, a friend, a judge, and a mother. I know her to be completely dedicated and absolutely beyond reproach on the bench and in her personal life. She lives by the highest ethics and values of anyone I know in any profession. She is always open-minded, objective, and caring in her professional and personal relationships. My attorney friends who have argued in her court speak very highly of Judge McKenna - even those who did not win their case.

From the personal stories I have heard, it seems Sabrina has always been a strong, independent, courageous individual. Her American father served in Japan during the Korean War where he met and married Sabrina's mother. He died when she was just 9 years old. Raised in Japan, Sabrina flew to Hawaii by herself at the age of 16 and enrolled herself at UH. She walked on and won a basketball scholarship during under-graduate school, one of the first recipients of Title 9. After graduating from UH Law School, she worked as an attorney in private practice for numerous years and taught at UH law school before being appointed to circuit court. UH Law school has honored her with two awards that I know of: Distinguished Alumni and Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award. □

She has presided over a number of high profile, controversial court cases and always had the courage to make her decisions based on the court of law, without influence from the court of public opinion. Despite objections from north shore residents, she ruled Turtle Bay's expansion plans did not need a new EIS; decided Jeremy Harris had a constitutional obligation to step down from the city office to run for governor; and declined to remove the smoking ban in bars, to name a few. In perhaps the most controversial case, Judge McKenna denied OHA's request for a moratorium on the sale of ceded lands saying the state Constitution places responsibility for ceded lands with the state Legislature. **The U.S Supreme Court reinstated her decision** after it was overturned by the state Supreme Court.

I highly recommend Sabrina McKenna for the State Supreme Court. Judge McKenna is unswerving in her support and unbiased renderings of the law. She gives true meaning to the salutation 'Honorable Judge'. I know without a doubt, she will represent the Supreme Court in a positive and credible manner and will be a judge you and the people of Hawaii will always be proud of. Judge McKenna will always consider all the facts and make judicial decisions based on the law.

Mahalo for considering Judge McKenna!

Barbara Wallace
(former news anchor / reporter)

From: Kathy Farm [kathy@hawaiilawyer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 11:26 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc: krk@hawaiilawyer.com
Subject: Confirmation Hearing of Sabrina S. McKenna to Supreme Court as Associate Justice; Feb. 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Attachments: Testimony Support Nomination S. McKenna.PDF

Members of Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Attached is Kenneth R. Kupchak's Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, dated Feb. 1, 2011, for the Committee's hearing on February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Thank you.

Kathy Farm
Legal Secretary to Kenneth R. Kupchak and Anna Oshiro
1003 Bishop Street
1600 Pauahi Tower
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 531-8031 ext. 635
Fax: (808) 533-2242
kathy@hawaiilawyer.com
www.hawaiilawyer.com

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Kenneth R. Kupchak
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
krk@hawaiilawyer.com
Tel: (808) 531-8031 Fax: (808) 533-2242

February 1, 2011

VIA EMAIL: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate, State of Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna
To the Supreme Court as Associate Justice
Hearing: February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Kenneth R. Kupchak and I fully, and without reservation, support the nomination of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna to become an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Since 1971, I have been a licensed practicing attorney in Hawaii. My practice involves both business and complex litigation matters, including significant trials and appellate work. Over the years I have successfully represented many clients in all of Hawaii's circuits and before all of Hawaii's appellate bodies. Decisions in many of these cases have been published and some have received national attention.

For over a decade, I had the privilege of practicing before Judge McKenna more often than any other judge. Most of these cases received widespread public attention and frequently involved disputes involving millions of dollars and in some cases the allegations involved over a hundred million dollars. Judge McKenna's extensive experience in the private sector often proved crucial; she invariably was aware of and understood the issues from not only the legal, but also the practical standpoint. Uniformly, she crafted elegant solutions to complex problems, fairly balancing the interests involved. She is as efficient a dispenser of justice as I have experienced.

Judge McKenna is always attuned to the needs of the parties and sensitive to the finer points of counsel's arguments. She is considerate to the parties and counsel, and encourages a

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate, State of Hawaii
February 1, 2011
Page 2

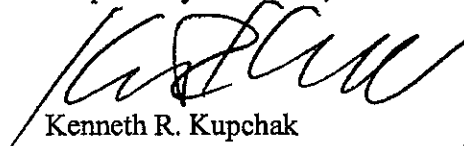
full discourse on material points. She is also extremely effective in settlement and mediation settings. She has settled major cases where other judges and special mediators, including some with a national reputation, have failed.

With her analytical approach to legal matters and her extensive comprehension of the bigger picture and context of each case, it is my firm belief that she will be an energetic and constructive addition to Hawaii's Supreme Court. Judge McKenna represents, in so many ways, what is special about Hawaii.

In short, it is a pleasure, privilege and honor to practice before her.

I urge the Senate to confirm the nomination of Judge Sabrina McKenna as an Associate Justice of Hawaii's Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth R. Kupchak

KRK:kynf
133386

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:30 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: geesey@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Yvonne Geesey
Organization: Individual
Address: 1224 Nehoa Street Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-227-9361
E-mail: geesey@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

I wish to support Judge McKenna in her confirmation hearing. I have no doubt that she will serve on the Supreme Court to benefit our community and continue to be an exemplary leader and role model.

From: Anne Takabuki [atakabuki@Waileagolf.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 1:36 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Confirmation of Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court
Attachments: Sabrina McKenna Confirmation.pdf

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairman
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate of the State of Hawaii

RE: GM 521 Submitting for consideration and confirmation for the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, SADRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Attached please find my testimony supporting the confirmation of Sabrina S. McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Aloha,

Anne M. Takabuki
President & General Manager
Wailea Golf LLC
100 Wailea Golf Club Drive
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753
(808) 875-5142 Office
(808) 875-7398 Fax
atakabuki@waileagolf.com

*Anne M. Takabuki
707 Maalahi Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793*

February 1, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate of the State of Hawaii

RE: CONFIRMATION OF SABRINA S. MCKENNA AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT, STATE OF HAWAII

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

Judge McKenna has all of the attributes and experience to become an exceptional Associate Justice of our State Supreme Court. She is fair, extremely intelligent and is a person of the highest integrity. As a fellow attorney, I have the utmost respect and admiration for what she has accomplished in her legal career. I strongly believe her judicial and personal/life experiences make her well prepared to serve on our Supreme Court.

I have known Judge McKenna for more than 30 years, first meeting her as a classmate at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Sabrina stood out as one of the brightest students in our class—and even though she was able to easily navigate her way through the challenges of law school, she was always willing to help her fellow classmates. She would also devote her time outside the classroom to help others less fortunate. Even back then, it was clear that Sabrina felt a responsibility to her community. It is that compassion and giving spirit that I will always remember and which, along with her legal abilities will make her an outstanding Associate Justice.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. For the above reasons and so many more, I respectfully urge you to confirm her nomination.

Very truly yours,



ANNE M. TAKABUKI

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

February 19, 2010

GM 521: Nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Judge McKenna has long been one of the outstanding trial judges in the First Circuit Court. She has served at all levels of the Judiciary and has presided over both criminal as well as civil cases. Judge McKenna succeeded retired Judge Frances Wong as the senior Family Court judge for the First Circuit and has handled all of her additional administrative duties very efficiently and demonstrated superb leadership in a very demanding position.

For the past few years, I have had the privilege of serving with Judge McKenna on the board of directors of the American Judicature Society. Her depth of legal knowledge and perspectives on the many issues which the judiciary faces has always been very valuable to the board in formulating strategies as well as making recommendations for reform within the judiciary.

As far as her work in the courtroom, Judge McKenna has presided over a wide variety of cases, both jury and non-jury. She is always thoughtful and fair-minded. Her judicial demeanor is always calm and very respectful toward the attorneys and citizens who appear before her. She always takes time to listen to the parties and has solid command over the Rules of Evidence and the Hawaii court rules and statutes.

Judge McKenna, in my opinion, is truly one of the top jurists in our state judiciary and she is very deserving of this appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I strongly support her nomination.

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

From: TMHIFO@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:47 AM
To: Sen. Clayton Hee; senshimabukuro@capiol.hawaii.gov
Subject: GM 521- Testimony supporting Judge McKenna confirmation

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chr.
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chr.
Committee Members
Judiciary & Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: (Bambi) Eden Elizabeth Hifo (Jan. 31, 2011)

Re: GM 521; Testimony Supporting Confirmation of Judge McKenna to
the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Senators Hee, Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I write in strong support of Judge Sabrina McKenna's appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I worked with her as a circuit court colleague for many years and have known her as a friend and fellow law school alumna for nearly thirty years.

She is diligent, intelligent, has appropriate humor and compassion and great respect for the judiciary as an institution and the Hawaii State Constitution in particular. She is hard working, industrious and always manifests a team player attitude. She strives to be fair and respectful to those who appear in court.

Judge McKenna has experience in every calendar at the trial level including district and family court, circuit civil and criminal court and has working knowledge of appellate decision making based on several temporary appointments commonly made to replace recused ICA judges or Hawaii Supreme Court justices. Her knowledge of law and trial experience will enrich her service on the high court.

Judge McKenna sets high ethical and professional standards for herself. She has never hesitated to preside over controversial cases and has contributed in many ways to the administrative committees within the judiciary.

She is a generous and kind person, an avid sports fan and former UH athlete. She has experienced adversity, having lost her father at age 9, leaving Sabrina and her mom in challenging financial circumstances. She learned from these hardships and other challenges while maintaining a positive, energetic attitude, creating a beautiful family and pursuing a successful, multi-faceted career.

I respectfully urge your confirmation of Judge McKenna as justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court and sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,
Eden Elizabeth Hifo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:57 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: ocsjosie@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Sabrina McKenna's Senate Hearing on Feb. 4, 2011.docx

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Josephine Chang
Organization: Individual
Address: 305 Moomuku Pl. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 383-2111
E-mail: ocsjosie@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Josephine Chang, Retired

Friday, February 4, 2011

Support for Judge Sabrina McKenna's Nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court

I strongly support the nomination of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court. The record reflects Judge McKenna's eminent qualifications as a jurist. In my personal experience, Judge McKenna also has the temperament necessary for this position. She is of a calm disposition, steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Most importantly, Judge McKenna balances her intellectual legal ability with a clear recognition of the human component in all cases that is so necessary for the wise application of our laws. We need justices of her caliber. I ask that the Committee on Judiciary and Labor support Judge McKenna's nomination.

Sincerely,

Josephine Chang

From: Lanson Kupau [lkupau@bhhawaii.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:30 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM521 / SUPPORT FOR JUDGE SABRINA S. McKENNA AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
Attachments: Judge McKenna.pdf

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Kindly accept my letter in strong support of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as our next Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Date: Friday, February 4, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Aloha,

Lanson K. Kupau, Esq.

Lanson K. Kupau, Esq.
46-063 Emepela Place, Suite Q204
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Email: lansonkupau@gmail.com / Phone: (808) 294-4045

January 25, 2011

Via Email (senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via Email (senshimabukuro
@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE SABRINA S.
McKENNA AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE**

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

My name is Lanson K. Kupau. I am an attorney with the law firm of Bronster Hoshibata and a Per Diem Judge with the District and Family Courts of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I write this letter in strong support of the nomination of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have been an HSBA member in good standing for nearly 19 years.

I do not know Judge McKenna on a personal or social basis. I do, however, know Judge McKenna on a professional basis, having appeared before her on numerous occasions over the years and in my experience as a per diem judge. Without question, the appointment of Judge McKenna to our high court is long overdue and well deserved. To have someone of Judge McKenna's intellect and character shaping the legal landscape of our State should not, and cannot, be passed upon.

Judge McKenna's integrity is beyond reproach. She has always carried herself with the dignity expected of a judge. Yet, has the interpersonal skills to make people feel welcomed and comfortable in their interactions with her. As you probably already know, Judge McKenna has the legal knowledge, diligence and ability to be an outstanding Associate Justice. Her work ethic in the Family Court is admired by all and will surely carry over. Her compassion for

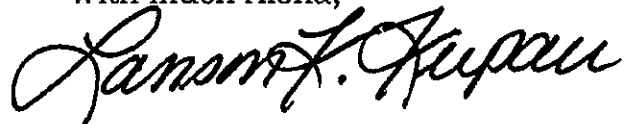
the families, especially the children, that come before her is a hallmark of someone who really cares about what she does and the decisions that she makes. More importantly, she has the courage to make tough decisions and the wisdom to listen to other points of view. To say that she loves her job is a gross understatement.

Judge McKenna's judicial temperament is outstanding. Her decisions are well thought out and articulately expressed. As an attorney appearing before her, I always felt that Judge McKenna had a comprehensive understanding of the law, asked insightful questions and dealt with everyone fairly.

Based on the foregoing, Judge Sabrina S. McKenna has the passion and perseverance to excel as our next Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court and therefore, I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

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

With much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lanson K. Kupau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lanson K. Kupau, Esq.

cc: Judge Sabrina S. McKenna
via email

From: Carol Mon Lee [carolmonlee@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 4:20 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: GM 521 - testimony in SUPPORT

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukiro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: GM 521 - Hearing: Feb. 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court

I SUPPORT the appointment and senate confirmation of Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna to our Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge McKenna for years and she will be a stellar addition to our highest court.

Mahalo,

CAROL MON LEE

carolmonlee@gmail.com
mobile 808.383.6300
fax 808.988.6520

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:44 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: sskswinney@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Judge McKenna.doc

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shirley S. Swinney
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808-520-2338
E-mail: sskswinney@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

GM No. 521 – Consideration and Confirmation for Supreme Court as Associate
Justice Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Friday, February 4, 2011 @ 10:00am, Room 016

Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair, Hon. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and Members of
the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of
confirmation for Sabrina Shizue McKenna for Supreme Court as Associate
Justice.

My name is Shirley Swinney and I retired from the Judiciary after 30 years
of service. During my tenure, I had opportunity to work with many judges in the
District and Circuit Courts. For several years, I worked directly with Sabrina
McKenna in the 22nd Division of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. My request
for you consideration and confirmation is to her integrity, patience, humanity and
wisdom as experienced first-hand.

Judge McKenna literally and figuratively maintained an open door policy
with her staff as she nurtured growth in many young or inexperienced legal
minds. As Judge McKenna applied the law and considered feelings of all parties
with sympathy and understanding, it was natural for staff to be instilled with her
qualities for respect, kindness and professional regard for all who came to the
court. In conduct, Judge McKenna always took the high road.

I support the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna for the Supreme
Court as Associate Justice as she possesses the judicial intellect, temperament
and right traits of good character.

Sincerely,

Shirley Swinney
Retired, State of Hawaii - Judiciary

From: Diana Warrington [dianawarrington@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 5:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Fwd: Governor's Message 521 Support for Judge Sabrina McKenna

From: Diana Warrington <dianawarrington@hawaii.rr.com>
Date: February 1, 2011 12:48:05 PM HST
To: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov, senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov
Bcc: Sabrina McKenna <Sabrina.S.McKenna@courts.state.hi.us>
Subject: **Governor's Message 521 Support for Judge Sabrina McKenna**

Judiciary & Labor Committee
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

Re: Letter of Support for Judge Sabrina McKenna
Hrg: Friday, 2/4/11, 10am, Room 016

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro,

I write in support of Judge Sabrina McKenna for your consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice.
I have known Judge McKenna for many many years professionally and personally as a judicial colleague during my tenure in Family Court and as a friend. Her stellar reputation as a judge and her credibility within the legal community are without question. She is a caring and compassionate person and an insightful judge with a keen intellect. I wholeheartedly support Judge McKenna's confirmation to the Supreme Court and thank you for the opportunity to write on her behalf.

Mahalo,

Diana L. Warrington
Judge (Ret.)
phone: (808) 384-0332

From: Espinda, Malia P. [Manol] [Malia.Espinda@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:48 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM521_02-04-11_JDL - Karen Kline Testimony
Attachments: GM521_02-04-11_JDL-Kline.doc

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

GM521 Consideration and Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Supreme Court as Associate Judge.

February 4, 2011

10:00am

Aloha,

I will also be reading this testimony in support of Judge McKenna on behalf of Karen Kline.

If its possible, can you please set both this and the testimony previously submitted on behalf of Patricia Kline next to one another, so that I may try to be succinct in presenting this testimony for the family?

Thank you,
Malia Espinda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 7:15 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: tom@farrell-hawaii.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: mckenna.pdf

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Thomas D. Farrell
Organization: Family Law Section, HSBA
Address: 700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 535-8468
E-mail: tom@farrell-hawaii.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments:



HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
Family Law Section

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tom@farrell-hawaii.com

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Mailing address:

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Honolulu, HI 96812

Website:

www.hawaiifamilylawsection.org

**TESTIMONY OF THE FAMILY LAW SECTION
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 521
NOMINATING SABRINA S. McKENNA
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF HAWAII**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Friday, February 4, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Good morning, Senator Hee and members of the Committee:

My name is Tom Farrell. I am an attorney and the chair of the Family Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association, on whose behalf I testify this morning.

The Family Law Section is comprised of over a hundred attorneys who practice primarily in Family Court. We handle divorce, paternity, domestic violence, child protection and guardianship cases. As a Section, our testimony represents the views of our members only; we do not speak on behalf of the entire Hawaii State Bar Association.

We strongly support this nomination and urge the entire Senate to confirm Judge McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii.

Frankly, we would be very happy to keep Judge McKenna right where she is: as the Senior Family Court Judge in the First Circuit. However, based upon what we have seen in the year that she has served in this extremely challenging position, we cannot help but admit that the people of Hawaii would be well served by Judge McKenna's appointment to a position of increased responsibility.

As the leader of a court of eleven judges handling literally tens of thousands of difficult and emotional cases every year, Judge McKenna has performed superbly. She was responsible for Family Court's move from the downtown courthouse to the new Kapolei Judiciary Complex. This could have been a logistical and administrative nightmare, but with her careful planning and execution, it was a seamless transition. Judge McKenna has demonstrated genuine concern for the wellbeing and working conditions of the hundreds of Family Court clerks, bailiffs, and other support staff. Those of us who practice in Family Court recognize how essential these employees are to doing the people's business and how important it is to maintain their morale during the difficult economic times that all of us---but particularly state employees---face. Judge McKenna has been proactive in ensuring that court records that should be private are protected from improper disclosure, yet she has also obtained a stay

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
GM 521, Nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna
February 4, 2011
page two

of the implementation of the Hawaii Courts Records Rules and is actively working with the Supreme Court to revise these Rules, which had been hastily adopted and threatened to create chaos for litigants and practitioners. Her openness and collaboration with the Bar have truly been a breath of fresh air. She keeps the Family Court Bar informed of what is going on in the courts; she invites our members to sit on committees and working groups; and she has always responded promptly whenever our Section has brought an issue or concern to her.

In the exercise of her adjudicative functions, Judge McKenna has an excellent reputation among our members. I have personally appeared before her many times. She is prepared, she knows the law, and she can apply the facts and law in a decisive and common-sense manner. She is inquisitive---perhaps a bit more inquisitive than one of my clients may have liked---but she is truly concerned about doing justice. The manner in which she approaches the cases on her dockets makes all of us who practice in her court bring up our game, and that is a very good thing for us and for the clientele that we serve.

Judge McKenna has been a lawyer for almost twenty-eight years, and a judge for eighteen of those years. She will bring leadership, experience, competence and dedication to the Supreme Court of Hawaii and for that reason we urge her speedy confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

From: chingston@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:40 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: Support GM521

I support the appointment of Subrina McKenna to the Supreme Court.

Ann Egleston
2916 Date Street 15F
Honolulu 96816

--

Sow a thought and you reap an act; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

From: Ashida, Lincoln [LASHIDA@co.hawaii.hi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:02 AM
To: JDL Testimony
Cc: Rodillas, Martha
Subject: GM 521 - Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna - February 4, 2011; 10 AM
Attachments: 02-02-11 Letter to Legislature - Judge McKenna.pdf

Please accept this testimony in support of Judge McKenna's nomination to the Supreme Court. The hearing is before the Committee on Judiciary and Labor on February 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you!

Lincoln S. T. Ashida

Corporation Counsel
County of Hawai'i
Hilo Lagoon Centre
101 Aupuni Street
Suite 325
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Tel. (808) 961-8304, x118

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Website: www.co.hawaii.hi.us/cc/home.htm

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Lincoln S. T. Ashida

210 Kuikahi Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
LincolnAshida@gmail.com

February 2, 2011

Sent via email to JDLEvidence@Captiol.hawaii.gov; no hard copy to follow

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol
415 Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

RE: GM 521 Confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court

This letter is submitted in support of the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as the next Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I was honored to serve with Judge McKenna on the board of Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i (VLSH). During her service with VLSH, Judge McKenna was a dedicated advocate in improving the delivery of pro bono legal service by Hawai'i lawyers. She accomplished her advocacy while strictly adhering to the limitations imposed upon sitting judges by Court rule.

While interacting with Judge McKenna, I was very impressed by her humility, openness to hearing different points of view, and her ability to facilitate thoughtful and productive discussion. Judge McKenna never let anyone feel uncomfortable in offering a suggestion.

For the above reasons, and based on her experience and qualifications as comprehensively outlined in her curriculum vitae, Judge McKenna possesses all of the qualities most admired in jurists in our State, and is an excellent addition to our Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony and input.

Very truly yours,

Lincoln S. T. Ashida

From: Rhonda Ching [rching@rlhlaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:43 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Testimony for the Hearing re: Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Measure: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna, for a term of ten years.

Date: Friday, February 4, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Judge McKenna has always exemplified integrity and diligence. Whenever orders are turned in for her signature she has a quick turnaround time and her rulings always are fair. She is knowledgeable of the law and has an ability to learn new things quite rapidly. Her experience as a civil law judge and the head family court judge will be very helpful. Her wealth of experience as a judge will aide her as an Associate Supreme Court Justice. Judge McKenna has always been reasonable in court and is fair, therefore demonstrating good judicial temperament. Not only does Judge McKenna seem to be financially responsible, but she is always looking for ways to serve the public. She is dedicated to helping others and I am especially impressed by how she has helped japanese attorneys to understand our jury system. Judge McKenna is also in good health. Clearly, she has enough experience in being a judge, that she will be able to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position.

Rhonda L. Ching
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A Limited Liability Law Partnership
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Roeca Luria Hiraoka LLP is a Member of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms

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From: Lynda M. Sasaki [lsasaki@awlaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:30 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: 2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support
Attachments: 2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support.pdf

<<2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support.pdf>>

The attached testimony is in support of Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Justice.

GM521 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as
JDL Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, SABRINA
SHIZUE MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

Date: Friday, Feb. 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 AM

Lynda M. Sasaki
Assistant to Rosemary T. Fazio and Francis P. Hogan Ashford & Wriston A Limited Liability Law
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Ashford & Wriston

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

ROSEMARY T. FAZIO
A Law Corporation
Direct: (808) 539-0415
rfazio@awlaw.com

February 2, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice--Support

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

The purpose of this letter is to express my unequivocal support of Sabrina Shizue McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have been engaged in the private practice of law in the State of Hawaii since 1978, focusing on commercial litigation. I first met Judge McKenna approximately 25 years ago in connection with Hawaii State Bar Association matters. Since then, various Bar and client matters have kept us in contact. From those experiences, I have observed Judge McKenna in many different contexts. In my opinion, Judge McKenna has what it takes to be an outstanding Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

Judge McKenna is very intelligent. She is a quick study and is able to grasp quickly the facts that are relevant to any given dispute. She has a phenomenal memory. I've observed her citing to facts contained in voluminous records, or to testimony given by witnesses long after the testimony was concluded. While Judge McKenna is serious and always professional, she also has a sense of humor and an approachable demeanor. Perhaps the strongest quality that she possesses, though, is her unfailing integrity. In all the years during which I've know Judge McKenna, I never once had occasion to question her good judgment and her honesty.

The State of Hawaii would benefit immensely if Judge McKenna were confirmed as our next Supreme Court Associate Justice. I urge favorable consideration of her nomination. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



ROSEMARY T. FAZIO

HONOLULU, HAWAII
Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 131
Honolulu, HI 96810

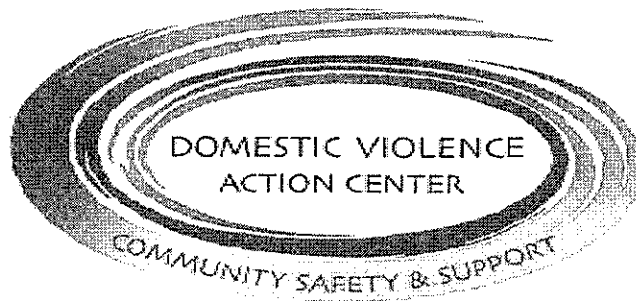
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Tel: (808) 539-0400
Fax: (808) 533-4945
Email: atty@awlaw.com
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919584v1

From: Angela Presher [angelap@stoptheviolence.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:34 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Nanci Kreidman
Subject: GM521 Judge Sabrina McKenna
Attachments: GM 521 Sabrina McKenna.doc

Angela Presher
Executive Assistant to the CEO
Domestic Violence Action Center
"Community Safety and Support"
PO Box 3198, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
Ph 808.447.3545 - Cell 808.783-3999
Fx 808.531-7228
angelap@stoptheviolence.org



February 02, 2011

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

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

Ref. GM 521 Support

Hearing: Friday, February 04, 2011, 10:00am, Conf. Rm #016

Aloha and good morning. This testimony is submitted in strong support of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As a woman, she brings a perspective not currently represented on the Court. Her life experiences can only enrich the dialogue, debate and rulings of our highest Court.

Sabrina is a woman of complete integrity, conviction, sensitivity, and candor. Her leadership at the family court will be sorely missed, but the people of Hawaii will be enriched by her presence on the Supreme Court. The wisdom, life experience, and sensibility she has brought to every position I have known her to hold will serve us well.

The enormous courage to be who she is, is just what we need. I am among many colleagues and wise allies in the community who honor Judge McKenna and offer unqualified support for this appointment.

Please confirm Judge McKenna to continue her service in Hawaii's courts.

Thank you.

P. O. Box 3198 Honolulu, HI 96801-3198
Oahu Helpline: 808 531-3771 Toll-free: 800 690-6200 Administration: 808 534-0040 Fax 808 531-7228
dvac@stoptheviolence.org www.stoptheviolence.org



From: Espinda, Malia P. [Manol] [Malia.Espinda@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 9:51 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM521_02-04-11_JDL
Attachments: GM521_02-04-11_JDL.doc

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna
02-04-11
10am.

I will be reading this testimony for the Kline Family.
Thank you,
Malia Espinda

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
GM521 Consideration and Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the
Supreme Court as Associate Judge.
February 4, 2011
10:00am

My name is Patricia Kline. Judge McKenna's wise ruling in our case kept our family together.

On September 18, 2010, my sister, Sydney Kline, was brutally murdered in the street in front of her home in Kaneohe. Our family was devastated. As sisters, we were incredibly close. My sister's only child, Kiera, age 12, was orphaned. Kiera's father had abandoned his family before Kiera's birth. All of Kiera's life, I had served as a second-mother, with Kiera spending many summers and vacations with my husband and I in our home in California. We immediately stepped up to seek custody of Kiera, and to bring her back with us to our home in California. At that time, I was seven months pregnant, with a son who we had already intended to name Sidney before my sister's untimely death. Sydney's passing and now suddenly seeking to add Kiera to our growing family, made baby Sidney's imminent arrival a blessing amidst our inconsolable grief.

The only other incident that could of hurt us as bad as losing my sister Sydney, was to lose Kiera as well.

That almost happened when Kiera's estranged biological father, whom Kiera had never met, came forward to seek custody of Kiera. It was Kiera's father intention to remove Kiera from us, force her to live with a man she had never met, be raised by his now-wife whom she had never met, and relocate Kiera to his home in North Carolina, where she had never been.

The case this stranger of a man brought against our family during our time of incredible loss and sadness should be inconceivable, but it was not. We were faced with fighting the legal fight of our lives: the fight to protect and save Kiera.

Judge McKenna had our time sensitive case expedited, due to my problematic pregnancy I was enduring. Kiera was also experiencing incredible anxiety, not knowing what was to become of her and what family she would be with. It was clear that Judge McKenna was primarily concerned with the well-being of Kiera.

Judge McKenna tried to help our family by offering our grieving family mediation with Kiera's father. No agreements were reached, and the case went to full trial. Judge McKenna's thoughtful considerations to our unique situation, and insightful questions during trial reflected her vast legal expertise. Kiera's future rested in the hands of Judge McKenna.

Page 2

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
GM521 Consideration and Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna
to the Supreme Court as Associate Judge.
February 4, 2011
10:00am**

I feel Judge McKenna weighed the urgency of our case, the future of this child, and rendered the right and very best decision, based on the law, and the best interest of Kiera.

We miss Sydney. She was stolen from all of us. We will never be the same. Then, Kiera was almost stolen from us, too. Our family will be forever grateful, for the rest of our lives, for the decision that Judge McKenna made to award custody of Kiera to me. With Baby Sidney's healthy arrival, and Kiera now home safe with us, we move forward, every day, as a family.

The Kline Family urges this committee to look favorably upon the nomination of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you, Judge McKenna, for your part in helping us protect and save Kiera. You are one of our heroes. We know you will be a hero to many more to come.

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
GM521 Consideration and Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Supreme
Court as Associate Judge.**

February 4, 2011

10:00am

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Karen K. Kline.

My daughter Sydney L. Kline was murdered on September 18, 2010 by her fiancé. I was with Sydney when she was murdered, witnessed her death and was also attacked. Sydney had one child, Kiera Kiani Kline, who is twelve years old. When he was informed of Sydney's death, Kiera's biological father, who had never once met her in her entire life, wanted to obtain full custody of Kiera.

Needless to say, I was shocked and devastated with the thought of losing another child. Kiera and I have always been close and the thought of her going with her biological father (a virtual stranger) was beyond belief and common decency.

Our family was fortunate to have Judge McKenna assigned to our case. We began our court proceedings in October and had to appear numerous times for trial in Kapolei. After the numerous court dates, which were extremely stressful to myself, my daughter Patricia, my granddaughter Kiera, my partner Marcy and my son-in-law John, as well as countless family and friends, Judge McKenna ruled in favor of my daughter Tricia Kline. Tricia was granted guardianship of Kiera on December 8, 2010 which allowed our family to begin to come to grips with Sydney's death, grieve our loss and help the family as a whole, begin to acclimate to all life's adjustments.

The above message is written with the utmost gratitude, appreciation and respect for Judge McKenna. She was compassionate, fair and understanding in terms of all the complications involved in our case. She has helped our family begin to heal and believe that there is justice and fairness in the world, a world which was so absolutely turned upside down and inside out.

I believe wholeheartedly that Judge McKenna would be an asset to Hawaii's Supreme Court. She is someone who has vast experience, compassion, wisdom and Aloha. She has and will serve Hawaii well in this capacity.

Sincerely grateful,

Karen K. Kline

From: Casey Jarman [jarman@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:04 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Governor's Message 521 - Sabrina McKenna; Hearing to be held Friday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chr.
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chr.
Judiciary & Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Governor's Message 521. I strongly support the nomination of Sabrina McKenna to the Hawai'i Supreme Court and urge this committee to make a favorable recommendation to the full Senate. I have known Judge McKenna for many years, meeting her first when she was a professor and colleague at the William S. Richardson School of Law. She is a woman of high integrity and keen intelligence. Her broad experience as a practitioner, law professor, and judge have prepared her well for serving on the highest court in our State. I believe her experience, temperament, and even-handedness will make her an excellent Supreme Court jurist. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss her candidacy further. Sincerely, Casey Leigh



Casey Leigh

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Professor of Law

P (808) 956-3300 | **F** (808) 956-5569 | **E** jarman@hawaii.edu

From: Lynda M. Sasaki [lsasaki@awlaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:57 AM
To: JDLEvidence
Cc: Francis P. Hogan
Subject: 2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support
Attachments: 2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support.pdf

<<2011-02-02 Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice - Support.pdf>>

The attached testimony is in support of Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Justice.

GM521 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as
JDL Associate Justice, Governatorial Nominee, SABRINA
SHIZUE MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

Date: Friday, Feb. 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 AM

Lynda M. Sasaki
Assistant to Rosemary T. Fazio and Francis P. Hogan Ashford & Wriston A Limited Liability Law
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Ashford & Wriston

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FRANCIS P. HOGAN
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February 2, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court Associate Justice--Support

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

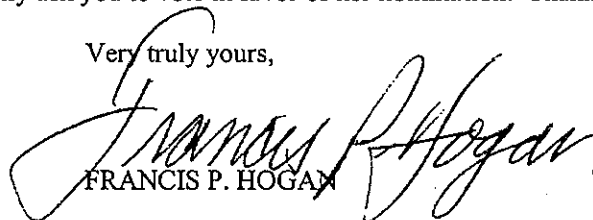
The purpose of this letter is to express my unequivocal support of Sabrina Shizue McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have been engaged in the private practice of law in the State of Hawaii since 1980, with a practice in civil litigation, primarily, real estate oriented cases. I first met Judge McKenna approximately 22 years ago in connection with a quiet title and partition case on the Island of Hawaii. Since then, various client matters have kept us in contact. From those experiences, I have appeared before Judge McKenna in district court and circuit court matters. In my opinion, Judge McKenna has the ability, temperament and judgment to be an outstanding Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii and a leader of the bar.

Judge McKenna is very intelligent. She is a quick study and is able to grasp quickly the facts that are relevant to any given dispute. She has a phenomenal memory. I've observed her connect the facts presented in voluminous records and testimony given by witnesses in ways that counsel for neither side had grasped. Judge McKenna is serious and always professional. Yet, she also has a sense of humor and an approachable demeanor and conducts her courtroom with ease and respect for those appearing before her. Among her strongest qualities is her unfailing integrity. In all the years during which I've known Judge McKenna, I never once had occasion to question her good judgment and her honesty.

The State of Hawaii would benefit immensely from Judge McKenna's confirmation as our next Supreme Court Associate Justice. I respectfully ask you to vote in favor of her nomination. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



FRANCIS P. HOGAN

HONOLULU, HAWAII
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919750v1

From: Leslie R. Kop [lrk@fmhc-law.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:10 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna; February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Attachments: McKenna.Confirmation Hrg.pdf

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

Please find attached testimony in support of the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Leslie R. Kop, Esq.
Fukunaga Matayoshi Hershey Ching & Kop LLP
Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 533-4300
Facsimile: (808) 531-7585
E-mail Ad: lrk@fmhc-law.com

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Fukunaga Matayoshi Hershey Ching & Kop

A Limited Liability Partnership
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Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street • Suite 1200
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Leslie R. Kop

Telephone: (808) 533-4300
Facsimile: (808) 531-7585

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital, Room 223
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing of Sabrina Shizue McKenna;
February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Members of the Committee:

I have known Judge Sabrina McKenna professionally for well over 10 years, and more recently socially, as our daughters play soccer together. She is not only a highly qualified judge, but also a wonderful mother, friend and colleague. As busy as she is, she always finds time for her family and attends the soccer games and gatherings. Her sense of humor and down to earth personality make her very approachable. Her compassion, dedication and commitment to public service and the community are commendable. Her appointment to the Supreme Court will be an asset to the people of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions regarding the above or need additional information that I might provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Leslie R. Kop

From: Okumura, Miki [mokumura@goodsill.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:13 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: GM 521 - Friday, February 04, 2011 10:00 A.M.
Attachments: Testimony re Judge Sabrina McKenna .pdf

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Please see attached. Thanks.

Miki Okumura
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Phone: (808) 547-5758
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=====
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(808) 547-5758

INTERNET:
mokumura@goodsill.com

February 2, 2011

VIA EMAIL: JDCTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony on GM 521
In Support of Nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Friday, February 4, 2011 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room No. 016

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

This letter is submitted in support of the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Hawaii.

I have been a partner with the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP since 1991, practicing primarily in the business and tax areas. I served as the Managing Partner of the firm from 1999 to 2005. In my tax practice, I have represented taxpayers in tax trials before the State of Hawaii Tax Appeal Court.

I have known Judge McKenna for over 25 years. She is intelligent, hard working, humble and considerate. She is technically proficient in both the substantive law and rules of procedure. Judge McKenna would bring a broad and well rounded perspective to the legal issues that come before the Court, which she has gained from her work experience as a lawyer in private practice, inhouse counsel to a non-U.S. company doing business in Hawaii, and judge.

Judge McKenna has always shown great respect for, and takes seriously, the role and responsibilities of the legal profession and of the judiciary in this community. She is a good listener and communicator, and would be a strong addition to the Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,



Miki Okumura

From: Jon Van Dyke [jonmvandyke@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:33 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Governor's Message 521--Judge McKenna Confirmation
Attachments: McKenna020211.doc

Please distribute the attached testimony to the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee for tomorrow's hearing on Judge McKenna's confirmation. Jon Van Dyke

JON M. VAN DYKE
Professor of Law and Carlsmith Ball Faculty Scholar
William S. Richardson School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT MANOA
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96822
[Spring 2011 - Visiting Professor, University of California at Berkeley]
jvandyke@hawaii.edu

Feb. 2, 2011

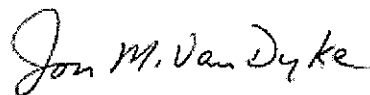
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai`i State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813
JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

SUBJECT: Governor's Message 521—Judge McKenna Confirmation

I am happy to write a very strong letter in support of the confirmation of Sabrina McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawai`i Supreme Court. Judge McKenna was an outstanding student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and became Editor-in-Chief of the University of Hawai`i Law Review. This position, achieved through an election by the other students on the Review, reflected her standing among her fellow-students, and also gave her the opportunity to demonstrate administrative leadership. After graduation, she had a distinguished career as an attorney, and then joined our faculty, teaching a business clinic and other courses. She was an excellent teacher, but left the faculty to become a judge, and has had a stellar career as a trail judge. She is intelligent, hard-working, and committed to the rule of law, and will certainly serve the community and our judiciary well as a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I urge the members of the Committee to give her nomination every possible consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Jon M. Van Dyke
Professor of Law

From: Sandra Hishinuma [shishinuma@robbinsandassociates.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Ken Robbins
Subject: Testimony Submission for GM521 re Nomination of Sabrina McKenna for Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Attachments: hee_ltr.pdf

Attached for consideration of the Committee regarding GM521. Hearing Date: Friday, February 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Sandra Hishinuma
Robbins & Associates
841 Bishop Street, Suite 2200
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 524-2355
Fax: (808) 526-0290
Email: shishinuma@robbinsandassociates.net

KENNETH S. ROBBINS
JOHN-ANDERSON L. MEYER
SERGIO RUFO

Rose M.P. Carter, Paralegal
Lena Mobin, Paralegal

ROBBINS & ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION
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FED. I.D. NO. 99-0175383

February 2, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna for Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii (GM 521); Hearing Date: Friday, February 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I prepare this written testimony with the hope that I can also submit my oral testimony in support of the nomination of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii as Associate Justice.

I am a trial lawyer who has known Judge McKenna since her appointment to the Circuit Court. Since that time, I have had numerous contacts with her. My contacts with her have included arguing motions, participating in settlement conferences and trial of cases. In view of the fact that I am an extremely active trial attorney with many trials under my belt in 41 years of practice in the state of Hawaii, I believe that I am in an excellent position to evaluate Judge McKenna for the position for which she has been nominated.

I do not know of a judge who brings to the bench a greater sense of compassion, integrity, intelligence, judicial temperament, self-deprecation and command as does Judge McKenna. In one notable case in which I defended a physician in a medical malpractice case in which the plaintiff was represented by Rick Fried, Mr. Fried and I commented afterward that we wished that Judge McKenna could preside over all of our cases. In that hard-fought trial, Judge McKenna exhibited excellent command of the courtroom, while allowing both parties and their attorneys ample opportunity to advocate the best interests of their clients. Judge McKenna treated the jury with enormous respect and when the trial concluded, I believe everyone who participated in that trial left the last day of court with the feeling that both parties received the fairest shake and that justice was done.

In most instances when a judge is appointed to the Supreme Court, we have to speculate as to how they will conduct themselves on our highest bench. In Judge McKenna's case, we need not speculate. I have had the pleasure and honor of arguing before the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii on a number of occasions and most recently Judge McKenna was a

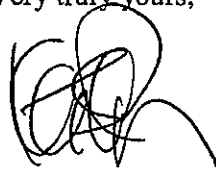
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
February 2, 2011
Page 2

substitute judge for a justice who had recused himself. During that oral argument, Judge McKenna asked poignant questions which went to the heart of the legal and factual issues in the case. One would have guessed that she was a seasoned member of the Supreme Court during that argument.

One merely has to look at Judge McKenna's resume to note that she is an extraordinarily well-rounded person who has devoted herself tirelessly to a wide variety of community activities. She is bright, writes brilliantly and has, in my judgment, all of the characteristics which would make her a respected and collegial member of our Supreme Court.

Accordingly, I urge you and your committee members to vote in favor of approving Judge McKenna's nomination. She has a wealth of background which she will bring to the Supreme Court. We will be a better community because of that.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Robbins', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth S. Robbins

KSR/11-0050

From: Ng, Audrey E. J. [ang@goodsill.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:00 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Nomination of Sabrina McKenna, GM 521, February 4, 2011 at 10 am
Attachments: ang - 02-02-11 - RVZ54BR.pdf

This communication may be confidential in nature. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail, delete this e-mail and any copies or attachments, and read no further.

Please see attached letter. Thank you.

Audrey E. J. Ng
Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
A Limited Liability Law Partnership LLP
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 547-5681
Direct Fax (808) 441-1232
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Email ang@goodsill.com

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GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

AUDREY E. J. NG

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INTERNET:
ang@goodsill.com

Via email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**Re: Testimony on GM 521
In support of nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of the
Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii
Friday, February 4, 2011, 10:00 am**

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to write in strong support of the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Over the 25 years that I have known Judge McKenna, I have had the opportunity to work with her and to observe her work in her courtroom. I am continually impressed by her intelligence and integrity. She is humble and respectful of the opinions of all persons who appear before her. Judge McKenna has the experience and temperament to serve in a position as important as an associate justice.

I also know that she is devoted to her family and is remarkably calm and thoughtful with her children. In addition to her family and Family Court duties, she takes the time accept invitations to speak to distinguished groups of judges and lawyers both in Japan and visiting Hawaii. Judge McKenna is an excellent ambassador for the judiciary.

I urge you to confirm Judge McKenna's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,



Audrey E. J. Ng

From: Michyle Tamaru [mtamaru@objectionsustained.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 12:07 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521, Hearing: 2/4/11, 10:00 a.m. - Gubernatorial Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Attachments: Letter of Support - Sabrina McKenna.pdf

Attached for your information is a letter to Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, dated February 2, 2011 from Gail Y. Cosgrove.

<<Letter of Support - Sabrina McKenna.pdf>>

Michyle R. Tamaru
Secretary to Gail Y. Cosgrove
Hisaka Yoshida & Cosgrove
Telephone: (808) 523-0451 (ext. 256)
Facsimile: (808) 524-0422

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HISAKA YOSHIDA & COSGROVE

Attorneys at Law A Law Corporation*

*Pacific Guardian Center
Mauka Tower - Suite 3000
737 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

Tel: (808) 523-0451 Fax: (808) 524-0422

February 2, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of Gubernatorial Nominee
Sabrina Shizue McKenna, Associate Justice, Hawaii
Supreme Court, GM 521
Hearing: 2/4/11, 10:00 a.m.**

Please consider this written testimony in support of the Honorable Sabrina McKenna's nomination by Governor Abercrombie for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

My name is Gail Cosgrove. I am a practicing attorney. I was admitted to Bar in 1981 (30 years ago) following graduation from the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a partner in a law firm which

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
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specializes in civil litigation, business law and real property development. My practice consists of medical malpractice defense litigation and complex litigation, including drug and toxic tort litigation as well as product liability litigation. A smaller percentage of my practice is devoted to complex plaintiffs' personal injury cases, and I have been asked by plaintiffs' firms to assist them in litigation. I am currently a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Rule 19 Commission on Judicial Performance and the Judicial Arbitration Commission which oversees the Court Annexed Arbitration Commission. I am a past President of the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation ("HWLF") and a current Director. HWLF is the largest nonprofit corporation whose directors are women attorneys from all of the major law firms in Honolulu. HWLF provides grants to women and children in need and promotes the advancement of qualified women in all areas of the legal profession. I am a Lecturer/Adjunct Faculty for the William S. Richardson School of Law where I teach Pretrial Litigation to second and third year students. I have been a speaker and guest lecturer in many areas of the law.

I have known Judge McKenna for more than 20 years. I believe I met her when she was a young associate at the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. Judge McKenna and I worked at different firms but our paths crossed because we both worked on personal injury litigation in those early days. Even as a young aspiring attorney, Judge McKenna was always diligent, courteous and well-liked by her colleagues. In more recent times, I have appeared before Judge McKenna

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on a number of occasions. She is always well prepared and strives in all matters to arrive at decisions that reflect the law and case precedent. She is very concerned that her decisions reflect fundamental fairness and that litigants have their day in court. I have missed appearing before Judge McKenna since she was promoted to head the Family Court in Kapolei. I have had the pleasure, however, of working with Judge McKenna and HWLF. Judge McKenna has performed in our program for the HWLF's annual fundraiser. Despite her already busy work schedule and the commute to and from Kapolei, Judge McKenna generously offers the little free time that she has to rehearse for our program. She is very aware of how the HWLF is a volunteer organization (its women attorney directors are not paid); yet, through the efforts of its volunteers, the organization has been successful in providing grants for women and children in need.

I believe it is absolutely critical that an appellate judge have litigation experience, preferably as a practitioner and as a trial judge. Judge McKenna has vast experience in this regard. She is, no doubt, one of the most qualified applicants to be nominated to our highest court in recent years.

Judge McKenna will be an outstanding justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court if she is given this opportunity. I hope you and your

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
February 2, 2011
Page 4

colleagues will give her an opportunity to provide this valuable service to the people of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,

HISAKA YOSHIDA & COSGROVE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Y. Cosgrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gail" and last name "Cosgrove" clearly legible.

GAIL Y. COSGROVE

GYC:mrt

From: Claudia Asato-Onaga [casato@pohlhawaii.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:31 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Testimony re: GM 521- Sabrina McKenna (Hrg date & time: 2/4/11 at 10am)
Attachments: Testimony in Support of Judge Sabrina McKenna, GM 521.pdf

Attach please find written testimony only from Warren Price, III re: GM 521, Consideration & Confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sabrina S. McKenna, for a term of ten years.

---- please confirm receipt of this email.

Claudia S. Asato-Onaga
Paralegal
Price Okamoto Himeno & Lum
707 Richards Street, Suite 728
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 538-1113
Facsimile: (808) 533-0549

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The Senate
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Hearing Date: Friday, February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 16
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 521, Consideration and Confirmation to the Supreme Court
as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, SABRINA SHIZUE
MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

Written Testimony Only By:

Warren Price, III
Price Okamoto Himeno & Lum
707 Richards Street, Suite 728
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 538-1113

PRICE
OKAMOTO
HIMENO
& LUM

Attorneys at Law
A Law Corporation

Ocean View Center
707 Richards Street, Suite 728
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 538-1113
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Warren Price III
Kenneth T. Okamoto
Sharon R. Himeno
Bettina W. J. Lum
Terence S. Yamamoto
Robert M. Kohn

Of Counsel

Robert A. Marks

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 521, Confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial
Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna, for a Term of Ten Years

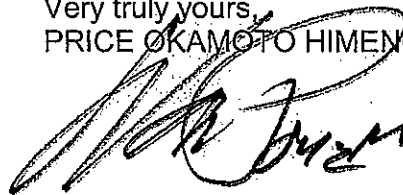
Dear Senator Hee and Shimabukuro:

I have known Judge McKenna since she first began practicing law at the Goodsill firm. I had the privilege of her working for me and she was one of the most natural young trial lawyers I'd ever worked with. Before long she was trying her own cases with the skills and poise of a seasoned veteran.

After Judge McKenna left Goodsill she continued to excel in everything she did, and in particular as a Circuit Court Judge. Others will certainly speak to her incredible talents as a judge as well as a mediator of disputes that resulted in the termination of litigation. As for me, aside from the fact that she is a great lawyer and judge, she is one of the most decent, kind, fair, generous person I have ever had the privilege of knowing. She is also a great mom with wonderful kids who she adores.

In sum, we are lucky Judge McKenna, a woman with virtually unlimited potential in the private sector, is willing to continue to want to stay in public service, and I urge her quick confirmation.

Very truly yours,
PRICE OKAMOTO HIMENO & LUM



Warren Price, III

From: Rose Patrocinio [RPatrocinio@ahfi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:54 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Cc: ELLEN CARSON
Subject: Appointment of the Honorable Sabrina McKenna
Attachments: 20110202133149611.pdf

Letter from Ellen Godbey Carson dated February 2, 2011 regarding the Appointment of the Honorable Sabrina McKenna.

Ellen Godbey Carson
700 Richards Street, #2601
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 524-1800

February 2, 2011

Via Email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813.

**Re: In Support of the Appointment of Honorable Sabrina McKenna
as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court
Hearing Date/Time: February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of Honorable Sabrina McKenna as Associate Justice of our Supreme Court.

I have been an attorney in the State of Hawai'i since 1978. I am a past President of the Hawai'i State Bar Association and the Hawai'i Women Lawyers. I have served on our State Disciplinary Board and numerous other positions involving our State bar and judiciary. I practice in one of the largest law firms in Hawai'i and have both personal knowledge of Judge Sabrina McKenna and knowledge of her reputation of among many other practitioners in our State.

I have known Sabrina for approximately 20 years, both in a professional and social capacity. I and others in my law firm have had cases before her and have worked with her on bar-related activities.

Sabrina is very smart, ethical, competent, and proficient. She has excellent legal abilities and communication skills. She will bring a remarkably diverse legal background to the Supreme Court, having served as a District Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge, Lead Judge of Adult Criminal Division for Circuit Court, and

Deputy Chief Judge and Senior Judge in the Family Court for the First Circuit, as well as a professor at the William S. Richardson Law School, in-house counsel for a major Hawai'i corporation, and attorney with Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. She has shown excellence throughout her legal career, first as the Editor-in-Chief of the William S. Richardson Law Review and recipient of the Corpus Juris Secundum Award for Most Significant Contribution to Legal Scholarship, and later as recipient of the Hawaii Women Lawyers' Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award and numerous other legal awards.

Sabrina has made major contributions to improving justice, equality and legal education in our community. She has been recognized by the Hawaii Friends for Civil Rights with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends Award; by the University of Hawaii with their Distinguished Alumnus Award; and by the City and County of Honolulu with a Mayor's Award of Achievement (for pro bono service). She has made a major contribution to many legal service efforts, serving as chair, co-chair or active member of dozens of Supreme Court committees and other committees to improve the judiciary and the legal profession. She also serves as a critical role model and interface between the judiciary and public as she has provided over 100 public presentations and seminars on legal and justice issues.

At all times I have known her, Sabrina has been fair and compassionate, and always been able to see both sides (or more) of any given situation. She is fun to be around and always has a positive way of contributing to any situation. She works easily and effectively with others. She is calm, dispassionate, well reasoned and even handed. Her demeanor both on the bench and off the bench is always marked with a strong sense of professionalism and fairness. She will bring wonderful talents and diversity to our Supreme Court and will be a role model for our younger generations. She will reflect a positive message that Hawai'i embraces at the highest level our State's commitment to justice and equality for those of diverse races, ethnicities, gender and sexual orientation.

Sabrina is also fluent in Japanese, a skill and cultural background which is vitally important in our multi-ethnic society. I have had the honor of seeing her speak in Tokyo, Japan, where she has been a remarkable emissary to the Japanese court system to explain how American law works and to provide education and support for their newly evolving jury system.

Sabrina also has an excellent reputation in the legal community for honesty, integrity and legal proficiency. She has been well respected as a judge in our circuit and family courts here. She has been fair, respectful of counsel and parties, and gives a wonderful image to our Judiciary. She is a hard worker, and has not hesitated to dig into complex or complicated problems that require substantial work. She has extensive civil litigation experience both as an attorney and as a sitting judge that will make her a quick study for this position.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and Members
February 2, 2011
Page 3

While there is at least one losing party in every case, Sabrina is remarkable in how many attorneys and parties are impressed with her, whether they win or lose in her court, for having been given a fair consideration to the issues raised.

I believe she is exceptionally qualified and would make an excellent Associate Justice. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pursuant to policies of my law firm and our State bar association, I write this letter in my own behalf only, and not on behalf of any firm or organization.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Godbey Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "G".

Ellen Godbey Carson

cc: Honorable Sabrina McKenna

FEBRUARY 2ND, 2011

TO: THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (2011 State Legislature) Clayton Hee- Chairman

FROM: LARRY V. IKEI

RE: APPOINTMENT OF SABRINA MCKENNA TO THE SUPREME COURT

I feel that Sabrina McKenna is apart of a Legal Conspiracy scheme to eliminate and minimize payout compensation for individuals hurt in Personal Injury Cases. She should be investigated for possible illegal connections with the insurance industry for receiving special benefits., The way that she handled my personal injury case, clearly shows that she may be connected with insurance fraud and appears to have made it so difficult for me to obtain compensation for my injuries. I do have lifetime injuries to my neck from this accident in which Crystal Sana was the owner of a vehicle that had collided with my vehicle and the unlicensed driver ran away. Judge Mckenna did award me a default Judgment against the father of the child, but the problem is I'm not trained to follow up with the insurance company and collect from my own insurance policy. A Mr. Kim from Gallagher and DeRobertis, I thought would follow up with the case, but he ended up giving me the shaft after a few weeks for reasons unknown to me. Judge McKenna also stated that "it is easy to followup with the default judgment". It is not so easy for me to complete and why she said that is beyond me. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel along with the Civil rights Commission denied me assistance with complaints filed against Mr. Kim. A Jim Branham Chief Clerk from the Hawaii Supreme has given me advice, but after finding out that I was not interested in any kind of Judicial Position or appointment. Began to send me Certified Letters that I was harassing the Judiciary Staff, when in reality I have a right to my public opinions especially when calling up offices like the Public Affairs Office of the Judiciary. They probably don't like listening to the truth of the Corruption that exists within the Hawaii legal system and how the insurance industry or insurance companies don't want to pay for their coverages and attorneys don't want to take my cases nor do they want to help with my cases. A Mr. Delacy had given me instruction on how to follow-up with Judge Mckenna's case in Circuit Court. Some of it may have worked, but again I cannot follow-up with the insurance company and the Circuit Court to declare how much injury I sustained from the accident. My former Doctor a K.C. Yeung, (Doctor referred to by Richard Gronna) is in the Federal Jail System and he was my treating Physician. I couldn't find a replacement lawyer after Gronna withdrew from my case. The Office of

Disciplinary Counsel didn't address my complains in regards to Mr. Gronna. After all of the accidents, I've experienced throughout the years the only compensation received was a measley \$3500.00 check for a rear end collision that Judge Chan awarded to me after waiting over 5 years. I cannot express all of my wrecks in detail with just so little time to gather all of my facts and review all of my previous cases. I am JUSTICE LESS AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT JUDGE MCKENNA CLAIMS TO UPHOLD TOTAL JUSTICE IN HONOLULU. THE SYSTEM HERE, IS NO WHERE NEAR A SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND WILL NEVER BE IF WE CONTINUE TO MOVE UP THE JUDGES THAT UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR ONLY CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE. SHE COULD HAVE HELPED ME WITH SOME OF HER COLLEAGUES AND DOESN'T CARE NOR IS SHE EVEN CONCERNED ABOUT MY CONDITION. SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT AFTER COMPLETING HER LEGAL ASSIGNMENT BY SPENDING A WEEKEND STUDYING AT THE UH LAW LIBRARY AND TYPING FOR HOURS ON MY WORD DOCUMENT. I GOT SO NAUSEATED THAT I HAD TO CALL AN AMBULANCE. YOU ARE FREE TO CHECK WITH KAISER AND MY MEDICAL RECORDS ABOUT THE EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT AND MY CONDITION AFTER COMPLETING THE LEGAL DOCUMENT. I'M NOT INTERESTED UPON BEGINNING A LAW CAREER AND DON'T WANT TO BE TRAINED TO DO MY OWN LEGAL WORK NOR DO I WANT TO WORK IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM. BUT THE LAWYERS IN YOUR SYSTEM DON'T WANT TO TRY MY CASES AND ARE LITERALLY FORCING ME TO LOSE MY OWN CASES.

SO TELL ME DO YOU CALL THIS UPHOLDING JUSTICE ? THIS LOOKS TO ME THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO HOLD ME DOWN TO CREATE AN INSOLVENCY SITUATION AND MAYBE STEALING ALL OF MY COMPENSATION MONEY. I DO NOT AGREE THAT JUDGE MCKENNA HAS BEEN UPHOLDING JUSTICE WITH ALL OF HER CASES AND SENDING HER TO THE SUPREME COURT WILL NOT IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN HONOLULU. SORRY TO FEEL THIS WAY BUT AFTER ALL THE LEGAL TROUBLES I'VE HAD WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS DO YOU BLAME ME. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED TO CONTACT ME E-mail address: larryvikei@hawaiiantel.net or cell# (808)227-1990

SINCERELY,

LARRY V. IKEI

From: John Barkai [barkai@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 2:42 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: Testimony for the confirmation of Sabrina McKenna - GM 521
Attachments: Sabrina S Ct.doc

attached



John Barkai

Professor of Law

P (808) 956-6546 | **F** (808) 956-5569 | **E** barkai@hawaii.edu | **W** www2.hawaii.edu/~barkai | **SSRN:**
<http://ssrn.com/author=47903>

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa · William S. Richardson School of Law · 2515 Dole Street, Room 238 · Honolulu, HI 96822-2350

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII 'I AT MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law
Professor John Barkai

Feb. 2, 2011 Re: GM 521,

Sabrina McKenna for Supreme Court, to be heard Friday, February 04, 2011, 10:00 A.M

Sent to: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

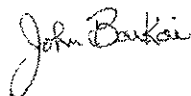
I offer my strongest support for the confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Sabrina for about 30 years. She was a student of my mine in my evidence class in 1981 at the Law School, where she was the editor of the law review in law (a position that goes to very smart and very hard working people). After some time in private practice, she joined the law school faculty and became my colleague at the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, where she taught a clinical course for approximately 3 years. Because she and I both taught clinics, we worked very closely together. When she left the law school to become a judge, I watched her move through the ranks of judges, first in District Court, then appointed to Circuit Court, and currently assigned to be the lead Judge of the Family Court. She works hard and is always eager to take on new responsibilities. Sabrina has always been terrific, bright, humble, personable and insightful. She is a leading light in the judiciary and the community.

However, Sabrina is not just a smart lawyer and judge. She is a real community person who makes a big impact and does it very humbly. In addition to her superb legal qualifications, I watched her play on the Ete Bowl football teams for many years, and have watched her work with young children. I have been a basketball coach in a league where she was also coaching her daughter. She has referred soccer games where I have coached and my daughters have played in. She is fair and even tempered on the basketball court, the soccer field, and in the courtroom. I have been part of Hawaii Women Legal Foundation presentations where she has sang and danced to raise funds for good causes. Sabrina does it all, and does it very well. Everyone I know speaks highly of her.

Simply, Sabrina is a very smart, exceptionally able lawyer who will make excellent Supreme Court Justice. She is a fine person who will be a credit to the Court. As the first Justice on the Supreme Court to attend our Law School, she will make the school and the community very proud.

Sincerely



John Barkai
Professor of Law

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:11 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: matsuoka.carol@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM521 on 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: McKenna Testimony 2-4-2011.pdf

Testimony for JDL 2/4/2011 10:00:00 AM GM521

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Matsuoka
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 8087532471
E-mail: matsuoka.carol@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2011

Comments:

February 2, 2011

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 4, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Members

I write this testimony to offer my enthusiastic and wholehearted support for the Governor's nomination of Sabrina S. McKenna to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii. I strongly believe she is a brilliant and first rate jurist who is an ideal selection for Associate Justice.

Judge McKenna is a fair-minded and experienced judge whose legal knowledge is impeccable and will benefit the State of Hawaii. She approaches each issue with an open mind and arrives at her decision only after carefully considering all the pertinent facts and the law. It is important to note that she brings not only her intellect, but also her practical judgment from years of practicing law and experience as a judge. She is highly respected by her colleagues, staff, and others in the community. She does not lose sight of the impact of her decisions upon our community.

I have had many opportunities to work closely with Judge McKenna, she is thoughtful in her analysis of complex issues, committed, and balanced in her approach to complex issues. As the Senior Family Court Judge, she understands the needs and complexities of high risk youth and their families. She provided leadership for the Family Court and is well respected by staff and the community at large. She has served in the "frontline" of our community and this experience makes her, unquestionably the best candidate to be considered for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Her combination of intellect, integrity, experience, and courage will make her an outstanding Associate Justice.

I support her nomination and urge you to confirm her as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

If I may offer any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 753-2471.

Respectfully,

/s/ Carol T. Matsuoka

From: Erenio Arincorayan [erenioa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Eric Arincorayan
Subject: GM 521,opposing the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Senator,

Since, I am in opposition to civil unions,

I'm requesting a vote of NO to the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna.

She is an outspoken lesbian and this is not the example of an appropriate behavior that I encourage my children to follow. As I choose to raise them with traditional marriage values of one man as father and one woman as mother, who are able to reproduce in a manner they are created to reproduce.

Please vote NO to the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna.

Sincerely,
Karen Arincorayan
ph. 942-4594

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks

**Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation
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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

FACSIMILE NO.:586-6659

FROM: Wayne K. Kekina, Esq.

**No. of Pages: 2
(Including this Page)**

DATE: February 2, 2011

RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

TRANSMITTED HEREWITH: Letter dated February 2, 2011 to Honorable Clayton Hee.

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Denise K. H. Kawatuchi
Howard G. McPherson
Lauren E. Ozk
Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. F. Tom

February 2, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

Hearing February 4, 2011
Time 10:00 a.m.
Place Conference Room 016

Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1969. For many years I have appeared before and have handled cases presided over by Judge McKenna.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her character and judicial demeanor are at the highest level in demonstrating compassion and a genuine interest in the people of Hawaii.

I would appreciate your consideration of my support for confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Malama Pono,


Wayne K. Kekina

WKK:dct

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office

FACSIMILE NO.:586-6659

FROM: L. Richard Fried Jr., Esq.

**No. of Pages: 2
(Including this Page)**

DATE: February 2, 2011

**RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii
Supreme Court**

TRANSMITTED HEREWITH: Letter dated February 2, 2011 to Honorable Clayton Hcc.

This faxed material is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or immune from litigation discovery. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination distribution or copying of this faxed material is strictly prohibited. If you have received this faxed material in error, please notify us immediately by telephone, and return the original to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service.

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Laura E. Ozak
Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom

February 2, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

**RE: Confirmation of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice
of the Hawaii Supreme Court**
Committee : Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing : February 4, 2011
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Place : Conference Room 016

Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1968. For many years, I have appeared before and have handled cases presided over by Judge McKenna, including jury trials to verdict.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her character and judicial demeanor are at the highest level. I cannot imagine a better selection for the Hawaii Supreme Court vacancy.

I would appreciate your consideration of my support for confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,


L. Richard Fried, Jr.

LRF:lo

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Laura E. Ozak
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Gregory Y. P. Tom

February 1, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE – 586-6659

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Confirmation of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice
of the Hawaii Supreme Court**
Committee : Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing : February 4, 2011
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Place : Conference Room 016

Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support confirmation of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have been licensed as an attorney in Hawaii since 1991. On a number of occasions, I have appeared before Judge McKenna and have had ample opportunity to form an opinion of her judicial qualities and character.

I believe Judge McKenna possesses all the qualities and fine character needed to perform excellent service as an appellate judge on our State's court of last resort. She is thoughtful, always courteous, and a good listener. She is also decisive, fair, and highly intelligent. Her record as a trial judge has been exemplary and speaks for itself. That experience will no doubt serve her and our citizenry extremely well on a reviewing court.

In short, I offer without the slightest reservation whatsoever my sincere belief that Judge Sabrina McKenna will make a truly excellent Associate Justice.

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my support for confirmation of Judge McKenna.

Very truly yours,


Howard G. McPherson

HGM:swc

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February 1, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice
of the Hawaii Supreme Court
Hearing Date: February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1985. I have known, worked against, and appeared before Judge McKenna for many years.

For example, more than 25 years ago when I was working as a law clerk, I handled a hotly disputed discovery matter in which Judge McKenna was the associate on the other side. Even back then Judge McKenna was tactful, fair, straightforward, and kept her arguments focused on the merits.

Throughout the years I have had other cases in which she was opposing counsel or the Presiding Judge. In all those cases, she was always thoughtful, fair, even-keeled and patient.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her character and judicial demeanor are at the highest level.

I would appreciate your consideration of my support for confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,


Keith K.H. Young

KKHY:dct

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February 2, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE – 586-6659

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Confirmation of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice
of the Hawaii Supreme Court
Committee : Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing : February 4, 2011
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Place : Conference Room 016

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1968. I worked with her at Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel when she first passed the bar examination and watched her become an excellent lawyer. Since she went on the bench, I have appeared before and have handled cases presided over by Judge McKenna. In addition, I have served as a mediator in cases in which she was the presiding judge and worked with her to settle cases. She is an excellent settlement judge.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her intellect, legal ability, character and judicial demeanor are of the highest levels.

She brings the experience of a practicing attorney, business attorney, trial judge and Family Court Judge to our highest court. Judge McKenna brings high intellect and legal ability as well as a wide range of practical experience to the Court. She would be a most welcome addition to the Court.

I would appreciate your consideration of my support for confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,


David L. Fairbanks

Testimony in strong support of GM 521
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 4, 2011 10:00 a.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Members: Sen.
Mike Gabbard, Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Amy Agbayani, Hawaii Women's Political Caucus (HWPC)
Measure Title: Sabrina McKenna for associate justice, state supreme court

My name is Amy Agbayani, I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawaii Women's Political Caucus, in strong support of Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court. HWPC is committed to supporting qualified women to elected and appointed public offices.

Over the years, Judge McKenna has demonstrated her legal competence, judicial demeanor and a deep appreciation of our laws. We are confident that she will continue to articulate and decide critical issues fairly and that will benefit our state.

Amy Agbayani

3432 B-1 Kalihi St.

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

From: Calvin Pang [calvinp@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:49 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521 - Support of Judge Sabrina McKenna, Friday, Feb. 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

I am writing to give my strongest support to Judge Sabrina McKenna's nomination to become the newest justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

As a trial judge, her record is unassailable. She is brilliant, fair-minded, tenacious, and compassionate. Needless to say, she would bring a wealth of perspectives from her years on the trial bench. These perspectives would include a sensitivity to the voice of the poor and dispossessed. As my predecessor on the faculty of the William S. Richardson School of Law, she provided strong leadership in raising the law school's efforts to improve access to justice to the poor. I inherited some of her well-thought out projects.

She remains a gracious, intelligent, courageous, and vision-driven leader. For several years, I've been a member of the Hawai'i Supreme Court's Committee on Court Interpreters and Language Access, which Judge McKenna ably co-chairs. She has been the anchor of the committee, and the "language access" part of the committee's name and charge was Judge McKenna's idea. It was important to her that the Judiciary pay attention to language and cultural barriers that prevent many from participating effectively in our courts. I have marveled at how she navigated the committee through several major projects. It was a testament to her toughness and perseverance.

I also know how capably she glided into the lead family court judge's position following Judge Frances Wong's well-deserved retirement. As you may know, Judge McKenna assumed the leadership of the family court at about the same time it was scheduled to move from downtown Honolulu to Kapolei. In her typical manner, she rolled up her sleeves, asked for help when needed, and captained the move. It was about as smooth a transition as one could ask for.

I've also seen her play basketball in her heels when her son's team hosted a kids vs. parents game. She managed that too, which was another demonstration of her grace and balance, important ingredients to being an excellent jurist.

Judge McKenna would make an outstanding justice on our state's highest court. I wish to add my enthusiastic voice to her chorus of supporters. By dint of performance and character, she has earned every bit of our respect, admiration, and support.



SCHLACK ITO
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Carol E. Lockwood
Attorney at Law
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Topa Financial Center
745 Fort Street • Suite 1500
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 2, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Senator Clayton Hee
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senator Sam Slom
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Appointment of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna to Hawaii State Supreme Court

Dear Senators Hee, Shimabukuro and Slom:

I write this letter to express my unqualified and enthusiastic support for the appointment of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court. Although I have not had the privilege of appearing before Judge McKenna, I have, over the past decade, heard universally positive comments from my peers in the legal community about her knowledge, professionalism and courtesy to litigants appearing before her. Moreover, as an attorney, I believe the breadth of her judicial experience on the District, Circuit and Family Courts will be immensely valuable not only to Judge McKenna, but also to her peers on the Supreme Court.

Equally – if not more – important, however, is what I have come to know of Judge McKenna as a human being. Although a fellow member of the bar, my first encounter with Judge McKenna took place not in the halls of justice, but rather on a soccer field, where she was the volunteer coach to my then 4-year old nephew's team. Even in that context, all of the qualities that make Judge McKenna an exemplary jurist were in evidence: her courtesy, good humor, sense of fair play and toughness – I watched with satisfaction as she threatened to eject overly-competitive supporters (one, I am chagrined to admit, my brother) from the sidelines to protect her young players. Several months later, our whole family was deeply touched when Judge McKenna attended my mother's memorial service, demonstrating a level of concern and compassion far exceeding that shown by most soccer coaches – or jurists.

There can be no doubt that Hawaii is home to its share of great legal minds – and more than its share of compassionate hearts. To find both in a single individual, however, with the added qualities of sound judgment and an unusual breadth of legal experience, represents a rare opportunity for our State. There is no question that Judge McKenna could be enormously successful in the private sector; fortunately for us, she has chosen to prioritize service to the people of Hawaii over private gain. I humbly request, as one of those people, that you take advantage of what she offers, and encourage your peers in the Senate to confirm her appointment to the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do to be of assistance in the confirmation process.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Carol E. Lockwood

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Hearing: Governor's Message 521
Date: Friday, February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Re: Testimony in Support of Nominee Sabrina McKenna

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong personal support for the confirmation of Sabrina McKenna, Senior Family Court Judge, as Associate Justice to the Supreme Court. Judge McKenna is an excellent jurist. Her judicial career spans seventeen years of service in all of the courts of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai`i. She is highly regarded for her intelligence, integrity, and fairness. In court, she runs a tight ship. Judge McKenna is dignified, professional, calm and courteous; she expects attorneys to observe courtroom decorum, as well. She is smart, prepared, straightforward, and knowledgeable in the law and the rules of court. She firmly holds the State to its burden in the case and, in doing so, preserves the fairness and impartiality of our system of justice.

Judge McKenna is not only well respected, she is well liked. She is down to earth, warm and genuine. I heard about Judge McKenna's immigrant upbringing at a dinner where the William S. Richardson School of Law honored her with an award. Her humble roots, and those who have helped her along the way, are part of who she is today-- a judge who has deep compassion for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. Judge McKenna's efforts to expand free legal services for the indigent; the toys and books she keeps on hand to comfort children at Family Court; her motivational speech at a recent Hawaii Women Lawyers conference inspiring women attorneys to apply for judgeship — these actions speak to Judge McKenna's desire to enhance access and equality in our justice system. Confirmation of Judge McKenna to the Supreme Court would be a tremendous benefit to the people of Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia C.Y. Chang
HSBA #3929

From: Cheryl Lau [cclau@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Measure GM521 (Confirmation Hearing for Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court); February 4, 2011 at 10:00 am

I am writing to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor to express my absolute and unconditional support for the appointment of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge McKenna for more than 25 years and have had countless opportunities to observe and interact with her on both a professional and personal level. I can tell you that throughout that entire period, she has invariably impressed me with her tremendous intelligence, wisdom, integrity, compassion, generosity, and sense of justice.

She is certainly among Hawaii's best and brightest, but she has never allowed her remarkable intelligence to separate her from those around her. Rather, her natural senses of compassion, integrity, and generosity have bound her closer to the community and to the people that she has served over the years.

Judge McKenna has the broadest range of experience (private practice, in-house corporate counsel, law school professor, judicial experience in criminal, civil, and family court cases) of any attorney or judge with whom I am familiar, and she has earned the respect and admiration of attorneys over whose cases she has presided. In fact, I remember talking not long ago to a litigation attorney who told me that many of her fellow litigation attorneys in town were extremely disappointed and upset to learn that Judge McKenna was going to be transferred to the new Family Court in Kapolei, because they all felt that they would be losing the best judge in Circuit Court.

Despite all of her successes, achievements, and accolades over the years, Judge McKenna has remained firmly grounded, down-to-earth, and approachable. I cannot think of anyone who would bring to the highest court in the state a better combination of superb intelligence, broad legal experience, unyielding integrity, thoughtful deliberation, and compassion than Judge McKenna.

I wholeheartedly support her nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court and urge you to confirm the same.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. T. Lau
P.O. Box 26162
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
cclau@hawaii.rr.com

February 3, 2011

VIA EMAIL: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Chairman Sen. Clayton Hee
Vice Chairman Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of the Hon. Sabrina Shizue McKenna (GM 521)
Hearing Date: February 4, 2011
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

Please allow this letter to serve as my testimony in support of the Honorable Sabrina McKenna's confirmation as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Since 1982, I have been an attorney in private practice in Hawai'i, and a litigation partner of the Cades Schutte law firm since 1989. In the course of my practice, I have had the opportunity to appear before Judge McKenna on at least three civil matters while she was a judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, and was genuinely impressed by both her knowledge of and her adherence to the letter of the law, as well as her efficient case management skills.

In addition, since at least as early as 2009, I have served as a Director on the Board of the American Judicature Society – Hawai'i Chapter, on which Board Judge McKenna has also served. Based on that experience, it is my impression that she is keenly mindful of the role that our courts play in the administration of justice, and also the sometimes critical eye that our current-day society casts upon the court's actions.

Finally, my family and I have come to know Judge McKenna as a devoted mother of three children, one of whom we know particularly well as he and my son are both ninth-grade classmates. I can attest that, in the many day-to-day school activities involving the families of the students, Judge McKenna displays a refreshing sense of humor and modesty.

In closing, I humbly submit that Hawai'i would be most well-served should Judge McKenna be confirmed. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Colin O. Miwa

From: Connie M. Florez [hulagirlprod@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Connie M. Florez
Subject: In support of GM521 - the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court

Subject: In support of GM521 - the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court

Committee: JDL
Room: 016
Hearing Date: 2/4/2011 10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members: Senators Les Ihara Jr., Mike Gabbard and Sam Slom

I support the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

Here are 10 reasons to support her confirmation. Please choose the ones that appeal to you most, and submit testimony in favor.

1. She is eminently qualified
2. She has written opinions on very complex issues
3. She has breadth of judicial experience beyond most judges (she has been a judge AND a civil litigator AND a professor)
4. She is a former professor at Richardson School of Law
5. She is a graduate of Richardson School of Law; if appointed, she will be the first Richardson alum to be appointed to the Supreme Court.
6. She is a woman (of the 5 justices, currently 1 is a woman), and we need more women on the bench.
7. She is fluent in both Japanese and English, because she was born and raised in Tokyo; this can bring further international recognition of the Hawaii Judiciary
8. She was raised by a single mother, because her father died when she was 9 or 10, so she understands what it is like to grow up with little money.
9. She is a lesbian, so she knows the challenges of being a minority.
10. She and her partner have three children, so she knows the challenges of being a mother.

Please recommend that the Senate confirm her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Connie M. Florez
Hula Girl Productions
P.O. Box 11884
Honolulu, HI 96828
Connie@hulagirlproductions.com
808.561.5749

www.thegladesproject.com

www.tongantatau.com

www.thewillingmovie.com

www.redlovemovie.com

www.hulagirlproductions.com

www.imdb.com/name/nm2449416/

Corianne W. Lau
1001 Bishop St, Ste 1800
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 524-1800

February 2, 2011

Via email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: In Support of the Appointment of Hon. Sabrina McKenna as
Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court
Hearing Date/Time: February 4, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of the Honorable Sabrina McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I am a shareholder and director of the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, but I am writing in my personal capacity. I have been an attorney in the State of Hawai'i since 1985. I am a past President of Hawai'i Women Lawyers and the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation. I am currently on the board of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and served on the board of the Hawai'i State Bar Association for six years. I am currently co-chair of the Bar's Continuing Legal Education Committee. I have both personal knowledge of Judge Sabrina McKenna and knowledge of her reputation among many other attorneys in Hawai'i.

I have known Judge McKenna for approximately 20 years. I and others in my law firm have had cases before her and have worked with her on bar-related activities. During the more than ten years she sat on the civil bench at First Circuit Court, I appeared before her numerous times. Each time she was prepared, attentive and decisive. Her judicial demeanor was superior; she was articulate and controlled the proceedings with authority and courtesy. Judge McKenna showed compassion and fairness, yet was not afraid to rule on the law. Her intelligence was evident through her quick grasp of complex areas of law. Her orders and opinions were always well-reasoned and clear. Both plaintiffs' and defense attorneys respect her as a smart and hard-working judge.

Outside of work, Judge McKenna was always generous with her time. She participated as a volunteer in numerous continuing legal education seminars for local attorneys. She was always willing to educate attorneys, and share litigation practice skills to raise the quality of practice in Hawai'i. She mentored countless young lawyers and law students to help make them better attorneys.

We miss having Judge McKenna on the civil bench at First Circuit and I am certain she will be missed as the Deputy Chief Judge, Senior Judge overseeing Family Court. However, she will be a terrific Associate Justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court and will make us all proud to see such a hard-working and deserving judge be elevated to the highest court in the state.

I urge the Committee to vigorously support her appointment. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corianne W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

Corianne W. Lau

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

CORLIS J. CHANG

ALII PLACE, SUITE 1800 • 1099 ALAKEA STREET
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DIRECT DIAL:
(808) 547-5677

INTERNET:
cchang@goodsill.com

February 3, 2011

VIA E-MAIL: *JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov*

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

***Re: Testimony on GM 521
In Support of nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice of
the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i
Friday, February 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.***

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to write this letter in support of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna who has been nominated to be an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I am sure that you will receive many glowing letters about Judge McKenna relating to her legal skills and judicial demeanor. I join in those accolades regarding Judge McKenna's judicial and legal skills. However, since I know Judge McKenna on a more personal level, I would like to share some of those impressions with you as you consider her nomination.

Integrity, Diligence, Legal Knowledge, Professional Experience

I have known Judge McKenna since 1987 when we were both associates at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. I was a new lateral associate, having come from the mainland. She warmly welcomed me into the firm and became one of my first friends. We worked in the same area and so our friendship deepened. Because she was transitioning out of the litigation area, I inherited her case load. There is a no more telling way to observe some else's practice than to inherit files. Without exception, all the files I received were handled thoroughly and competently allowing for a seamless transition. It was evident she approached her cases with intelligence and thoroughness—obvious qualities she brought with her to the bench. Moreover, her communication skills were excellent—another quality which serves her well today.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
February 3, 2011
Page 2

When Judge McKenna left our firm to become in-house counsel for a client, we worked with her on numerous occasions. She was an exemplary in-house counsel and a delight to work with.

Judicial Temperament, Diligence, Ability to fulfill responsibilities

Since her appointment to the bench, I have heard nothing but praise for Judge McKenna. The praise comes not only from other counsel, who have appeared before her, but from individuals who have appeared in her Court. I participated in a settlement conference where she used her Japanese language skills as well as her skills as a settlement judge to resolve a difficult situation between two contentious former colleagues. Her people skills, her instinct for understanding the core issues, as well as her patience in dealing with both parties, was truly amazing.

As the head of the Family Court, Judge McKenna handled that task ably. She has already proved the ability to serve as a jurist. A close judicial colleague consistently praised Judge McKenna's quick study of the Family Court dynamics and efficient management of the Family Court.

Judge McKenna is a person who understands responsibility and life balance. While there is no question she is a dedicated jurist, what most people may not know is her equal dedication to her family. Judge McKenna is raising 3 young children who are intelligent, athletic, and busy young ones. In encountering her friendly and polite children and their obvious respect and love of their mother, it is evident that she is raising them well. That she is able to do so speaks volumes about her understanding organizational skills.

Finally, not only is Judge McKenna eminently qualified to serve as associate justice, we have the added benefit of the fact that she is also a woman. Having her on the bench will bring more gender equity to the State's highest court.

As a judge, lawyer, mentor, mother and friend, Judge McKenna excels in every way. I am honored to support her nomination.

Should you have any questions about the foregoing, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,


Corlis J. Chang

CJC:pho

February 3, 2011

VIA EMAIL (PDF FILE): JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Members of the COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, **SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA**, for a term of ten years.

Date of Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011

Time: 10:00 A.M

Aloha Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter to you in **SUPPORT** of Judge Sabrina McKenna.

During my tenure as an associate, then a partner in the Real Estate Department at Cades Schutte LLP for 20 years, I did not have an opportunity to appear before Judge McKenna in court. Since joining Outrigger Enterprises Group as Chief Legal Officer in 2006, I have had even less of a chance to participate in a case in Judge McKenna's court.

While I have not appeared before her on the litigation battlefield, I have battled with Judge McKenna for well over 15 years – on the soccer field, as a teammate, on the Olowalu, then the Na Wahine soccer clubs. While you may think this experience is not relevant to the subject of today's hearing, it is.

In a competitive soccer game, one's true personality and character tend to reveal themselves without restraint. On the one foot, tempers flare and words are exchanged. On the other foot, teammates work and play cooperatively and hard.

Judge McKenna is a team player – never one to complain as she waits patiently on the side lines to be subbed in, always working hard and always playing fair. Her demeanor on the field is a good indication of her demeanor on the bench – calm in the face of pressure and always positive.

My only regret is that Judge McKenna left our team recently because she is so devoted to her family – the soccer schedules of her children have left her with little time for her to play soccer with my team. I have little hope that, if and when she is appointed to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, she will have more time to re-join our team.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court is lucky to be getting a wonderful teammate. I encourage you to vote in **SUPPORT** of Judge Sabrina McKenna. Mahalo for your consideration!

Donna Y. L. Leong, Esq.

2375 Kuhio Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96816

C: Hawaii Women Lawyers, Judicial Equity Committee
Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation

February 3, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee members:

I am writing for the purpose of expressing my support of Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for an appointment to the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

Judge McKenna's distinguished career speaks for itself and her understanding, regard, and concern for our community will bring a fresh and enlightened perspective to the Court.

Your favorable consideration would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



GRANT Y. M. CHUN (JD # 4212)
Vice President

IRIS R. OKAWA
Attorney At Law, A Law Corporation

Tel: (808) 543-3790
Fax: (808) 543-3792

Pioneer Plaza
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1120
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E-mail: iris@iokawalaw.com

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
And the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Support/Nomination of **Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna**
to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii as Associate Justice
GM 521

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

As a member of the Hawaii State Bar and a concerned citizen, I am writing in strong support for the appointment of **Sabrina Shizue McKenna** to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

Judge McKenna has served our judiciary with distinction since 1995. Having served as a Circuit Court judge, and more recently serving as the Family Court Senior Judge, she has experienced the breadth of cases that consume and affect our daily life. In her capacity as Family Court Senior Judge, she was charged with opening the Kapolei Judiciary Complex now known as the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex.


I have known and long respected Judge McKenna first as a practicing attorney and later, throughout her career in the judiciary. She has always conducted herself with decorum and somehow communicated warmth while remaining impartial. Despite the growing number of women attorneys, women in the law have had a much shorter history than men in positions of leadership and in the judiciary. Nonetheless, Judge McKenna has been steadfast in her commitments and exhibited the moral courage that attorneys are expected to have, not as a matter of gender but as a professional.

Good judges know not only the law, but have wisdom from living and experiencing life and have deep principles. It is not sufficient to merely have intelligence and knowledge. It is also necessary to have good character, discipline, integrity, compassion, sense of fairness, and the appropriate judicial temperament so that the intelligence and knowledge in applying the law is not in a vacuum but balanced and reasoned.

Judge McKenna is a dedicated professional but what makes her complete and a better professional is her balanced life which includes a family with children. She has lived honorably and has served her community well. She has many more years to serve and I am confident she will serve Hawaii with great skill and dedication as a Justice on our Supreme Court.

Based on my contact with and observations of Judge McKenna, I believe her to be a person of outstanding character and one upon whom we can count to make the right decision for the right reason. I strongly support her appointment to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii

Yours very truly,



Iris R. Okawa

From: Jana Konawaena [jmasf102@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:37 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM 521 Sabrina McKenna

Dear Senator Clayton Hee:

My name is Jana Masunaga and I just turned 9 and go to Konawaena elementary.

I want Aunty Sabrina to get this new job because she is nice and smart.

I hope you can help.

Thank you,

Jana Kiyō Lily Masunaga
POBox 345
Kealahou, HI 96750
808 328 2521
[Jmasf102@yahoo.com](mailto:jmasf102@yahoo.com)

February 2, 2011

To: Senators
From: Jerry Young
Re: GM521, regarding the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Senators,

It is not a coincidence that Governor Neil Abercrombie nominated Sabrina Shizue McKenna, an outspoken lesbian, during a time when Hawaii's people have been fighting against civil unions. The people of Hawaii have made a huge stand against civil unions when in 2010, a Rally of 20,000 people (the largest crowd in the history of Hawaii), showed up at the Hawaii State Capitol against civil unions and making a stand for Traditional Marriage. Surveys, like the SMS survey (November 2009) show that 69% of the people of Hawaii are still against civil unions.

I am writing to OPPOSE the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna, as a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. The purpose of the Hawaii Supreme Court is to judge on those laws that are already in existence.

However, I believe McKenna will "legislate from the bench" - meaning she will change our laws and make judgments according to her own personal agenda. I believe McKenna will make judgments to further the homosexual agenda and will not make judgments in the best interest of the people of Hawaii.

Please vote NO to the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna.

Sincerely,

Jerry Young

February 2, 2011

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jill L. Nunokawa

RE: GM 521: Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of Judge Sabrina McKenna's nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I strongly urge you to confirm her nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge McKenna for decades, as we were both UH Wahine Basketball players and graduates of the William S. Richardson School of Law, and I believe I can speak about her sound character and superior insight and intelligence.

I will not repeat what has been succinctly testified and evidenced by others in our community regarding what a phenomenal jurist Judge McKenna is, rather I wanted to inform you of the areas that greatly influenced her journey and has made her the great person she is today.

Judge McKenna entered UH during a time that Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational institutions receiving federal financial assistance, was not being implemented or enforced. She experienced firsthand both the opportunity to participate, which was very new for women, yet understood she was receiving less benefits and treatment because of her sex. Judge McKenna took notice of the unwavering commitment Dr. Donnis Thompson, UH Women's Athletics Director, had in righting the wrongs and advocating for equality and dignity for all. This experience and Dr. Thompson's influence built a strong core from which Judge McKenna derives her commitment to fairness, dignity of process, and equal access to justice for all.

This leads to her decision to publicly disclose her sexual orientation. Although Judges can be considered public figures as well as public servants, it does necessitate the mandatory disclosure of their private lives. The courage and conviction shown by Judge McKenna in publicly disclosing such a private and personal matter is another example of her willingness to stand up for equality and justice for all, even in light of public ridicule and judgment by others. She leads by example and is a superior role model for children in our state. She will enhance and immediately contribute to our outstanding appellate Court.

I am in complete support and wholeheartedly recommend Judge Sabrina McKenna's nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Jill Nunokawa

From: GLBT Caucus Chair [chair@glbtcaucushawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:49 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: All Senators
Subject: In support of the Confirmation of Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Attachments: top.letterhead

It is with pride that the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the nomination of The Honorable Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

Judge McKenna has devoted her life to the law. Judge McKenna graduated of the William S. Richardson School of Law nearly 30 years ago. As a nominee, she brings a breadth and depth of prior experience as an attorney and a judge. She has served as a civil litigator, general counsel, assistant law professor, District Court Judge, Circuit Court Judge and currently as the Senior Judge for the Oahu First Circuit.

She has written opinions on complex cases. She is not afraid to take on controversial subjects. For example, her opinion on the sale of ceded lands was upheld by the United States Supreme Court (reversing the Hawaii Supreme Court).

Judge McKenna has consistently been a top performer, beginning in law school, where she served as Editor-in Chief of the University of Hawaii Law Review. She has received numerous honors and awards, including the Hawaii Women Lawyers Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award; Hawaii Joint Police Association Certification of Distinguished Service; the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award from Richardson School of Law; the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Hawaii; and most recently the 2010 Dr. Martin LutherKing Jr. Friends Award from the Hawaii Friends for Civil Rights.

In making this nomination, Governor Abercrombie said, "This appointment sets the course for the state and its legal direction for the next several years." It also sets a high standard for subsequent appointments in terms of extensive prior judicial experience and outstanding performance as a lawyer, legal scholar and jurist.

We wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Sabrina

Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court. We urge the Committee to recommend her for confirmation by the full Senate, and we urge the Senate to confirm her.

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq, Chair

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawaii

CARLSMITH BALL LLP

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

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1001 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE 808.523.2500 FAX 808.523.0842
WWW.CARLSMITH.COM

DIRECT DIAL NO.
808.523.2587

JGRIMES@CARLSMITH.COM

February 3, 2011

VIA EMAIL: JDLTESTIMONY@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: GM 521: Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

I strongly support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

I first met Judge McKenna while she was an assistant professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I was a law student at the time Professor McKenna was appointed to be a judge in the Honolulu District Court of the First Circuit. At that time, Professor McKenna already had distinguished herself as successful in private practice (at the Goodsill firm), as in-house counsel (Otaka), and then as a respected and well-liked law professor. Her appointment to the judiciary in 1993 has since added to the breadth and depth of her life experiences, which undoubtedly will add tremendous value to the conversation and deliberation of the issues before the Court. Judge McKenna's experience and her academic and professional background clearly demonstrates her strong leadership qualities and commitment to the legal profession, the judiciary, and the community. Her body of judicial work was recognized by Hawaii Women Lawyers in 2006, when she received HWL's Judicial Achievement Award. Her more recent role as Administrative Judge of the Family Court further demonstrates her leadership abilities.

Judge McKenna's many achievements in the private and public sectors illustrate the many choices available to young lawyers today. She brings honor to the law profession and will be a tremendous addition to the Court.

Respectfully,


Joanne L. Grimes

From: kkaleirealtor@cs.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:09 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: GM521 re: nomination of McKenna

To: Senators
From: Katherine Kalei
Re: GM521, regarding the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Senators,

It is not a coincidence that Governor Neil Abercrombie nominated Sabrina Shizue McKenna, an outspoken lesbian, during a time when Hawaii's people have been fighting against civil unions. The people of Hawaii have made a huge stand against civil unions when in 2010, a Rally of 20,000 people (the largest crowd in the history of Hawaii), showed up at the Hawaii State Capitol against civil unions and making a stand for Traditional Marriage. Surveys, like the SMS survey (November 2009) show that 69% of the people of Hawaii are still against civil unions.

I am writing to OPPOSE the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna, as a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. The purpose of the Hawaii Supreme Court is to judge on those laws that are already in existence.

However, I believe McKenna will "legislate from the bench" - Meaning she will change our laws and make judgments according to her own personal agenda. I believe McKenna will make judgments to further the homosexual agenda and will not make judgments in the best interest of the people of Hawaii.

Please vote NO to the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kalei - Realtor
East Oahu Realty. Inc.
Honolulu, Hawaii
808 383-OAHU (6248)

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

FROM: LAUREN R. SHARKEY

ADDRESS: 737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2600
HONOLULU, HI 96813

DATE: February 3, 2011

RE: NOMINATION OF SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA FOR
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE HAWAII SUPREME
COURT

GM521

TO BE HEARD: 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2011

February 3, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

I write to you in support the appointment of Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Judge McKenna is one of the most experienced and qualified individual you could have on the Supreme Court. She has a breadth of judicial experience, including civil, criminal and family court matters. She has also worked in private practice as an attorney and as a professor of law at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. In all areas, including in her educational background, it is evidence that she has excelled and succeeded in everything she undertakes.

Her numerous awards and accolades also show her commitment to the legal profession and her commitment to her community. She understands and recognizes the needs in the community. She is known as a tireless worker and a truly great individual.

As a board member of the Hawaii Women Lawyers and Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation, I have met Judge McKenna numerous times over the last decade at our events and projects. She is ever willing to give of her time and energy to speak at events and be an active participant in projects. She is someone who can be called on to do everything necessary to get the job done. She is always available to help those in need and her contributions to these organizations have been immensely valuable. I personally find her to be a warm, positive and genuine individual.

It should also be noted that it is important for the Supreme Court to reflect the public at large. Judge McKenna's humble background, personal experience, and diverse career resonates positively to those in the community and many who may not know her, can still identify with her.

Suffice to say, I cannot say enough positive comments about her. She is absolutely qualified and I urge your Committee to favorably consider the appointment of Judge McKenna to fill the vacancy on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Sharkey', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lauren R. Sharkey

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SABRINA MCKENNA FOR JUSTICE

DATE: Friday, February 04, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Thank you Senators for allowing testimony in support of Judge Sabrina McKenna as Associate Justice to the Supreme Court. I am Laurie H. Hamano, vocational rehabilitation counselor as well as business owner of Vocational Management Consultants Inc. I have been a friend of Ms. McKenna for the past 16 years. I cannot comment about her work as I have not known her in that way but have known her as a mother and family friend.

Ms. McKenna has always dealt with me and those who know her with a straightforward, honest and positive manner. She has always struck me as compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. I know that she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the Supreme Court Associate Justice appointment.

Please wholeheartedly support Judge McKenna's confirmation for Associate Justice as I do.

Thank you.

Laurie H. Hamano, M.Ed. CRC, MHC
President of Vocational Management Consultants Inc.

MARR JONES & WANG

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

Labor and Employment Law

February 3, 2011

Via E-Mail (JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Testimony in support of Judicial Nominee
Sabrina Shizue McKenna
Hearing Date: Friday, February 4, 2011
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.
Hearing Location: Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

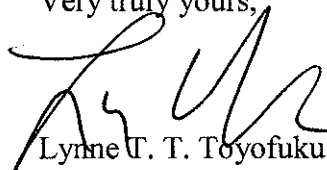
Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to express to you my unqualified support for the confirmation of Sabrina McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Since my summer clerkship at Goodwill Anderson Quinn and Stifel in 1987, I have known Sabrina as a colleague and friend, as well as a judge before whom I have appeared as an advocate for my clients. In all her roles, I have found her to be brilliant, compassionate, fair, decisive, straightforward, and humble. She deeply cares for her family and for our community, and works positively and collaboratively towards preserving Hawaii's unique qualities and lifestyle. Her accomplishments are significant and her dedication to the third branch of government is without question.

I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Lyne T. T. Toyofuku

LTTT:ifs

From: Mkmasunaga@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 1:29 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: mkmasunaga@aol.com
Subject: GM 521 Strong Support of Sabrina McKenna. Hrg 2/4/11 @10 a.m. Room 016

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, and Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair:

I am thrilled that Governor Abercrombie nominated my close friend Sabrina Shizue McKenna to be the next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I live in Capt. Cook, South Kona, and other Big Island residents like Mayor Billy Kenoi, Senator Josh Green, Prosecutor Jay Kimura, Lincoln Ashida, Bobby Jean Leithead Todd, Shawn Nakoa, Carol Kitaoka, Dale Ross, and Dale Ishida Suezaki also support her nomination.

Judge McKenna's legal experience is balanced with working in the private sector and the public sector. I worked with Sabrina when we were both associates at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel over 23 years ago. We were both young lawyers and I looked up to her because she was a rising star. I am honored and privileged to call Sabrina one of my "sisterhood" friends, along with other "Goodsill Alumni" like Kathy Matayoshi, Darolyn Lendio, Donna Tanoue, Cynthia Nojima, and current Goodsill partners Audrey Ng, Corlis Chang, and Miki Okumura.

This "sisterhood" bond reaches other areas of the country as a result of Judge McKenna's contribution in the American Bar Association publication, "Dear Sisters, Dear Daughters: Strategies for Success from Multicultural Women Attorneys. In her tip for success, Judge McKenna wrote: "Through my experiences, I have learned that gender and racial discrimination are just two of many types of adversity that people experience; that, at least in America, the law is on our side. There are other types of adversity that are much harder to overcome. adversity builds strength and character and provides motivation and determination. People who haven't experienced adversity have little to prove." Other women who wrote a letter included Darolyn Lendio, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Juanita Hernandez, and me.

Judge McKenna's legal knowledge in Family Court, concentrating in domestic violence, as well as her ability to read and speak Japanese, assisted the All Japan Domestic Violence Hotline coalition and the Korean Women's Hotline. In February 2007 and 2008, Judge met with Sachiko Takato of Hiroshima, and discussed the unified family court, and how Hawaii deals with domestic violence and sexual assault. I was the Chair of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, and Judge McKenna assisted us in carrying out Senate Resolution No. 55, convening an international network addressing domestic violence and sex assault.

The requirement for a judge to have the right judicial temperament bodes well for Judge McKenna. She is one of the most wise and compassionate persons I know. She knows the right thing to say when you are at your lowest point in life. I recall when my mother passed away. I was in the car going to the funeral home when Sabrina called me. Her expression of sympathy was what I needed right then and there. She is a friend who will go that extra mile. When my daughter Colette graduated from Konawaena High School, Sabrina, Denise, Tyler, Emily, and Sage all came to our house to celebrate.

With the addition of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court, we will have such an awesome Judiciary!

Please send a favorable unanimous recommendation to the full Senate that Judge Sabrina McKenna is highly qualified to be Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. You will not be disappointed.

Mahalo nui loa,

Margaret K. Masunaga
P. O. Box 345
Kealakekua, HI 96750
mkmasunaga@aol.com
808 987 1046

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
GM No. 521

Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Supreme Court As
Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee

SABRINA SHIZUE McKENNA
For A Term To Expire In Ten Years

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: February 04, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Testifier: MEI NAKAMOTO



To: Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Other Members of the Committee

I support the appointment of Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of Hawaii's Supreme Court.¹

I have known Judge McKenna for about 20 years. My association with her has been through my work as a private practice attorney in Hawaii.

I first worked with Judge McKenna when she was the in-house counsel for Otaka, Inc. As a new associate attorney, my contact with Judge McKenna was fleeting. However, even those few instances left me with the impression that this woman was very intelligent, highly ethical, able to see the "big picture" as well as appreciate the value of attention to details, and worked very hard.

After Judge McKenna was appointed to the Circuit Court, my contact with her involved a few appearances in cases over which she presided. In every instance, Judge McKenna was prepared, courteous (and genuinely friendly in the less formal setting of settlement conferences), and an excellent manager of her cases.

My contact with Judge McKenna increased when she became the Senior Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit. She became the Senior Judge when the Family Court was about to move from Ka'ahumanu Hale on Punchbowl Street to the Kapolei Complex. The task involved working with many groups and individuals with concerns ranging from safety and security of the juvenile detainees to the use of quarters for the parking meters. She tirelessly met with

¹ As this Committee may know, my husband, Lawrence M. Reifurth, is a judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals. My desire to comment on the appointment of Judge McKenna is mine and mine alone, and reflects only my opinions. My husband did not influence my decision to submit any testimony or my opinion of Judge McKenna.

us attorneys and dealt with our concerns with dispatch and humor. She never treated any concern as trivial, and was unfailingly respectful. I truly do not know how she kept her sanity.

While juggling the myriad tasks of a Senior Judge of the Family Court, Judge McKenna also presided over family law cases. Despite having dealt with breached contracts and other business-related cases in the recent past, Judge McKenna was able to immediately grasp the different dynamics of family law. In one of my cases last year, I appeared before Judge McKenna to seek an order about child custody. Rather than ask the typical initial questions about the relative legal positions of the parents, Judge McKenna started with a battery of questions concerning the safety of my client in light of the fact that she had obtained a restraining order. That insight was much-appreciated and, in my view, absolutely the correct approach to take.

Judge McKenna has all of the intellectual skills necessary to be an appellate judge. There is no question she will be able to sift through pages and pages of the law and the records on appeal and analyze complex matters accurately and efficiently. What is equally important is that Judge McKenna will be able to contribute to the appellate bench her broad experiences from her private practice, her role in the business community, and her most recent positions within the Judiciary – especially her experiences from addressing the critical needs of harmed children and heartfelt concerns from disintegrating families.

Judge McKenna will be missed at the trial level, but she will be a priceless addition to the appellate bench.

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

Sincerely,

Mei Nakamoto

mei@nakamotolaw.com
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1020
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
695-6255



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Re: Judge Sabrina McKenna's Confirmation

February 2, 2011

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chairman Hee:

I write in strong support of Judge Sabrina McKenna's nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Judge McKenna for over fifteen (15) years, and for approximately one (1) year in 2010, I worked very closely with her when I was a Family Court Judge and Judge McKenna was the Senior Family Court Judge. So, my testimony is based on my extensive personal experience with Judge McKenna.

Judge McKenna is plain and simple, a superstar. She is extremely bright, with a keen legal mind. She has been a judge in District Court, Family Court and Circuit Court. Consequently, she has experience in all case types that would come before her on the Supreme Court. She has a deep understanding of the substantive law and of court procedure. She is truly a student of the law. Equally significant, Judge McKenna is a fundamentally fair person and would bring a balanced perspective to our highest court.

Judge McKenna's personal attributes are exceptional. She has a tremendous work ethic, is very even-tempered, is an absolute team player, and is one of the most gracious, and humble, people I know. Perhaps most important, Judge McKenna is a person of character and the highest integrity. It was an absolute honor to work for, and with, her in Family Court.

I commend Governor Abercrombie for having the vision and wisdom to nominate Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court and I urge this Committee to recommend her confirmation to the full Senate. Judge McKenna has my strongest, and unequivocal, support. She will make all of us proud.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Broderick
President & CEO



Law Offices of Michael Jay Green, Attorney at Law

841 Bishop Street, Suite 2201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel 808.521.3336
Fax 808.566.0347

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 1, 2011

HAND-DELIVERED

Committee on Judiciary And Labor
ATTN: The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: The Honorable Sabrina McKenna

Dear Senator:

I am writing you in support of the above-referenced nominee.

I was unaware that Judge McKenna was on "the short list" of candidates for the Court. Over the years, I have tried a number of cases both jury and non-jury, before her Honor. I could not hold her on higher regard. She will bring a good balance to the Court.

Judge McKenna is extremely hard working, has outstanding legal knowledge, and has the ability to balance compassion with the need to ensure that justice is served. She is an outstanding choice.

Very truly yours,



MICHAEL JAY GREEN

**LAW OFFICE OF
NAOMI COLE**

Attorney at Law
Office located in the
Pioneer Plaza

900 Fort Street Suite 1120, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Tel. (808) 550-2880 / Fax (808) 543-3792

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
And the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Support/Nomination of **Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna**
To the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii as Associate Justice
GM 521

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support for the appointment of **Sabrina Shizue McKenna** to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii as an Associate Justice.

I first became acquainted with Judge McKenna as a Circuit Court judge when I became an attorney 14 years ago. I came before her when I was with a larger firm and later as a solo practitioner. I didn't know her personally at the time, but she has always treated attorneys evenly regardless of whether they were associated with a big firm or practicing on their own. She has presided at all times fairly, with professionalism and judicial decorum. Coming before her, I was spoiled, as she already possessed the transactional, contract and corporate law knowledge and background obtained while she was an attorney in private practice, which constitutes a large part of the disputes litigated.

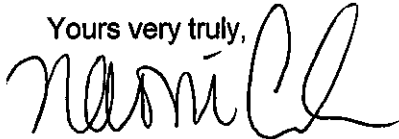
We later became close friends, when our sons became teammates on the same HYSA soccer team, and closer yet when we became Iolani parents. I still recall the time when our boys were playing in the Mililani soccer tournament against a very competitive team, there was a boy known to constantly fake falls on the other team. It just so happened that the boy's father was coach for the other team. The boy faked a fall right in front the parents' sideline, and we all got a close up view of what happened. The game stopped and his father came running over to this side of the field. He went up to the boy closest to his son, started screaming and pointing a finger within a few inches from his face alleging dirty play. It was quite disturbing to say the least to watch a 40 year old man bully a 9 year old boy during a soccer game. Everyone watching was in shock and speechless, except Judge McKenna, who had the courage to stand up to speak up for that little 9 year old boy, stating to the other coach that he did nothing wrong.

My point is that, whether it is in the Courtroom, as a soccer team parent, or outside, Judge McKenna will stand up to do the right thing, exhibiting moral courage and ensuring that justice prevails. It is with these personal experiences, and being a mother raising three young children in Hawaii, that she is grounded, humbled and very much in touch with the real life struggles.

Her wisdom from her life experiences is what sets her apart to make her an outstanding judge. We all expect judges to be smart, fair, and impartial. Judge McKenna has all these qualities but a Supreme Court Judge needs to have more than the baseline requirements. Judge McKenna brings to the bench compassion, rooted principles, and uncompromising integrity.

I write this testimony with regret, as I practice in Family Court, and never at the Supreme Court level. I felt secure knowing that she was there overseeing the administration of the Family Court system. However, the Supreme Court deserves to have someone as competent as Judge McKenna. Based on my legal experience and friendship with Judge McKenna, I strongly support her appointment to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Naomi Cole

Good Morning Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Randall Izu. In 2009, my wife and I were involved in a very bitter dispute with members of my family. We were scheduled to appear before Judge McKenna in May of that year. Prior to our court date, we met with the Judge for a settlement conference and were able to end our case. Judge McKenna knew the months of fighting had taken a toll on my wife and me, emotionally, mentally and for me physically. After settling our case, Judge McKenna spent some time with my wife and me. She shared stories of how her own life was affected by the loss of her own father. She wanted for me to be there for my daughter and enjoy our life together. That day, my wife and I saw a different side of the court. It was made up of people that were like you and I.

My wife and I were deeply touched by the compassion and caring nature of Judge McKenna. Over the last two years we have seen the Judge at school supporting her children's activities as well as neighborhood soccer games cheering them on. Each and every time we saw her; we wanted to tell her thank you but restrained our appreciation. Today my wife and daughter and I share a happy life together and I continue to regain my health.

My wife and I do not personally know Judge McKenna. Yet our experience in her courtroom gave us a new respect for the judicial system. Our interaction with her, made us believe that we had good people in place that did their job well. As parents we saw someone who loved her children and did everything they could to bring them up right.

It's comforting to know, that the people who make decisions that affect all of us are like you and me. They don't sit in ivory towers and cast judgment from above.

Thank you Judge McKenna, On behalf of my wife Karie, and our daughter Kristen, I am honored to ask that this Committee to support the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna for Associate Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

From: inversecondemnation [inversecondemnation@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: 2/4/2011 - GM 521 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, SABRINA SHIZUE MCKENNA, for a term of ten years.

Robert H. Thomas
1003 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 95813
www.inversecondemnation.com

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Committee on Judiciary and Labor Conference Room
016 State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

I have been hoping for some time that Judge Sabrina McKenna would be selected to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court, so thank you for the opportunity to express my unqualified support for her. I urge the Committee and the Senate to confirm.

I have been practicing law in Hawaii and California since 1987, and I regard Judge McKenna as among the best judges I have appeared before. I base my opinion on my observations: she is always prepared and understands the issues. She is scrupulously fair and considers arguments presented in a balanced way. She always treats parties and attorneys with the utmost respect. She applies the law with common sense and compassion. The parties and the lawyers understand her rulings, even if they might not agree with her conclusions.

In sum, please confirm Judge McKenna as "Justice McKenna" so that she may begin serving.

If you have any questions concerning my testimony, I would gladly provide more information.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Thomas
inversecondemnation@gmail.com

From: Robyn AU [islandhopper2008@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:56 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Confirmation Hearing; Sabrina Shizue McKenna, Friday, Feb 04, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Senator Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

This letter supports the confirmation of Honorable Sabrina McKenna as Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I attended law school with Judge McKenna and know her as a fellow student, Ete Bowl team mate, AYSO soccer mom and referee, and friend. Over the past twenty-plus years, I have always known Sabrina as a person of integrity. As a student and football player, she displayed outstanding leadership and competence. As an AYSO volunteer, she was involved in her children's participation as an able coach and referee. More importantly, as a friend, she is always kind and compassionate.

These are but some of the qualities that make Judge McKenna an outstanding citizen and jurist. I support her nomination without reservation.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 808.372.0883 or islandhopper2008@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Robyn U. Au
Attorney, State of Hawaii



February 3, 2011

Via Email

JDCTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
415 South Beretania St.
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 521 February 4, 2011 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 016
The Honorable Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna's Confirmation as Associate Justice of
the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Having received only positive comments from our membership, Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) strongly supports the confirmation of the Honorable Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. HWL has long recognized Judge McKenna's stature as an exemplary judge and leader in the legal community and, with much acclaim by HWL members, she was the 2006 recipient of HWL's Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award.

As you may know, HWL is a nonprofit business organization made up of female and male attorneys. The purposes of HWL, as set forth in our Articles of Incorporation, are to: (1) improve the status of women in the legal profession; (2) increase the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility; and (3) promote the advancement of all women. Accordingly, increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the judiciary are important goals for HWL, and we support qualified women candidates in connection with these purposes.

To be clear, HWL's policy is not to endorse just any candidate simply because that candidate is a woman. Instead, HWL's policy is to support *qualified* women judicial candidates. When HWL has the distinctive honor of supporting a qualified candidate who has contributed so much to the Hawaii community that is in line with our goals and our mission, it is especially meaningful to us.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
February 3, 2011
Page 2 of 3

Judge Sabrina McKenna's devotion to improving and widening much needed paths to justice for all people, both on and off the bench, has had a tremendously positive impact throughout the Hawaii community. Although she has served as a judge for nearly 20 years, she has remained a very approachable person, who has lived a full life, rich with a diversity of experiences, always accompanied by her sense of deep compassion and sharing with others, by her gratitude for both her defeats and successes, and by her diligence to achieve excellence in every challenge she faces. As a result, her life has been one of constantly giving back and has been always purposeful in educating and inspiring others about our judicial and legal system.

Insofar as you have reviewed Judge McKenna's impressive and lengthy resume, we will not simply recount her many achievements here. We thought it would be more useful to your consideration of her confirmation if we shared with you the import of the many comments that we received from a number of our members in support of Judge McKenna's confirmation to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

For example, as a fluent speaker of Japanese, Judge McKenna has been one judge who recognizes that linguistic and cultural accessibility are critical issues for our state — particularly in terms of increasing access to our court system. As many of you know, these issues are important to protecting and insuring the rights of immigrants and other limited English proficient (LEP) populations. Judge McKenna also frequently donates her time, serving on panels addressing diverse community groups and working to improve the legal profession. In Spring 2010, Judge McKenna sat on a panel at the William S. Richardson School of Law (UH) for the annual Patsy Mink Fellowship Tribute. She not only prepared for the panel as if she were writing a bench brief, but also was very well versed in the historical context of language rights and national origin discrimination in Hawaii, as well as federal and state legislation and case law.

That may be something you would expect of any responsible judge addressing the community regarding a social justice issue. However, what was most impressive was her nuanced understanding of the “on-the-ground” issues and challenges experienced by LEP litigants, including what it will actually take for courts to be culturally accessible and competent. In this vein, Judge McKenna has championed the need for qualified, competent and certified interpretation services within the courts as well as the critical translation of vital legal documents. She is remarkably cognizant of the real struggles of marginalized populations and has outlined a clear plan as to how to address the needs of LEP persons on both a practical and ideal level.

Judge McKenna is similarly recognized throughout the community as being honest, ethical and courageous in upholding the law so that it may be accessed and applied equally to all persons. Recently, on January 30, 2011, she was recognized for her courage and achievements as a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends Award by the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
February 3, 2011
Page 3 of 3

HWL members have also observed that, in terms of complex legal issues, Judge McKenna has consistently demonstrated that she is extremely thorough, intelligent, and savvy. She follows the “rule of law” but also knows when it is appropriate to deviate from the technical requirements of the law to deliver justice to the parties under the facts and circumstances of a given case. It is clear that she reads everything and does her own research on issues. As the former editor-in-chief of the UH Law Review, Judge McKenna is noted for being meticulous and often more prepared and well-versed in the relevant law than the parties’ counsel.

In light of the above, HWL strongly believes that Judge McKenna will be an immensely positive and significant contributor to the Hawaii Supreme Court, the judiciary, and the greater Hawaii community. Accordingly, HWL strongly urges you to confirm the appointment of the Honorable Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna to fill the Associate Justice vacancy on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact either of the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Oh".

Ruth Oh
President
HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Hornfeck".

Lane Hornfeck
Judicial Equity Committee Chair
HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

From: moneycomestome@cs.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:18 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: McKenna Nomination - Opposed

To: Senators

From: Samuel Kalei

Re: GM521, regarding the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna

Dear Senators,

It is not a coincidence that Governor Neil Abercrombie nominated Sabrina Shizue McKenna, an outspoken lesbian, during a time when Hawaii's people have been fighting against civil unions. The people of Hawaii have made a huge stand against civil unions when in 2010, a Rally of 20,000 people (the largest crowd in the history of Hawaii), showed up at the Hawaii State Capitol against civil unions and making a stand for Traditional Marriage. Surveys, like the SMS survey (November 2009) show that 69% of the people of Hawaii are still against civil unions.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna, as a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. The purpose of the Hawaii Supreme Court is to judge on those laws that are already in existence.

However, I believe McKenna will "legislate from the bench" - Meaning she will change our laws and make judgments according to her own personal agenda. I believe McKenna will make judgments to further the homosexual agenda and will not make judgments in the best interest of the people of Hawaii.

Please vote NO to the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna.

Sincerely,

Samuel Kalei

Acu-Hon Automotive

Honolulu, Hawaii

808 847-0282

From: Scott C Arakaki [scott@badgerarakaki.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:20 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hawaii Supreme Court Nominee Sabrina McKenna

To whom it may concern:

I am a practicing attorney in Honolulu, Hawaii, and know Judge McKenna based only on my professional experiences. I have appeared before her at a number of hearings and settlement conferences. I found that she has an even judicial temperament and considers different sides of an issue before making her decision. Consequently, I believe that Judge McKenna would make a great Supreme Court Justice.

Scott C. Arakaki, Esq.
Badger Arakaki LLLC
Pioneer Plaza, Suite 1140
900 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813-3716
Tel: (808) 566-0855
Fax: (808) 566-0955

SHERRY P. BRODER
Law Offices of Sherry P. Broder

Suite 400, Seven Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-531-1411

Email: sherrybroder@sherrybroder.com

February 2, 2011

Chairman Clayton H.W. Hee and Committee Members
Senate Judiciary Committee
Capitol Building
Honolulu, Hawaii

JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Judge Sabrina McKenna
Associate Chief Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court

Friday, February 04, 201, 10:00 A.M. Conference Room 016

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members,

This testimony is submitted in strong support of the confirmation of Judge Sabrina McKenna to the position of Associate Justice, Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have had the honor and privilege of knowing Judge McKenna for over 30 years. I have known her as a law student, editor of the law journal, lawyer at the Goodsill law firm, lawyer for a Japanese Corporation, professor at the law school, judge, court administrator, athlete, mother, partner with a significant other, and alumni of the Richardson law school community. I have practiced law before her. She has made decisions that I agree with and decisions that I did not agree with. She always explained her reasoning and I respect her judgment even if I did not agree. She is truly an exceptional person. I am absolutely confident that she is an excellent choice and she will serve with honor and distinction and continue to make a very positive contribution to our community. Judge McKenna has proven herself as an outstanding judge, a person of the highest moral character, an outstanding scholar, and a significant contributor to our community.

Judge McKenna is a 1982 graduate of the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, where she distinguished herself and earned the honor of serving as editor-in-chief of the U.H. Law Review. During her tenure, she was the editor of 2 volumes of the law review.

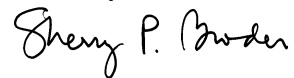
Judge McKenna had a distinguished career as an attorney and judge. She is known for intelligence, commitment to the rule of law, willingness to work very hard, promptness, and professionalism, ability to manage and be fair and competent in all types of litigation – civil, criminal, family, and complex. She always puts the principles of justice and fairness first. She

knows how to apply the rules of court without sacrificing reasonableness in their implementation. She works very hard to improve the access to court and her courtroom is accessible to the attorneys and to the parties. She believes in judicial independence and has the courage to decide cases based on the rule of law and the fundamental principle of what is right, moral and just.

She has served on many committees and organizations to benefit the community. She exemplifies the spirit of serving others and the community. She serves as a role model in the community of the value and importance of voluntary public service.

Judge McKenna has demonstrated without a doubt that she has the highest intelligence, work-ethic, moral character, and courage. She has earned the highest recommendation possible from me. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry P. Broder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHERRY P. BRODER

From: Sheryl Nicholson [SNicholson@pjpn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:26 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony re: Governor's Message No. 521, Hearing on 2/4/11 at 10:00 a.m.

Re: Governor's Message No. 521
Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

My name is Sheryl Nicholson, and I am submitting this testimony in support of Judge Sabrina Shizue McKenna's nomination as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have been an attorney in private practice in Honolulu, Hawai'i for the last 29 years, and have had the privilege of knowing Judge McKenna for all of that time and more, first as a fellow law student at the University of Hawaii School of Law in the late 1970s, but later on a far more direct basis when my law firm was hired to represent Otaka, Inc., then a Japan-based Hawai'i corporation with resort and golf course holdings in the United States, in 1989.

Still a young lawyer at the time, Judge McKenna was the Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of Otaka. Beginning in 1989, Otaka became embroiled in highly contentious, fast-paced litigation with the operator of the Hawaiian Regent Hotel, which Otaka owned, and the operator's related entities. The litigation very quickly exploded to encompass 8 separate lawsuits and appeals concurrently proceeding at all levels of the Hawai'i state court system, as well as an arbitration and a lawsuit in the federal district court for the Northern District of California, all within a span of 9 months and all of which concluded just a little over a year after the initial lawsuit was filed.

Judge McKenna was at the hub of the litigation activity for Otaka, spending untold hours guiding strategy, making critical judgments and decisions, coordinating the litigation team and serving as its liaison with the company's Japanese management. She made quick, decisive and smart decisions reflecting not just the well-grounded litigation background she acquired during her Goodsill years, but also good business acumen, common sense and leadership. She worked hard and never receded from the weighty and difficult responsibilities being thrust on her from all sides.

That was over 20 years ago, and the qualities Judge McKenna demonstrated then are very much part of her fabric today. I have seen Judge McKenna in different contexts since that time and my respect for her character, abilities and dedication to serve others through her various roles as a judge, mentor, educator, international legal resource, role model and mother has only grown. Judge McKenna has impeccable credentials and great integrity.

As a colleague and member of this community who will be affected by her appellate decisions, I could not be more pleased that Governor Abercrombie selected Judge McKenna to serve as an Associate Justice on the Hawai`i Supreme Court. I wholeheartedly support her nomination and look forward to her swift confirmation.

Thank you.

Sheryl L. Nicholson
P. O. Box 4438
Honolulu, HI 96812-4438

STARN · O'TOOLE · MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

February 2, 2011

Via Email

JDCTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov
senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 521 February 4, 2011 10:00 a.m.
Judge Sabrina S. McKenna's Appointment as Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter in support of Judge Sabrina McKenna's appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Our firm has had the pleasure of appearing before Judge McKenna on many matters and over many years during the time she has been on the Hawaii civil bench in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. In our opinion, she is one of the outstanding judges on the Circuit Court bench, and we believe she would be a most valuable addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

In our experience, Judge McKenna possesses all of the requisite skills and talents needed for this important position. We have appeared before her in a variety of matters, many of which were complex, multi-party litigation matters that tested the skill sets, endurance and patience of the Court and counsel. In all of these matters, Judge McKenna's grasp of the law and of the facts was incisive; she made thoughtful and clear decisions; and she was decisive.

We prevailed in some and we lost some, but in all instances, we left her court believing that our clients were fully heard and their positions were fully considered.

We further believe that the qualifications for the Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice position require of the applicant qualities and talents that are exceptional. Simply put, the position of Associate Justice should draw the best and the brightest. The candidate should also command the respect of members of the Bar and the parties who will appear before the Court.

We believe that Judge McKenna meets those high standards: She possesses a rare combination of qualities and talents that include extremely high intelligence, thoughtful analysis, deep-rooted integrity, humility, civility and courtesy to the attorneys and parties who appear

Pacific Guardian Center, Makai Tower • 733 Bishop Street, Suite 1900 • Honolulu, HI 96813


491220 Telephone: (808)537-6100 • Fax: (808)537-5434 • Website: www.starnlaw.com

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chr.
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chr.
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
February 2, 2011
Page 2

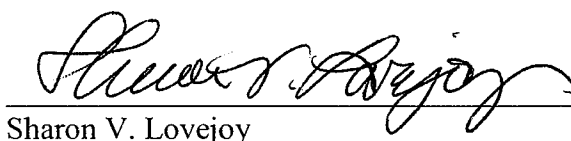
before her, commitment to her job and to the community, and a vested interest in seeing that justice is done in her courtroom.

Lastly, all of the undersigned strongly support her confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,


Terence J. O'Toole


Mark J. Bennett



Sharon V. Lovejoy

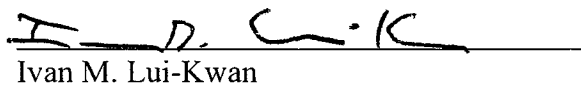


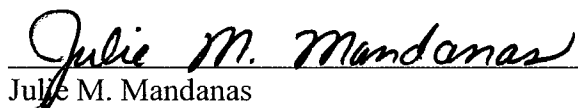
John A. Sopuch

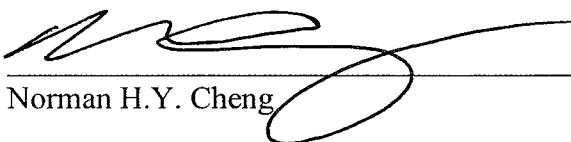


Lane C. Hornfeck

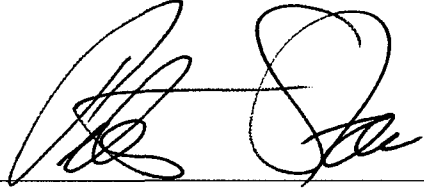

Judith A. Pavey


Ivan M. Lui-Kwan


Julie M. Mandanas


Norman H.Y. Cheng

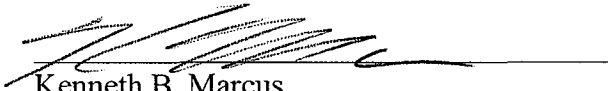
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chr.
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chr.
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members
February 2, 2011
Page 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line across the middle.

Peter Starn

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style that reads "Duane R. Fisher".

Duane R. Fisher

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several horizontal strokes and a horizontal line across the bottom.

Kenneth B. Marcus

Wil Yamamoto
1568 Laukahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96821
wyamamoto@starnlaw.com

February 2, 2011

Via Web

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimbabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Letter in support of confirming to the Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sabrina Shizue McKenna, for a term of ten years.

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I submit this letter in strong support of confirming Judge Sabrina S. McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I've known Judge McKenna for more than a decade now, since I was a law student at the University of Hawaii, School of Law.

During that time, I have had the good fortune to work with Judge McKenna as her judicial law clerk while she was a First Circuit Court Judge on the civil calendar. We worked closely together on numerous trials, settlement conferences, and motions, and I was able to witness first hand the integrity, hard work, legal knowledge, and most importantly -- fairness -- she brought to the Court. In addition, I was able to witness her mutual respect for practicing attorneys and her sincere compassion for their clients. Judges are often faced with having to make difficult and sometimes very emotional decisions -- and though I have seen some of those situations cause Judge McKenna to tear up in emotion, her ultimate decisions have always been level-headed, fair, and based on the law.

Several years later, as a practicing attorney with the law firm Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher, I have appeared on various matters before Judge McKenna -- some of which involved multi-party litigation with complex issues. While the decisions did not always go my way, I believe she was prepared, well-versed in the arguments of all counsel, grasped the complexity of the matters, and made fair decisions.

In sum, I believe she has the professional experience, integrity, diligence, legal knowledge, and ability to be an excellent Supreme Court Justice. She is a fair judge with a desire to serve the public and always seeking ways to improve the judicial system. Moreover, she has strong moral and family values, is a dedicated mother to her 3 beautiful children, and is an excellent role model for the community. I believe strongly that she will be able to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

Very truly yours,

Wil Yamamoto

Eric A. Seitz, Attorney At Law
A LAW CORPORATION

Eric A. Seitz
Lawrence I. Kawasaki
Della A. Belatti
Ronald N.W. Kim

February 2, 2011

RECEIVED FEB 02 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 So. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna

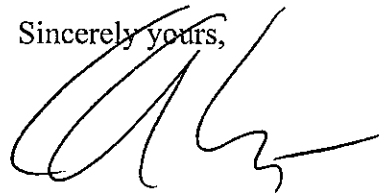
Dear Senators:

Over a period of many years I have appeared before Judge McKenna in the Honolulu District Court, the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and when she has been assigned to sit by designation on appellate court panels. I have observed Judge McKenna in civil matters, criminal matters, and Family Court in a wide variety of proceedings including contested hearings, trials, and settlement conferences. On all of those occasions Judge McKenna consistently has demonstrated her intellect, professionalism, preparation, patience, integrity, courtesy, and common sense in her efforts to resolve very difficult and challenging disputes. Although her departure from the Family Court will constitute an enormous loss, her ascendancy to sit as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court will be an invaluable contribution to the Judiciary and to the people of the State of Hawaii.

I urge your committee and the Senate to confirm Judge McKenna, and I will be happy to testify and to amplify my views and further assist you in considering this nomination.

With personal regards and best wishes for a productive session,

Sincerely yours,



Eric A. Seitz

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks

Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

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L. Richard Fried, Jr.
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Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom

February 2, 2011

RECEIVED FEB 02 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court
Hearing Date: February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1993.

I first met Judge McKenna while attending the William S. Richardson School of Law where she was a professor. She impressed me with her kind, yet firm demeanor and formidable legal insight. After I entered private practice and she was appointed to the First Circuit Court, I have appeared before and handled many cases presided over by Judge McKenna, and my initial impressions of her character and abilities have only strengthened.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her character is of the highest level. She is possessed of an ideal judicial temperament, treats litigants and attorneys with respect, and has the courage and conviction to fulfill her duties as a Judge and Justice. I support her confirmation without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for the confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,



Geoffrey K.S. Komeya

GKSK:dct

CASE LOMBARDI & PETTIT

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Frederick W. Rohlfling III

Bruce C. Bigelow (1946-2001)

† A Law Corporation

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senhee@capitol.hawaii

RECEIVED FEB 02 2011

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Re: Nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as an Associate
Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii - Support**

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimbukuro, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Frederick W. Rohlfling III and I am Of Counsel at Case Lombardi & Pettit. It is my pleasure and honor to submit this letter in support of your confirming the Honorable Sabrina Shizue McKenna as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii. I have known Judge McKenna for over 25 years. I have seen her in the role of an advocate in private practice and I have appeared before her during the years in which she has served as a Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Judge McKenna is well qualified to be an Associate Justice of our Supreme Court. She has extensive legal experience in private practice and as a judge. She has integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament.

I am confident that Judge McKenna will serve the people of Hawaii well and with distinction. I respectfully urge you to confirm Judge McKenna as an Associate Justice.

Sincerely,



Frederick W. Rohlfling III

Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks

Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

Paul F. Cronin
L. Richard Fried, Jr.
Gerald Y. Sekiya
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February 1, 2011

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

RECEIVED FEB 02 2011

RE: Support for Confirmation of Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna as Associate Justice
of the Hawaii Supreme Court
Hearing Date: February 4, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m.

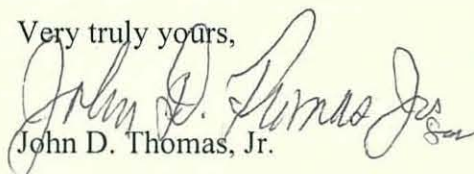
Dear Senator Hee and Senators of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Sabrina S. McKenna for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1974. For many years I have appeared before and have handled many cases presided over by Judge McKenna.

Judge McKenna is highly qualified, competent, and able. She has served the judiciary well and would be an excellent member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Her character, integrity, and judicial demeanor are exemplary.

I would appreciate your consideration of my support for confirmation of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Judge McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,


John D. Thomas, Jr.

JDT:dct



Law Offices of Michael Jay Green, Attorney at Law

841 Bishop Street, Suite 2201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel 808.521.3336
Fax 808.566.0347

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 1, 2011

HAND-DELIVERED

Committee on Judiciary And Labor

ATTN: The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

415 South Beretania Street, Room 407

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: The Honorable Sabrina McKenna

Dear Senator:

I am writing you in support of the above-referenced nominee.

I was unaware that Judge McKenna was on "the short list" of candidates for the Court. Over the years, I have tried a number of cases both jury and non-jury, before her Honor. I could not hold her on higher regard. She will bring a good balance to the Court.

Judge McKenna is extremely hard working, has outstanding legal knowledge, and has the ability to balance compassion with the need to ensure that justice is served. She is an outstanding choice.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL JAY GREEN

From: Connie M. Florez [hulagirlprod@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 3:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: Connie M. Florez
Subject: In support of GM521 - the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court

Subject: In support of GM521 - the confirmation of Sabrina Shizue McKenna as Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court

Committee: JDL
Room: 016
Hearing Date: 2/4/2011 10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members: Senators Les Ihara Jr., Mike Gabbard and Sam Slom

I support the nomination of Sabrina Shizue McKenna to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

Here are 10 reasons to support her confirmation. Please choose the ones that appeal to you most, and submit testimony in favor.

1. She is eminently qualified
2. She has written opinions on very complex issues
3. She has breadth of judicial experience beyond most judges (she has been a judge AND a civil litigator AND a professor)
4. She is a former professor at Richardson School of Law
5. She is a graduate of Richardson School of Law; if appointed, she will be the first Richardson alum to be appointed to the Supreme Court.
6. She is a woman (of the 5 justices, currently 1 is a woman), and we need more women on the bench.
7. She is fluent in both Japanese and English, because she was born and raised in Tokyo; this can bring further international recognition of the Hawaii Judiciary
8. She was raised by a single mother, because her father died when she was 9 or 10, so she understands what it is like to grow up with little money.
9. She is a lesbian, so she knows the challenges of being a minority.
10. She and her partner have three children, so she knows the challenges of being a mother.

Please recommend that the Senate confirm her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Connie M. Florez
Hula Girl Productions
P.O. Box 11884
Honolulu, HI 96828
Connie@hulagirlproductions.com
808.561.5749

Law Offices of
BRUCE B. KIM

February 2, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY

The Honorable Clayton Hee
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: The Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna

Dear Chair Hee and Vice-Chair Shimabukuro:

I write to express my strong support for the confirmation of Judge McKenna to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

It has been my privilege to have appeared before Judge McKenna many times during her service in the First Circuit Court. I can attest that she possesses the breadth of legal experience, intellectual capacity, judgment and judicial temperament required of an Associate Justice of our Supreme Court. I believe that Judge McKenna has shown great personal courage and integrity in resolving difficult matters throughout her service on the trial bench. I also believe that she consistently acts in a fair and evenhanded manner towards the parties and attorneys appearing before her. These and other personal qualities make her the right choice for this position.

I have on numerous occasions observed her people-skills and sensitivity in dealing with clients whose lives are often in turmoil as their cases work their way through the system. It is remarkable how many times my clients have told me how thankful they were to have had Judge McKenna as their judge. They were so impressed that she had taken the time to talk with them and make them feel as though someone finally cared enough to listen.

Because of her legal experience, intellect and people-skills, Judge McKenna is also the best settlement judge that we have in the First Circuit. I have witnessed her persistence in settling cases on more than one occasion where the emotions ran high going in to settlement conference and the prospect of settlement appeared slim. I believe that she will bring that same persistence to her work on the Supreme Court.

The Hon. Clayton Hee
The Hon. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
February 2, 2011
Page Two

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding Judge McKenna. If the Committee requires anything further, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully yours,



BRUCE B. KIM

BBK/mf



DAPHNE E. BARBEE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1188 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1909, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 533-0275

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SABRINA McKENNA
AS HAWAII SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

TO:

Chairman Clayton Hee
Senatorial District 23
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
phone: 808-586-7330
fax: 808-586-7334
senhee@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chairman Hee and
Senators of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is attorney, Daphne Barbee-Wooten, and I have been practicing law in the State of Hawaii for over 30 years. I am testifying in support of Judge Sabrina McKenna's appointment as Supreme Court Justice for the State of Hawaii.

Judge Sabrina McKenna is an excellent judge with compassion and a hard-work ethic. I have appeared before her in several of my cases. She is always fair and goes beyond her duty to ensure all litigants receive a fair opportunity. Some of my cases have settled through her expertise and ability to negotiate with all parties.

I had the pleasure of hearing Judge McKenna speak at the Dr. Donnis Thompson Memorial a few years ago. It struck me that Judge McKenna was there at the very beginning when the women on the University of Hawaii basketball team were treated less than equal than their male counterparts at UH. She was at the forefront of Title IX which the late Patsy Mink fought for and achieved. Judge McKenna overcame obstacles placed in her way and excelled, and her experiences and sense of justice bring much to the legal playing field. She has a brilliant legal mind plus endurance and strength which are qualities needed to ensure that justice prevails. This is an excellent choice by Governor Abercrombie and for the State of Hawaii. She is the only judge from the Hawaii Courts to receive an award from the Friends of Civil Rights in 2011. She deserved that award just as she deserves to become a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. Please confirm her nomination to the Supreme Court. Thank you.

Daphne E. Barbee-Wooten
Attorney at Law