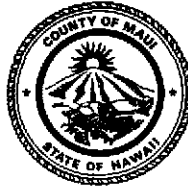


**GM667**

**Testimony**



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
150 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

CONTACT: RICHARD. K. MINATOYA  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Supervisor - Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
ON  
GM 667 - CONFIRMATION OF RHONDA I. L. LOO  
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT  
APRIL 13, 2011  
9:00 A.M.

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, **strongly supports** the confirmation of **RHONDA I. L. LOO** as Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

Prior to becoming a district court judge, Judge Loo was an experienced trial litigator as a deputy prosecuting attorney in our department. Those skills will serve her well as a circuit court judge. Moreover, Judge Loo has 13 years' experience as a judge in the district court, during which she also sat as a substitute judge in the circuit court on numerous occasions. Judge Loo is knowledgeable, intelligent, patient, and has the necessary fairness and integrity to serve as an excellent judge in the circuit court. Her appointment to the circuit court is a blessing for the Judiciary and the Second Circuit.

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, requests that this committee **RECOMMENDS CONFIRMATION** of Judge Loo's nomination to the full Senate. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayer



JOHN D. KIM  
Prosecuting Attorney  
ROBERT D. RIVERA  
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
150 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimbukuro, Vice Chair  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 667, Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second  
Circuit, State of Hawaii, RHONDA I.L. LOO

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro:

I write in favor of the confirmation of Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo to serve as the Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have known and worked with Judge Loo since 1987; she is intelligent, thoughtful, and works hard. She is a valuable asset to the community of Maui County.

Judge Loo possesses a keen mind and a broad knowledge of the law. She communicates very well with all parties that come before her in court, treats the parties with respect, and makes quick and consistent decisions. She would be an excellent circuit court judge.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. KIM  
Prosecuting Attorney



ALAN M. ARAKAWA

MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

## POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
FAX (808) 244-6411

April 6, 2011



GARY A. YABUTA  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee of Judicial and Labor  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Judge Rhonda Lai Loo; GM 667

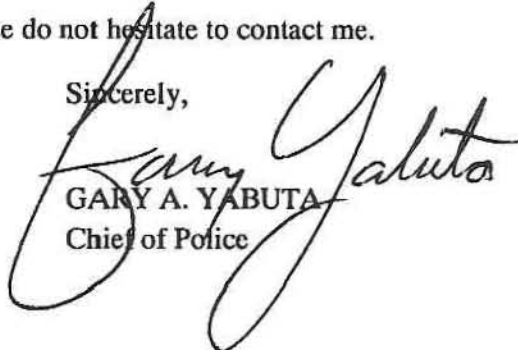
Dear Chair Hee:

My name is Gary Yabuta and I am the Chief of Police for the Maui Police Department. I am writing on behalf of District Court Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, who has been appointed Second Circuit Court Judge. Not only do I fully endorse her for this particular judicial appointment for the State of Hawaii, I must truly attempt to convey to you how special I feel about her character and professional qualities that qualifies her for this important position.

I have known Judge Lai Loo for the past 23 years, when she was a Deputy Prosecutor for the County of Maui. Her case preparation and presentation was remarkable, and I knew then that she would be of a greater impact for the Hawaii justice system. I immediately recognized that she was more than just a highly talented prosecutor: She was fearless, tenacious - yet compassionate, and lastly, but most importantly, to this peace officer with over 32 years experience - remarkably honest. There is a remarkable character of Judge Lai Loo that emanates well beyond her integrity and abilities as an attorney that eventually allowed me to bond with her as a true friend - that character being "trust." I further believe that she will be an impact in the future of the Hawaii judicial leadership. She deeply loves the community for which she was born and raised in, and her passion for all of Hawaii is immeasurable.

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

Sincerely,

  
GARY A. YABUTA  
Chief of Police

# CARLSMITH BALL LLP

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

ONE MAIN PLAZA, SUITE 400  
2200 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 1086  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-1086  
TELEPHONE 808.242.4535 FAX 808.244.4974  
WWW.CARLSMITH.COM

BML@CARLSMITH.COM

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senate, State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
Second Circuit Court, State of Hawaii  
Hearing: April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Hee:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I submit this letter to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor in support of the nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to serve as judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii

I have known Judge Loo since she was of grammar school age. I saw her many times playing tennis with her late father, Walter Lai, on the tennis courts in Wailuku. As I recall, her dad helped to improve her tennis skills and Judge Loo was very conscientious about following her father's instructions. Watching them practice on the tennis court was comfortable for anyone who would happen to be there at the time because Judge Loo did not display any bad temperament as many young people do at that age when making a bad shot. I didn't hear her shouting excitedly over a well-placed shot either, although she must have liked her father's praise when that happened. Even then, Judge Loo was not one who quickly showed her emotions in a public setting

I or anyone who knew Judge Loo at that time couldn't have known that she would grow up to be a lawyer and become one of our most respected judges in the Second Circuit. In discussing Judge Loo's qualifications with the lawyers in our Maui office of Carlsmith Ball who represent clients in Judge Loo's courtroom, they are united in their comments. They speak very highly of her judicial temperament and demeanor. Judge Loo is also praised for being a knowledgeable and careful jurist in rendering her decisions.

Additionally, Judge Loo's integrity and honesty have been above reproach. I have practiced over 40 years in the Second Circuit and based on information from our lawyers, I would assess Judge Loo's character as highly as any of the current, as well as the past, judges in

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
April 11, 2011  
Page 2


the Second Circuit. She is intellectually and judicially honest in that she interprets the law as she understands the law to be, not what she wants or wishes the law to be, a significant factor in instilling in the public a sense of consistency and reliability in the law.

Finally, Judge Loo's experience and knowledge gained during her fourteen years in district court will be a tremendous benefit to all attorneys who will be appearing before her on the circuit court level. There would not be a waiting period for Judge Loo to become familiar with the important and vital role that a judge plays in our community and the need for a judge to render a ruling on a timely basis.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor unanimously recommend to the full Senate the approval of Judge Loo's nomination. By doing so, the Senate will be assisting in accomplishing a historic milestone in having the first woman of any ethnic background to serve as a fulltime judge in the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I have included this fact more like a footnote, rather than as a reason for approving her nomination because Judge Loo's outstanding character and qualifications should be the basic reasons for the Senate's approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



B. Martin Luna

BML/mmi

4823-6910-0041.1.000903-00405

Cary K. Yamashita  
P.O. Box 2486  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

April 11, 2011

The Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Hon. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senate, State of Hawaii  
State Capitol

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

DATE: April 13, 2011  
LOCATION: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Dear Senators Hee, Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

My name is Cary Yamashita and I am writing in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, to the Second Circuit Court.

I am currently the Division Chief for the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works, County of Maui, and have been an engineer for both State and County governments since 1981.

I had the opportunity to serve as a juror on a case that Judge Loo presided over and was very impressed with the way she handled the courtroom. She had complete control over the proceedings and provided jurors thorough explanation of the judicial process. Judge Loo guided the jury through complicated issues and provided clear and concise direction through adept communication skills and intellect.

Based upon my personal knowledge of her character and abilities, there is no doubt that Judge Loo possesses all the traits necessary to serve the people in our State with honor, dignity and integrity. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

Sincerely,

  
Cary K. Yamashita

**From:** [ADVANCED ENGINE DYNAMICS](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [corynns@hotmail.com](mailto:corynns@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** GM 667 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:11:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM\\_667\\_testimony.jpg](#)

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To the Committee of Judiciary and Labor:

Please find attached testimony regarding GM 667 - In Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Hearing Date: April 13, 2011

Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

Thank you for your time.

Corynn Sakamura



Sherman Anthony Baisa  
18 Kapiki Place  
Kula, Hawaii 96790  
(808) 357-3885

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee,

Re: Reference GM667  
Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

My name is Sherman Anthony Baisa, I come from a Hawaiian, Portugese & Filipino background and also born and raised on the island of Maui. I would like to share with you something that I think is of great importance to you. I was a defendant in Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's Courtroom for drinking and driving. It was my 1<sup>st</sup> offense and my alcohol was .089. When I was in her court room she sentenced me to go to meetings and my license was revoked for 90 days, my CDL was also taken away from me. That was a very harsh sentence but if it wasn't for her I would not be where I am today. Going before her made me look at my life and forced me to make some major changes. She told me that she never wanted me to return to her courtroom again. I haven't returned to her courtroom, I have been alcohol free since my arrest, I am now married to someone that cares about me and so I believe that her decision at that time was a fair one and it made an impact in my decision to stop drinking and to turn my life around. So there is many Hawaiian's out there that are looking out for other Hawaiians.

Mahalo,

Sherman A. Baisa

Beverly Uhr  
PO Box 109  
Ninole, HI 96773  
April 10, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to support the nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for (GM667) Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit Court.

I met Rhonda over 18 years ago as a participant of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program in Australia. We traveled throughout New South Wales as Rotary Club ambassadors for three weeks. In that time I had personal experience of Rhonda's good nature, calm demeanor and level headedness – traits needed when traveling with a group of six people from different areas of Hawaii that were "thrown" together.

Rhonda and I have also journeyed to New Zealand, Indonesia, and the mainland as independent travelers. I have always found her to be a wonderful traveling companion who is very open-minded and willing to try new things. She displayed a passionate interest in diverse cultures and people.

I have known Rhonda to be honest and fair on a personal level and she has always been willing to help me as a friend. I feel that Rhonda has the necessary personal attributes to provide fair and impartial judgments and ask that she be considered favorably for the Circuit Court position.

Sincerely,

Beverly Uhr

April 11, 2011

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

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit my endorsement for your consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Rhonda Loo.

It has been my good fortune to accompany Judge Rhonda Loo to Hana, Molokai and Lanai District Court on 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court matters. She is in my opinion, fair, honest, intelligent and of possessing a good sense of humor. She radiates integrity, virtue, good morales, sensitivity and confidence. She will be greatly missed on the outer island district court rotations.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Ms. Rhonda Loo.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

Best Regards,

Leedo K. Anderson, Deputy Sheriff II  
PSD/State of Hawaii/Sheriff Division/Maui Section  
Maui, Molokai & Lanai

**From:** [Jeanne L. Berrigan](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmatin of Judge Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:03:17 AM

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Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Reference: Confirmation of The Honorable Rhonda Lai Loo

I met Judge Loo approximately 20 years ago. I am a civilian employee with the Maui Police Department and met Rhonda through her participation in the Hawaii Law Enforcement Canoe Racing Association during the time she was with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney here on Maui. I have also seen Judge Loo in a professional capacity when she was chosen to be the keynote speaker at a police recruit graduation.

Judge Loo is one of the most intelligent, honest, good-humored individuals I have ever met. She is impartial, fair and compassionate. I believe the Second Circuit Court would be enhanced by her appointment.

I urge you to confirm the appointment of Judge Rhonda Lai Loo to the Second Circuit.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write on her behalf.

Jeanne L. Berrigan  
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii

**From:** [Terence Herndon](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:16:50 AM

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I am writing this letter in support of Judge Rhonda Loo. As a deputy prosecutor, I have regularly appeared in her courtroom for District Court criminal matters, as well as for Circuit Court criminal matters (when Judge Loo had to sit in as a substitute Circuit Court judge).

I have found Judge Loo to be a very fair and knowledgeable judge. Furthermore, she is swift in her rulings and is always in control of her courtroom. Despite the many demands of her time, she is always courteous to attorneys and the community alike. Her patience towards the even most unruly and disruptive persons in her courtroom is remarkable. She has a great temperament and her credentials and experience place her at the top of the qualified candidates for Circuit Court judge.

I fully support Judge Loo's nomination as a Circuit Court judge. I am confident the vast majority of the Maui legal community also joins in my support.

Thank you,

Terence Y. Herndon  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
150 S. High Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
Tel.: (808) 270-7777  
Fax: (808) 270-8001

**From:** [Ilima Murata](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Rhonda I.L. Loo, Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:34:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [Loo~ltr to Hee~4-11-11.doc](#)

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Please find for your consideration, my letter regarding the Confirmation of Rhonda I.L. Loo as Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit.

Regards,

Ruth Murata

April 11, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
GM 667- confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
Hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Mr. Hee/Ms. Shimabukuro:

With respect I humbly request that serious consideration be given to the appointment of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the position of Second Circuit Court Judge.

I have worked with Judge Loo for over fifteen (15) years. Working with Judge Loo on various projects ranging from implementing the Judiciary's information management system to addressing issues regarding probation, I have always found her to be of the upmost character. Easy to work with, compassionate about her job and position, willing to make adjustments to operations to ensure the flow of work, considerate of others, and concerned on how to service the public in the most expedient and efficient manner possible are some of the reasons why she should be considered for the position.

Judge Loo's extensive knowledge of the law regarding the very complex world of District Court has prepared her for dealing with the issues and situations she will face in the Circuit Court.

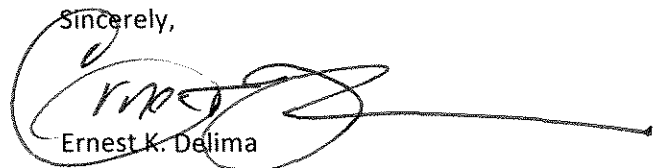
Judge Loo has always shown reason and caring for the people who are serviced by the Judiciary as well as those who work for the Judiciary.

I humbly ask that you please consider Judge Loo for the position of Second Circuit Court Judge.

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Should you have any questions about this letter of support for Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, please feel free to contact me at [Ernest.K.Delima@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Ernest.K.Delima@courts.state.hi.us), or 808-442-3810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest K. Delima', is written over a circular stamp. A long horizontal line extends from the right side of the signature.

Ernest K. Delima  
Adult Client Services  
Administrator

**From:** [Darin Oda](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 - Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:45:41 AM

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April 11, 2011

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Committee Chair,

Re: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
GM 667 – Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to  
the Second Circuit Court  
April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo. I have known Judge Loo for a little over a year, and have appeared before her on several occasions. She is a stellar example of efficiency and effectiveness.

Judge Loo's integrity cannot be questioned. All of her decisions have a solid basis in legal jurisprudence. More importantly, she is diligent in following up with all issues, including "housekeeping" matters. As the Administrative Judge, Judge Loo ensured that the district courts ran smoothly including start times and correcting calendaring errors.

Judge Loo exhibits excellent legal knowledge and ability. As a former practicing attorney, she has a practical understanding of law. She is able to make quick and accurate rulings because of her extensive understanding of statutes and case law. As a result, she is able to efficiently handle a large case load, while still protecting the rights of the parties.

In my experience practicing before Judge Loo, she maintains her composure at all times. If there is an issue with an unruly party, she is patient and explains the situation. Although the party may not agree with the outcome, they cannot deny that she analyzed the issue and was patient in explaining her reasoning.

Although I am not privy to Judge Loo's personal finances, I have no reason to believe she has any financial responsibility issues. Outside of court I have observed Judge Loo participating in and helping with the Maui Bar Association Golf Tournament. Observing Judge Loo in court and out of court, she appears to be in excellent health. I have never heard of an instance where she was unable to perform her job because of health issues.

Without reservation I recommend Judge Rhonda Loo for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 808-282-1632.

Sincerely,

/s/ Darin K. Oda



**From:** [Jennifer Oana](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 - in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:13:40 PM

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Dear Senator Clayton Hee and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I first met Judge Loo when I appeared before her when I was at the public defender's office and have appeared before her also while in private practice on both the criminal and civil calendars. Judge Loo has the appropriate judicial temperament. She is patient and respectful of all parties, yet has full command of her courtroom. She listens to the testimony and arguments of each side and carefully makes her rulings.

Judge Loo also has been helping the Maui bar by regularly holding bench bar conferences where she invites court-related agencies to her courtroom to discuss hot topics with the Maui attorneys. It was at one of these bench bar conferences where I was able to speak face to face with a person from the Dept. of Public Safety about a jail wrongfully holding my client. I had spoken to some of these people on the telephone earlier, with no luck in convincing them that the documents they had showed that my client was supposed to be released. Because of Judge Loo's bench bar conference I was able to bring the situation to the attention of the right people and get my client out of jail that day.

I have also been fortunate to work with Judge Loo on various Maui County Bar Association projects. Last year, I was the vice president of the MCBA and the chair of the annual scholarship golf tournament. Judge Loo was one of a very few people who really helped me. I had a board of about 10 members and a membership of about 250 members and it was Judge Loo who stuck it out with me getting prizes, players, and organizing everything from the registration desk to the awards presentation. Judge Loo also has been a presenter at an MCBA CLE seminar.

I feel it is in the natural course for Judge Loo to be in a circuit court position. Judge Loo is intelligent, experienced, and committed to Maui and the people of Maui.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Oana

**From:** [ELITHE PLADERA](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 - In support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:37:31 PM

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

FROM : Lieutenant Jeraul S. Pladera, Maui Police Department, CID Wailuku

Honorable Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro,

I would like to take this opportunity to testify in support of gubernatorial nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I have known Judge Loo for almost 18 years, from the days when she was with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and in my first days with the Maui Police Department. I have known her to be a hardworking, knowledgeable, and a reasonable litigator. As a judge she is tough but fair. I know she will be willing to listen to both sides of an issue and make the right decision to uphold the letter of the law.

Finally, again I would like to urge your committee to pass Judge Loo's nomination for the Second Circuit Court.

Sincerely,  
Lieutenant Jeraul S. Pladera  
Maui Police Department  
Property Lieutenant, CID Wailuku  
55 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
808 244-6441 WP

**From:** [jcatwada@aol.com](mailto:jcatwada@aol.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 - in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:00:39 AM

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

I am Joyce Wada, 7th grade Language Arts teacher at Lahaina Intermediate School.

Judge Loo visited my students in late November 2010 to explain the First Amendment. We were reading about the Snyder vs Phelps case which was at the Supreme Court. Before Judge Loo visited, the students concluded that the Snyders should win based on the emotional distress felt by the family. Then Judge Loo visited and clarified our Free Speech rights. She did a thorough job explaining our laws, and was able to help my students comprehend how laws are interpreted. After her visit, many of my students changed their opinions and decided that the Phelps should win the case. The students anxiously waited for the Supreme Court's decision, and when it finally was announced, they were pleased that their decision was like that of the Supreme Court judges.

Judge Loo was gracious to make time during her busy schedule to visit the students. She values our adolescents and recognizes the role she plays in shaping their lives to be conscientious citizens.

Thank you.  
Joyce Wada  
Lahaina Intermediate School  
871 Lahainaluna Road  
Lahaina HI 96761

**From:** [RECEIVSGT1](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 - Testimony for support/Rhonda Lai Loo/Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:08:31 AM

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**TO :** Judiciary Committee; Senators Clayton Hee and Maile Shimabukuro

**FROM :** Gordon E. Sagun Jr.

**SUBJECT :** GM 667 – Testimony for support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee

Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Dear Judiciary committee members,

I 'am submitting a written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

Rhonda Lai Loo is a very capable, experienced and committed Judge. She has the integrity and ability to serve all of the people of Maui County. I strongly believe that with her dedication, experience and fairness, Rhonda will be an extremely valuable asset to the Second Circuit. I offer my full support and humbly ask that you confirm Rhonda Lai Loo to the position.

Gordon E. Sagun Jr.

**From:** [Tracy Jones](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 2:52:22 PM

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April 11, 2011

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

Re: GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court, April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor-

Please consider this letter of reference in support of the nomination of The Honorable Rhonda I. L. Loo as Circuit Court Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit.

By way of introduction, I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1993 (#5970) and I have practiced since 1999. I work as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Maui County, and I have previously worked as a Deputy Attorney General for the State.

Over the years, I have become very familiar with Judge Loo through the court. I met Judge Loo in 1999, and we have a professional relationship. From 1999 to 2005 I had frequent appearances in her court, and from 2007 to present, we have had weekly or monthly contact.

Judge Loo is an excellent facilitator of the judicial process. Her thorough knowledge of the law, sharp analytical mind and independent judgment are some of her noteworthy strengths. She is committed to improving the judiciary and has administrative and leadership experience within the judiciary. Her successful service as a District Court Judge is surely indicative of her suitability as a Circuit Court Judge. I have a high regard for her professional talent, integrity, and her moral courage.

Judge Loo's temperament complements her position on the bench. She consistently displays a can-do attitude. I have repeatedly seen her move a calendar along, while ensuring that all the parties are heard and their cases considered. Her positive and even disposition is a compelling aspect of her success in the court, as is her outstanding respect of those who work in and come to her court. I have worked with Judge Loo on many after-hours/on-call matters, and she is always appropriate.

Judge Loo's long-standing reputation in the community for honesty and trustworthiness is excellent. Her character is strong and her perseverance for justice speaks to her integrity. She is always prepared, has predictably good judgment and is diligent in her pursuit justice. She is genuine of heart, smart, witty and well-spoken. She has proven her citizenship as evidenced by her career path and by fostering programs within the judiciary. Judge Loo has earned great respect from the community.

Judge Loo demonstrates financial responsibility in her personal and professional life. She and her husband own properties, pay the mortgages and they pay their bills. I believe that Judge Loo files financial disclosure statements as a requirement of her appointment at the Judiciary. I expect that she also demonstrates financial responsibility in her role as Administrative Judge of the District Court. I believe her to be in excellent health, as she is a high energy person who keeps an active lifestyle. When the local pool was open for the lunch hour, I would often see her walking back from the pool to the courthouse.

Judge Loo is an outstanding candidate who offers a unique skill set to the position: she has time-proven professional legal, judicial and court administrative experience that speak to her ability to succeed in the Circuit Court as a judge. I believe that the Judiciary and the community will be well served if Judge Loo is appointed to the Circuit Court bench.

Sincerely,

Tracy A. Jones

2865 Ualani Place  
Pukalani, Hawaii 96768  
(808) 385-0170

**From:** [lee ann shigezawa](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 9:27:33 PM

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senator Hee and the members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I'm writing to support the nomination of Judge Rhonda Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I was a district court judge on Maui until my retirement at the end of the year 2000 and came to know Judge Loo first as a deputy prosecuting attorney and later as a fellow district court judge and a friend. I found her to always be conscientious, able, and hard-working. She is calm, poised, level-headed, and unfailingly fair. During the time I was the administrative judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit and to this day, I have never heard any criticism or unfavorable comment about her as a judge or as a person.

Based upon this knowledge, I highly recommend her nomination to you and the members of your committee.

Sincerely,  
Yoshio Shigezawa

**From:** [Corynn Sakamura](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667 Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:16:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM 667 testimony.jpg](#)

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To Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee of Judiciary and Labor:

Please find attached testimony regarding GM 667 - In Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Hearing Date: April 13, 2011  
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

Thank you for your time.

Corynn T. Sakamura



**From:** [Davlynn L. Racadio](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 667-Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
Hearing: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 12:47:01 PM

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Dear Honorable Chairman Clayton Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am a police radio dispatch supervisor. I have had the pleasure to know Judge Lai Loo from the time that she worked in the prosecutor's office but never had the chance to meet her until my son was about to have brain surgery and wanted to be married. At the time, my son was a police officer assigned to Wailuku patrol. The doctors predicted that he might not make it through. Judge Lai Loo performed a very heartwarming and tearful ceremony, since we were not sure what the outcome would be. Her ethics, honesty and love radiated throughout the ceremony. I will always remember her as the glue that held this wedding together. My son is now a traffic officer and doing a job that he loves. He and his wife has a four year old daughter and another one expected in July.

Professionally, I describe her as being gracious. She is courteous and firm. Her commitment to justice is exemplary. She enlightens those that need guidance and shares her views to those who wish to learn more. She is sincere and genuine. She has distinguished herself in her courtroom and is a born administrator of the law.

I have described a person that is selfless and giving, in more ways than one. I am respectfully requesting your consideration to confirm Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Davlynn L. Racadio  
Communications Supervisor  
Maui Police Department  
244-6338

**From:** [Chad K. Viela](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Wendell H. Loo](#)  
**Subject:** GM667  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:38:32 AM

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**TO :** CLAYTON HEE, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
MAILE S. L. SHIMABIKURO., VICE CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND  
LABOR

**FROM :** CHAD VIELA, LIEUTENANT, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, MAUI POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

**SUBJECT :** GM 667-IN SUPPORT OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RHONDA LAI LOO

I am in support of confirmation of Honorable Judge Rhonda Lai Loo of the Second Circuit Court. I have 27 years of professional interaction with Judge Loo since she was a prosecutor with the County of Maui. Her dedication and energy for the any task that has been put in front her is to a degree that enabled her to serve as a judge in our community. Her work ethic and experience gained from her early years and judgeship has proven her as a incredible asset to the judiciary system in our state. I have the utmost respect for her professional attitude and unbiased disposition. She is truly one of the most talented and distinguished judiciary cornerstones of our community with the likes of Joseph Cardoza, Richard Bissen and Boyd Mossman. Our state is very fortunate to have a competent and well-respected individual in her capacity as Honorable Judge for the second Circuit Court.

Thank you for your time efforts.

**From:** [Lori.K.Jaber@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Lori.K.Jaber@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:56:21 PM

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Labor  
GM667 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda I. L. Loo of the Second Circuit  
Court Hearing date 4/13/11 @ 9:00 a.m.

Dear Sir,

As a Bailiff for the Second Circuit District Court, I have had the pleasure of working with Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo for the past four years and would highly recommend her appointment as Judge to the Second Circuit Court.

Judge Loo has shown great leadership in her role as an Administrative Judge and has been professional, resourceful and fair to her staff and the public while serving on the bench.

Thank you for consideration,

Lori Jaber  
Bailiff, Wailuku District Court

**From:** [Laurie.S.Vincent@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Laurie.S.Vincent@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:00:16 AM

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Labor  
GM667 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda I. L. Loo of the Second Circuit Court  
Hearing Date 4/13/11 at 9:00 am

Please consider my high recommendation of Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo as a Circuit Court Judge. I am a Bailiff in the District Court in Wailuku, and have worked with Judge Loo for 10 years, and have seen first hand how hard she works, and how capable she is in her Judicial duties. I truly enjoy working with her, because she is also an incredibly pleasant person to be around. I feel that she will be a tremendous asset to the Circuit Court, but will be sad to see her leave us in District Court as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laurie sue Vincent  
Wailuku District Court Bailiff



*Maui Hotel & Lodging*  
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of  
**Carol Reimann**  
Executive Director  
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association  
on  
**GM667**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit,  
State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO**  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2010, 9:00am**  
**Room 016**

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry. The visitor industry is the largest employer of residents in Maui County – 40% of all residents are directly employed by the industry. The industry also represents 80% of Maui County’s budget (per the Mayor’s 2010 State of the County’s Address) – we are the “economic engine.”

Since the visitor industry provides meaningful jobs and significant income to Maui County, we are vested in supporting a fair and just judicial system in Hawaii. We **support** the confirmation of the Honorable Rhonda Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Judge Loo has a fine reputation on Maui as fair and impartial in upholding the law. She is an experienced, hardworking and committed judge with impeccable integrity and an adept ability to serve the people of Hawaii.

We urge your consideration for the appointment of the Honorable Rhonda Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [Jerome Acadimia](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 2:41:28 PM

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**Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**

**To Whom it May Concern:**

**I am writing to you in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Judge Loo and her family for many years. Her sister and I were classmates at Baldwin High School and later at the University of Hawaii. Rhonda as I would refer to her has always been highly respected not only for her many talents, but because she is gifted and someone of high moral value. She has always struck me as someone who is fair and has always kept an open mind. In my many years I have never known any one as humble and possesses the ability to always be fair and open minded when dealing with both personal and issues as a judge. Her strong work ethic and family values have always guided her in her decisions and she shows great compassion for making clear concise decisions. Her ability to always be able to recognize the human element in all of her cases has served her well and enables her to to apply the law in a fair and wise manor. I know that she would bring to the court her honesty, strength and compassion and would be a great asset to not only to her colleagues, but to the community as well. She has always risen to challenges and possesses the even temperament that this job would require. She is not rash, but works carefully and and always acts with decorum.**

**Having known her for many years I know that she has an exceptional educational background and was also a gifted athlete. I bring this up because in sports one needs to be gracious in defeat and humble in victory and Rhonda has always possessed these qualities. She attended Lihikai Elementary School and Baldwin High School and later acquired her Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and later graduated from the Richard School of Law a the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She was an outstanding prosecutor for over 10 years and more recently been a District Court Judge beginning in 1997. Her legal knowledge and her high standards of accomplishments are second to none. I support the nomination of Judge Loo wholeheartedly and ask the committee to confirm her for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jerome Acadimia  
1717 Ala Wai Blvd. #1407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815**

**From:** [June Davis](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 4:41:37 PM

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**Attention: Judiciary Committee**  
**Clayton Hee, chair**

My name is June Davis & I am writing in support of Rhonda Loo for appointment as a Circuit Court Judge of the 2nd Circuit. I worked for 17 years in the Family Court of the 2nd Circuit, from 1988 to 2005, as a Bailiff; and within those dates, I had many occasions to witness Rhona Loo in action, 1st as an attorney, then as a Prosecutor, and finally as a Judge for the District Court of the 2nd Circuit.

In every instance I found her to be quite knowledgeable and very sincere in her appearances as a lawyer and then as an adjudicator. She was always prompt with whatever paperwork had to be filed and very conscientious about filing dates. She was also very courteous to us, the judiciary employees, with whom she came into contact on a daily basis.

As a District Court Judge, she was very thorough in her questioning of defendants (as well as Plaintiffs in Civil Matters) and never rude or insincere. As for the staff, she was very accommodating and most kind in further explaining certain aspects of any particular procedure. We gained a lot of knowledge about certain terms, as in the difference in degrees of some criminal charges. She was always kind in explaining to those who wanted to know, the reasons for some of her decisions. These things helped in our servicing of the public.

I believe she will become an asset in the Circuit Court level.

Mahalo for your time.

June Davis  
1610 Wili Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
808-463-0134

**From:** [Mark Miyahira](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667, Gubernatorial Nominee, RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:16:35 AM

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RE: GM667, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO,

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf room 016

Dear Chair Hee and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Honorable Judge Rhonda Lai Loo, who has been nominated to fill a vacancy on the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I believe that Judge Loo is a highly qualified individual and that she would make an excellent addition to the Circuit Court.

I have known Judge Loo since 1992 when I joined the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui, where I served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for 11 years. At the time that I joined the office, Judge Loo was a deputy prosecuting attorney assigned to the Circuit Court division.

In my first years as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Judge Loo was one of my mentors and helped guide me through my first jury trial as the lead attorney. After Judge Loo was appointed to the District Court of the Second Circuit, I often appeared in front of her.

I believe that Judge Loo would make an excellent Circuit Court Judge. As a prosecutor, Judge Loo demonstrated professionalism and a strong work ethic. She was well liked and respected at the Maui Prosecutor's office and was clearly missed when she became a District Court Judge. As a judge, she demonstrated a clear sense of fairness and professionalism. She expected the attorneys appearing in her courtroom to be prepared and as such, she made all of us into better attorneys.

On a more personal note, Judge Loo was also always very personable, good hearted, and humble. She always demonstrated a deep love for and commitment to the community and I am happy that she will be given an opportunity to continue to serve that community.

If you have any questions, I may be contacted at 768-6504.

Yours truly,

Mark K. Miyahira



Corynn T. Sakamura  
P.O. Box 2206  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

RE: GM 667 - In Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani  
Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

I am Corynn T. Sakamura, Administrative Assistant with the County of Maui, Department  
of Fire & Public Safety.

I am in support of the confirmation of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second  
Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have had the honor of knowing Judge Loo for the past three years. Of particular note,  
we went through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Hunter Education  
Program together in 2009. We signed up for the program so we could hunt with our significant  
others (her husband and my boyfriend). Although we went through the program to learn about  
gun safety and hunting in the State of Hawaii, she found special interest in the laws applicable to  
the DLNR's Division of Wildlife and Forestry programs. This interest proved to be beneficial for  
her, as she scored very high on her hunter safety exam. We have gone on several hunting trips  
since our "graduation" from the program, and although we do not always come back with game,  
we appreciate the time spent together.

In my experiences with Judge Loo, she has exemplified to me that she is a well-rounded  
and very open-minded individual, who treats everyone with dignity and respect. Her appetite for  
learning and doing the right thing has shown to me that she is humble and respectable. I am so  
proud that I can call her my friend.

Judge Loo has the integrity and initiative to serve the people in the State of Hawaii well.  
Therefore, I am urging the Committee to confirm Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo as Circuit Court  
Judge of the Second Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Corynn T. Sakamura

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:56 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Judge Rhonda Loo's nomination to 2nd circuit court

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**From:** Sen. Roz Baker  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:51 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Judge Rhonda Loo's nomination to 2nd circuit court

Aloha Clayton,

I just wanted to share my strong support for Rhonda's confirmation. Her district courtroom has been in Lahaina for a number of years and I've gotten to know her. I've worked with her on reintegration programs and with victims of domestic violence. I've always found her to be fair. We were a part of a community DV program that included several women inmates that she had sentenced. They really respected her and she had gone out of her way to help them heal. I feel certain that she will be a real asset on the 2nd circuit bench. Your favorable recommendation for her confirmation will be greatly appreciated.

Best, Roz

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:47 PM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Judge Rhonda Iwalani Loo, Reference GM667,

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**From:** agnes terao-guiala [<mailto:naominani@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Fw: Judge Rhonda Iwalani Loo, Reference GM667,

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write to you to voice my support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court appointment.

I have known Rhonda for over twenty-five years as a friend. She is a person of integrity and honesty in her dealings with family, friends, colleagues, and those who find themselves in her courtroom.

Rhonda is open-minded, fair, and not quick to draw conclusions about questions and concerns that come to her attention. Instead, she will ask questions and listen carefully to statements and answers before she makes any decisions concerning family, friends or judiciary matters.

As a judge, she is well-respected for her even temper, humility, compassion and intellect.

On a personal level, Rhonda keeps her commitments and makes an effort to attend community meetings, guest speaker engagements, and family/friend functions as her time permits. At these functions, she behaves with friendliness, but is well-aware of the importance of maintaining her dignity and professionalism given her position with the court system. A talented hula dancer with a good sense of humor, Rhonda carries herself with self-confidence and humility and as a guest speaker, has inspired many of my high school students to attend college and pursue advanced degrees.

I know that Rhonda Loo will bring honesty, intellect and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court.

Therefore, I ask the committee to wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-281-5308.

Sincerely yours,  
Agnes Terao-Guiala, retired DOE high school English teacher  
Maui Adult School Teacher

PATRICK KANOHLANI WONG  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
2035 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
E-MAIL: [patkwong@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:patkwong@hawaiiintel.net)

Telephone: (808) 244-2233

Facsimile: (808) 242-8525

April 12, 2011

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM667  
Confirmation of Judge Rhonda Loo

Dear Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am currently the Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. I write on my personal letterhead and provide this in my personal capacity.

I write in support of the confirmation of Judge Rhonda Loo for the Circuit Court position in the Second Circuit. I strongly believe Judge Loo has the judicial integrity, temperament, legal knowledge, and ability to fulfill the obligations and demands of the position. I have known Judge Loo for many years on both a professional and personal basis.

On a professional level, I have appeared before Judge Loo and have found that she has the judicial capacity to deal with the vast array of issues at the Circuit Court level. She has excellent control of the courtroom and exhibits great professional demeanor from the bench. Judge Loo also has the physical and health controls in place as an avid golfer. She will golf at least once a week.

I have no information that would lead me to believe that she is in financial distress or has the inability to manage her finances. I support her confirmation for this position and hope that it can be accomplished sooner than later.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call me.

Very truly yours,

PATRICK KANOHLANI WONG

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Law Office of  
**PAUL L. HORIKAWA**  
61 North Church Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Telephone No. (808) 244-4671 Facsimile No. (808) 249-0124

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April 11, 2011

Via email

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Judicial and Labor Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: ***Confirmation of Rhonda Loo;***  
***GM 667***

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is sent to you to support the confirmation of Rhonda Loo as Judge for the Second Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.


I have known Rhonda Loo for more than twenty-five (25) years. I met Rhonda Loo through her parents. I also knew Rhonda when he was appointed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui.

I also appeared before Judge Loo on numerous occasions. During this time, I found Judge Loo to be very intelligent person with an excellent work ethic. It is apparent that she is well qualified to serve as a Judge and that she has the professional experience and temperament to be an excellent Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

I recommend without hesitation that he be confirmed as the Judge for the Second Circuit Court for the State of Hawaii.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning the aforementioned.

Very truly yours,

  
PAUL L. HORIKAWA

**CAHILL & O'NEILL**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Peter T. Cahill**  
Licensed in HI, NJ & NY2233 Vineyard Street, Suite D  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
Telephone: (808) 244-6929 Fax: (808) 244-9643  
E Mail: ptcvineyard@hawaii.rr.com**John M. O'Neill**  
Licensed in HI & MA

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Rhonda I. L. Loo

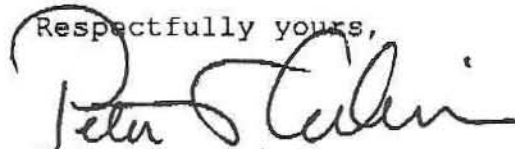
Dear Senator Hee:

I write in support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Rhonda I. L. Loo as a judge to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii. I had the privilege of appearing before Judge Loo just one week ago. It had been many years since I last appeared before her in Court

Judge Loo had an in depth knowledge of the matter before her. She gave the parties including a pro se plaintiff ample opportunity to present their positions. She treated all with great respect. She also explained the bases for her ruling.

I respectfully request that your committee confirm Judge Loo's nomination as a Circuit Court Judge. The people of the Second Circuit shall be well served by her appointment.

Respectfully yours,

  
Peter T. Cahill

PTC:jbc

Via fax 808-586-7334

Judicial Nomination\110411 Ltr Senator Hee

**KRUEGER • WONG**  
TRIAL LAWYERS

JAMES KRUEGER\*\*  
TA LAW CORPORATION  
\*LICENSED IN HI & CO  
E-MAIL: mauiw@maulaw.net

CYNTHIA KANDROLANI WONG  
E-MAIL: ckw@maulaw.net

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER  
TO OUR FILE NUMBER

2065 MAIN STREET/P. O. BOX 1460  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

AREA CODE 808  
MAUI 244-7444  
FAX 244-4177

HONOLULU DIRECT 536-7474

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maulaw@maui.net

April 11, 2011

CLAYTON HEE  
Chairman, Judiciary & Labor Committee  
HAWAII STATE SENATE  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**VIA FACSIMILE**  
**(586-7334)**

Re: **NOMINATION OF HONORABLE RHONDA I. LOO**

Dear Senator Hee:

I write in support of the Honorable Rhonda I. Loo for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit judicial nomination.

I have had the privilege of appearing before Judge Loo on a number of matters, both criminal and civil. Although I did not regularly practice in District Court, I co-tried, with James Krueger, Esq., a significant wrongful death case in Circuit Court in 1998 in which Judge Loo was our judge in a bench trial. Judge Loo demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the law and rules of evidence. She was always well prepared and clearly had reviewed the legal briefs of the parties and read the applicable statutes and case law. At the end of the trial, Judge Loo issued her findings of

KRUEGER • WONG, TRIAL LAWYERS

CLAYTON HEE  
Chairman, Judiciary & Labor Committee  
April 11, 2011  
Page 2

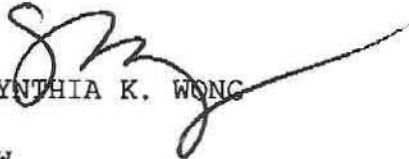
fact and conclusions of law timely, and there were no  
appealable issues.

Judge Loo maintained good judicial temperament  
throughout the pretrial, trial, and post-trial proceedings.  
She handled the parties and counsel fairly and with dignity  
and respect. I have no doubt, based on my experience with  
her in this trial, that she has the ability to fulfill the  
responsibilities and duties of this position.

I have also had the pleasure to attend Maui County Bar  
functions in which Judge Loo has been a speaker. Her  
temperament, humility, and kindness to people outside of  
the courtroom is as strong as it is inside the courtroom.

I fully support Judge Loo for the nomination. Thank  
you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

  
CYNTHIA K. WONG

CKW:kkw

S:\CKW\JUDGELOO



---

**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:37 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

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**From:** [anegrini@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:anegrini@hawaii.rr.com) [[anegrini@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:anegrini@hawaii.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 3:37 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known her for over ten years and I feel she is well qualified and deserving of this position. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Allen Negrini

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:37 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Ref GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Appointee  
**Attachments:** grad1.gif; image2.gif  
  
**Importance:** High

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From: kk [kkwock2@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 2:48 PM  
To: Sen. Clayton Hee  
Subject: Fw: Ref GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Appointee

-----Original Message-----

From: kk<<mailto:kkwock2@gmail.com>>  
Date: 4/10/2011 2:46:20 PM  
To: undisclosed-recipients  
Subject: Ref GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Appointee

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She is my sister-in-law's sister and know her family in general. I believe that she has the ability and temperament to be a fair and impartial judge to anyone entering her courtroom. She will serve the County of Maui well as she has done in the past. We need judges who care and are willing to uphold the federal, state and local laws. I believe she possesses these qualities. I support her nomination and confirmation as a Second Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Kwock  
[cid:DA434CDC-B2D4-4BBA-A13B-3FF721BAE50D]

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:38 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

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**From:** Jon [j.kwock@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 1:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Judge Rhonda Loo for many years. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Jonnette Kwock

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:34 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo G 667

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**From:** [Gloria Bediamol@hid.uscourts.gov](mailto:Gloria_Bediamol@hid.uscourts.gov) [Gloria\_Bediamol@hid.uscourts.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:16 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo G 667

Dear Chairman Hee,

My name is Gloria T. Bediamol. I am a federal court reporter. As a personal friend and former co-worker, I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Loo as Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have known Ms. Loo for over 20 years, and I can attest to her honesty, compassion and strong dedication to her work both as a former prosecutor and as a district court judge.

Thank you.

Gloria T. Bediamol  
U.S. Court Reporter  
T> 808.781.8256

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:36 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Confirmation of Rhonda Lai Loo

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**From:** Bev Saiki [bspsyche@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:51 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Senate Confirmation of Rhonda Lai Loo

Senator Clayton Hee  
Judiciary Committee

Senator Hee:

This e-mail is being written in support of Rhonda Loo. I first met one of the members of her family, her father, Walter Lai, as my instructor at Maui Community College now known as UH/MCC. Later in my career, my paths crossed with Judge Loo's sister in 1995 and it was through her sister that I was privileged to meet the entire family.

Judge Loo comes from a very solid family. She's been around awhile and I haven't heard anything derogatory about her rulings. Maui is a small community and if there was any dirt, you would hear it. If I ever had a case to be heard and I had a choice, Judge Loo be the first one I would want.

You'll probably hear about her background from her many supporters and rather than revisit that, let me just add that she is a wonderful judge and if she is not confirmed, it will be an injustice to Maui because we do not have many judges of her character and cloth.

Thank you kindly, Senator and please support our Maui candidate up for senate confirmation.

--  
Beverly S. Saiki

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:37 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

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**From:** Lindsey Negrini [lindseynegrini@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 3:53 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known her for about 7 years now and I have the highest respect for her and what she stands for. She is a well structured, highly motivated and organized person who is well qualified for this position.  
On a personal note, she is a very honest and personable person with great family attributes. She is a hard working unselfish person whose main goal is making the community a better place.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Negrini

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 4:15 PM  
**To:** Lori Kwock; JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** RE: Judge Rhonda Iwalani Loo, Reference GM667,

Thank you for your testimony in support of Judge Loo. The Judiciary and Labor Committee is presently researching the work product of Judge Loo and is reviewing information provided by Judge Loo as well as others. We will do our best to be sure that Judge Loo is given every opportunity during the process of confirmation.

Senator Clayton Hee

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**From:** Lori Kwock [glkwock@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 2:35 PM  
**To:** JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Judge Rhonda Iwalani Loo, Reference GM667,

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write to you to voice my support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court appointment.

I have known Rhonda for over twenty-five years as a friend. She is a person of integrity and honesty in her dealings with family, friends, colleagues, and those who find themselves in her courtroom.

Rhonda is open-minded, fair, and not quick to draw conclusions about questions and concerns that come to her attention. Instead, she will ask questions and listen carefully to statements and answers before she makes any decisions concerning family, friends or judiciary matters.

As a judge, she is well-respected for her even temper, humility, compassion and intellect. On a personal level, Rhonda keeps her commitments and makes an effort to attend community meetings, guest speaker engagements, and family/friend functions as her time permits. At these functions, she behaves with friendliness, but is well-aware of the importance of maintaining her dignity and professionalism given her position with the court system. A talented hula dancer with a good sense of humor, Rhonda carries herself with self-confidence and humility and as a guest speaker, has inspired many of my high school students to attend college and pursue advanced degrees.

I know that Rhonda Loo will bring honesty, intellect and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. Therefore, I ask the committee to wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-281-5308<tel:808-281-5308>.

Sincerely yours,  
Agnes Terao-Guiala, retired DOE high school English teacher Maui Adult School Teacher

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:02 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, April 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.

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**From:** Lori Kwock [munch22kin@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, April 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to support the appointment of Judge Rhonda I.L. Loo as a 2nd Circuit Court Judge. I have know Judge Loo for several years. In all of our encounters, Judge Loo has proven to be knowledgeable, resourceful, effective and articulate. She has an excellent sense of humor which allows her to laugh at her frailties, yet never succumb to them. She looks adversity in the eye and meets it head on. She possesses a high degree of diligence, perseverance, and tenacity which allow her to accomplish any task she undertakes. Although she sometimes has to make unpopular rulings, she is open minded and listens to both sides of an argument before making a decision. Having grown up on Maui, she is well versed in how things work. She wants to make Hawaii a better place not just for herself, but for future progeny. I highly support this excellent judge.

Sincerely,

Brian Kang, P.E.



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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:02 AM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

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From: Lori Kwock [glkwock@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 9:37 AM  
To: Sen. Clayton Hee  
Subject: GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

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From: Jerome Acadimia <kele001@gmail.com<mailto:kele001@gmail.com>>  
Date: Sat, Apr 9, 2011 at 2:41 PM  
Subject: GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
To: [JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)<mailto:JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Judge Loo and her family for many years. Her sister and I were classmates at Baldwin High School and later at the University of Hawaii. Rhonda as I would refer to her has always been highly respected not only for her many talents, but because she is gifted and someone of high moral value. She has always struck me as someone who is fair and has always kept an open mind. In my many years I have never known any one as humble and possesses the ability to always be fair and open minded when dealing with both personal and issues as a judge. Her strong work ethic and family values have always guided her in her decisions and she shows great compassion for making clear concise decisions. Her ability to always be able to recognize the human element in all of her cases has served her well and enables her to apply the law in a fair and wise manor. I know that she would bring to the court her honesty, strength and compassion and would be a great asset to not only to her colleagues, but to the community as well. She has always risen to challenges and possesses the even temperament that this job would require. She is not rash, but works carefully and and always acts with decorum.

Having known her for many years I know that she has an exceptional educational background and was also a gifted athlete. I bring this up because in sports one needs to be gracious in defeat and humble in victory and Rhonda has always possessed these qualities. She attended Lihikai Elementary School and Baldwin High School and later acquired her Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and later graduated from the Richard School of Law a the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She was an outstanding prosecutor for over 10 years and more recently been a District Court Judge beginning in 1997. Her legal knowledge and her high standards of accomplishments are second to none. I support the nomination of Judge Loo wholeheartedly and ask the committee to confirm her for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

Jerome Acadimia  
1717 Ala Wai Blvd. #1407

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**From:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** hee8 - Lehua  
**Subject:** FW: Reference GM 667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, April 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.

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From: Lori Kwock [glkwock@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 9:40 AM  
To: Sen. Clayton Hee  
Subject: Reference GM 667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, April 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing on behalf of Judge Rhonda Loo in support of her appointment as a Circuit Court Judge for Maui. Rhonda is a local female who grew up on Maui and attended the public schools. She has always valued her Hawaiian heritage and retains her Hawaiian culture. Ever since she was a young girl, she has strived to make Maui a better place for all of us. She has taken time out from her busy schedule to attend Maui Waena's Career Day to speak to the young people about her profession. She is very patient with the students and answers their questions in a thoughtful manner.

The Maui News often quotes Judge Loo and I always read with interest the articles that have her name in them. By reading her quotes, you can surmise that she is intelligent, well-read, logical, reasonable and fair. She is very qualified, professional and hard-working.

We need more judges like Rhonda and I feel very strongly that she should be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge for Maui.

Sincerely,

Gordon Kwock  
274 Mohalu Street  
Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [terri gearon](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667-Confirmation of Rhonda I.L. Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:40:16 PM

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Dear Senator Clayton Hee and Senator Maile Shimabukuro,

I am writing to you on behalf of Honorable Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo who is presently seeking confirmation to the Second Circuit Court. I have known and worked with Judge Loo for a number of years. I have worked with many other Judges throughout my career with the Judiciary and none compare to the working relationship I have established with Judge Loo. I hold Judge Loo in high regard because of her sound decision making and her fairness in court and when dealing with other agencies and internal branches of the Judiciary. Judge Loo always looks at the whole picture and takes the time to listen to Supervisors, Fiscal Officers and Administrators prior to making a decision that will affect operations in the courts. I can think of no better candidate for the position in the Second Circuit Court. Judge Loo is hard working and truly deserves to be confirmed as the next Circuit Court Judge. I ask that her confirmation be moved forward.

Sincerely,

Terri L. Gearon  
Assistant Court Fiscal Officer  
Second Judicial Circuit  
2145 Main Street, Room 137  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
(808)244-2994

**From:** [ajinnai@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:ajinnai@hawaiiantel.net)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM667-confirmation of Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:47:18 PM

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To Chairman Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro,

I was so pleased to hear of Judge Rhonda Loo being selected for the Circuit Court judgeship on Maui. As our Administrative District Court judge, she is approachable, has a calm demeanor but most of all cares to carry out justice fairly. I've worked with her on resolving problems we had with outside agencies, she will take the initiative to speak to them to find a solution for all involved. She has a proven record of being accessible and setting aside time to come to her staff to discuss any issues on statute changes and understanding the procedural changes that needs to be implemented by all affected.

Rhonda Loo has been a great District Court judge and will be a balanced compliment to our Circuit Court judges of men, but mostly she will be an awesome asset to the Second Circuit, Circuit Court ohana.

# KIEFER & GARNEAU LLC

A Limited Liability Law Company

Richard Kiefer

Greg Garneau

**Direct Dial** (808) 871-971  
**Email:** greggarneau@hawaii.rr.com

April 11, 2011

Via Email

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM667 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

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

By way of introduction, I am an attorney engaged in private practice on Maui where I have practiced law for the past twenty years. I have known Rhonda Loo for much of this time. In all circumstances I have found her to be a woman of the highest integrity who has consistently demonstrated her competence as a lawyer. In the early 1990s, I worked as a criminal defense attorney when Rhonda Loo was employed with Maui County as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. In all of my dealings with her, she was fair, firm and reasonable. Rhonda Loo made a fine prosecutor as she had both a sophisticated understanding of people and their motivations as well as the needs of the public. She was able to balance these competing interests and to wisely determine the best, appropriate course of action in her cases. Her focus was always upon serving justice. As a prosecutor, Rhonda Loo demonstrated her legal skills as well as her capacity for fairness, compassion, and empathy.

I know that Rhonda Loo will bring many fine qualities and accomplishments to the Circuit Court bench not the least of which is her substantial courtroom experience as a judge. She is even-tempered (which is reflected in her favorable judicial temperament) and is prepared to assume her duties immediately. Rhonda Loo has a strong work ethic and over many years has shown that she can successfully take on new challenges and work cooperatively with her colleagues and judiciary support staff.

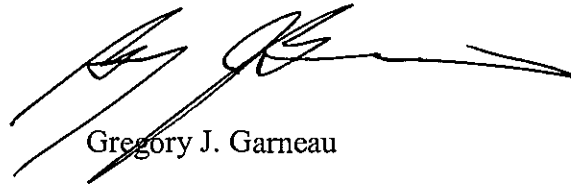
From my observations of her, Rhonda Loo possesses a keen legal intellect, sound judgment and unwavering integrity which are key to the makings of a good decision maker and leader. She has earned the respect of her colleagues, friends and many other

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 11, 2011

members of the Maui community. When I have observed Rhonda Loo in court, I was impressed with her thoughtful and precise decision making. She is able to understand complex legal issues and to “think on her feet” in the courtroom. Rhonda Loo is both approachable and patient in her interaction with the public, courtroom staff, and members of the bar.

In sum, Rhonda Loo possesses the legal knowledge, professional experience and temperament that is required of a Circuit Court judge. We are indeed fortunate that she has sought this new challenge and wants to continue to serve the people of Maui in a new capacity. I wholeheartedly support Rhonda Loo’s nomination and recommend her for confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Garneau', written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Garneau

ADRIANNE N. HEELY

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P.O. Box 1554 • WAILUKU, HAWAII • 96793 • TEL: (808) 269-4425 • EMAIL: AHEELY808@YAHOO.COM

April 11, 2011

Via Email: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary and Labor ("JDL")

Conference Room 016

Hearing Date/Time: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 am

Re: **GM 667: Confirmation of RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee for the Circuit Court, Second Circuit (Maui)**

Dear Mr. Chair, Madame Vice-Chair & JDL Committee Members:

It is with great excitement that I submit this letter of support for Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO for the position of Circuit Court Judge, for the Second Circuit Court. I am excited, not only because she is a fellow alumni of the William S. Richardson School of Law, and a part Hawaiian, female, which will be a first for the Second Circuit Court Bench, but also, for many reasons listed below:

I had the privilege of practicing law before Judge Loo when I was with the State of Hawaii, Office of the Public Defender (Maui Office), from 2000 - 2003. I appeared before her hundreds of times for various district court matters: arraignments and pleas; pre-trial hearings; settlement conferences; trials; and proof of compliance hearings. In all of my experiences with her, she has proven her legal knowledge and ability; professional experience; judicial temperament; and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position.

I admire Judge Loo for her ability to sit through numerous pretrial motions and trials, all the while, listening intently and taking copious notes. After hearing all the facts and issues presented, she would present very thorough and specific findings of facts and conclusion of law to the parties and their respective counsel, each of us, not knowing which way she would rule, until the very end of her dissertation. She is very even handed and thorough in her application of the facts and the laws at issue.

As for her public service, she is without a doubt the most dedicated Second Circuit sitting judge. I provide a few recent examples:

- On July 26, 2008, August 8, 2009 and July 31, 2010, Judge Loo participated in and helped tremendously with the planning of the 16<sup>th</sup>,

17<sup>th</sup>, and 18th annual Maui County Bar Association's fundraising and scholarship golf tournaments in memory of Arthur T. Ueoka (former Maui Judge and Prosecutor). The scholarships are given yearly to students with strong ties to Maui who are studying law. The past eighteen years, MCBA was able to provide over \$43,000 in scholarships.

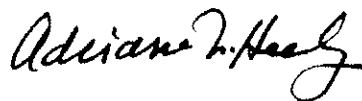
- On December 19, 2010, Judge Loo was a panelist at a seminar entitled "Ethics and Best Practices in Mediation". I had the privilege of moderating the seminar which was co-sponsored by Hawaii State Bar Association's ("HSBA") Alternative Dispute Resolution Section and Maui County Bar Association ("MCBA") and approved by HSBA for 3 MCPE credits. Judge Loo also participated in the roasting and presenting of the MCBA "2010 Attorney of the Year Award" to Maui attorney, Anthony A. Vierra.
- On March 24, 2011, Judge Loo conducted the swearing in for the County of Maui's Corporation Counsel Patrick K. Wong. Judge Loo also conducted the first ever, inaugural swearing in ceremony of the Department of the Corporation Counsel's fourteen (14) Deputies Corporation Counsels, of which I was proud to be a part of.

As a current Deputy Corporation Counsel, Treasurer of the MCBA, and Chair of the Government Lawyers' Section ("GLS") of the Hawaii State Bar Association ("HSBA"), I can truly attest to Judge Loo's willingness to provide public service and her commitment and dedication to the people of Maui County and the State of Hawaii.

I gladly volunteered to right this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Loo and have the utmost confidence that she will do a terrific job sitting on the Second Circuit Court Bench.

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

Very truly yours,



ADRIANNE N. HEELY



April 10, 2001

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee, Hawaii State Senate  
RE: Judicial reference # GM667, Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly support the nomination of Judge Rhonda Loo to the seat of Second Circuit Court Judge. I have personally known Rhonda in excess of twenty years and she is a humble person and is always willing to assist someone in need.

Rhonda is a person who possesses exceptional characteristics which are beneficial to this position; she's honest, fair, open minded and knowledgeable in the laws governing the State of Hawaii. She can be trusted in applying these qualities when rendering her decisions.

Submitted for your perusal,

Harold K. Purdy

**KIEFER & GARNEAU LLC**  
A Limited Liability Law Company

---

Richard Kiefer

Greg Garneau

**Direct Dial (808) 871-6016**  
**Email: jodieyasuda@hawaii.rr.com**

April 9, 2011

Via Email

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM667 – **IN SUPPORT** of confirmation of gubernatorial nominee  
Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

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

Please permit me to take this opportunity to express my complete and humble support of the nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit. During my previous employment with the Hawaii State Judiciary I had the occasion to work with Judge Loo in her professional capacity and since leaving the Judiciary ten years ago, my dealings with her are currently on a social basis. Collectively I have more than twenty five years of employment in the Hawaii legal community (either in private law firms or the Hawaii State Judiciary) and as such, I feel qualified to attest to Judge Loo's competency as a jurist as well as her great strength of character.

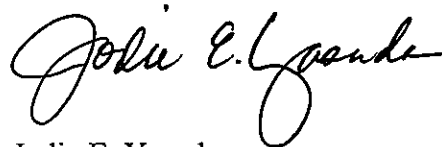
On a professional level, I have found Judge Loo to possess a keen legal intellect, sound judgment and the requisite judicial temperament to maintain an orderly courtroom. She is well prepared and knowledgeable in the matters before her and dispenses justice in a caring and compassionate manner. Furthermore Judge Loo's rulings are fair and impartial and without regard for one's political or societal status.

On a social level, I am fortunate to have Judge Loo as a friend. She is a loyal, honest and selfless individual who always considers the needs of others before hers even though her hectic schedule often presents a challenge to do so. And much like Judge Loo's judicial rulings, her friendships are not formed with the intent for any political or societal gain. They are based on a mutual respect and concern for others and formed with the true sense of Aloha.

In conclusion, I have every reason to believe that Judge Loo will continue to be an asset to the Second Judicial Circuit as a Circuit Court Judge and therefore, it is with great sincerity that I strongly urge you to confirm Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's nomination.

Thank you very much for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodie E. Yasuda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jodie E. Yasuda  
Office Manager

April 11, 2011

**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Wednesday, April 13, 2011  
9:00 a.m.**

**RE: GM 667  
In support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai  
Loo to the Second Circuit Court**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Judge Loo for seven years. She has served as an inspiration not only to local women here in Maui, but to young people everywhere as a testament to what hard work and dedication can produce. Judge Loo is at all times responsible, fair, intelligent and forthright. She has a deep sense of responsibility to her Community and the Law, and carries herself with a refreshing sense of integrity.

Judge Loo is patient, dignified and courteous. Her continued service in the Judiciary is an asset, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify on her behalf. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly.

Aloha,  
Karey Anne K. Kapoi  
[Kkapoi@hhsc.org](mailto:Kkapoi@hhsc.org)  
(808) 442-5663

April 11, 2011

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

RE: GM 667 in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani  
Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

My name is Charles Hirata from Wailuku, Hawaii. I retired last year as a Captain with the Maui Police Department after serving for 32 years and I am writing to you in support of Judge Rhonda Loo.

I have known Judge Loo for most of her professional life, which has been one of honor, dignity and aloha for those around her. As a District Court judge, I have always known her to be respectful of everyone who comes before her, and has always been a fair arbiter. With her knowledge and experience, I know that she will make the right decision after hearing all of the facts.

I am certain that there are others who have written in support of Judge Loo and I can assure you that she will not let you or all of the people of Maui down.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Hirata  
Captain (Retired)  
Maui Police Department

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 667 - in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro:

I am submitting written testimony in support of the Honorable Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.

I am a Detective with the Maui Police Department, Criminal Investigation Division in Wailuku. I am in support for the confirmation of the Honorable Judge Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have had the honor of knowing Judge Lai Loo since she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the County of Maui. Since being appointed to a District Court Judge, she has taught and assisted our newly hired police officers in preparing for court testimony in a professional and impartial manner. I had also had the privilege of having Judge Lai Loo review my Affidavit for a Search Warrant where she had been thorough in her review and had made certain that I had all of the elements to establish Probable Cause in justifying the warrant.

Judge Lai Loo is a reputable, dedicated, and compassionate judge as well as an individual. She has the experience and commitment to serve the people of our state. I, therefore, urge the Committee to confirm Judge Lai Loo as the Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Scott Y. Migita

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

**FROM: Sheldon Brown**

**RE: GM 667 - in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
to the Second Circuit Court**

I'm a retired disabled Veteran and I am in support of Ms Rhonda Loo nomination for Judgeship to the Second Circuit Court. As I have tracked her work through the years, I have seen her to be just and fair in her Judicial duties.

A few years ago, I sat in the courtroom to witness the sentencing of my nephew, Arthur Damasco. The courtroom were filled with family members that morning in support of Ata. Before sentencing, Judge Loo picked up a large stack of letters that she received, and placed them front of her for all to see. She informed my nephew that the stack of letters and testimonies from Family members, Friends, Clergymen, Teachers and staunch Community leaders, where in full support of him.

Arthur is well known for his falsetto singing here on Maui, and has been nominated several times in the Hawai`i Academy of Recording Arts, Na Hoku Hanohano. He himself has donated his talents to numerous community functions, be it a fundraiser of some sort or contributing to someone with medical needs.

It was mentioned that his lack of judgment, led him to the predicament he was in and now it was time to face the music. " With all these letters of community support in your behalf ", said Judge Loo, " What do you think I should do "?  
"These letters of support are from people who trust and love you and attest to know that you are a good individual who simply made a mistake". . . " you stole property (piglets) that belonged to Mr. Vida "!! " if you were to walk out today, what do I say to Mr. Vida, that stealing is o.k. "? " if you were to put yourself in mr. Vida's place, what would you think of the Justice System "?

I was really impressed with Judge Loo that morning, in the end she did sentence my nephew with incarceration and with a message to Arthur not to disappoint all who supported him, that there are consequences we face in every decision we make in our lives, be it good or bad. Arthur was a role model inmate and was released after serving 18 months. I bumped into Judge Loo months later after Arthurs sentencing and told how impressed I was in the way she handled herself as an officer of the Court and thanked her for doing her job well. With so many cases that have gone through Judge Loo's courtroom, I wondered if she remembered what was rendered that morning in court. . . I have to say it is not an easy job to

do and I don't see that a judge has much of a social life. It takes a certain individual with a knack for Compassion and Fairness while considering the Laws of the Land. I ask for your consideration of Ms Loo to the office of a Judge in the Second Circuit Court. Thank you Senators for your valuable time, I remain

Respectfully yours,

**SHELDON BROWN**

761 Malaihi Rd

Wailuku, Maui 96793

Ph: 808-870-1584

skeahib@yahoo.com



TO : SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

FROM : ORAN A. SATTERFIELD III, DETECTIVE, MAUI POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT : IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE RHONDA I WALANI LOO TO THE SECOND CIRCUIT  
COURT

Senator Clayton HEE and Committee Members,

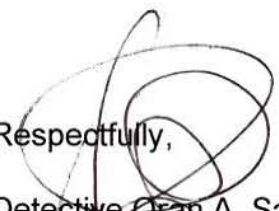
I am submitting written testimony in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I have known Judge LOO for the past thirteen years as an Officer/Detective and friend. She has a strong work ethic and her integrity is without question. I believe that she will be fair and impartial in all matters relating to procedures and law.

Judge LOO has the integrity and ability to serve the people of Maui County. I urge the Committee to consider the appointment of Judge Rhonda LOO to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,



Detective Oran A. Satterfield III  
Maui Police Department  
Criminal Investigation Division  
04/11/2011 1330 hours

DELFEY ANN FERNANDEZ  
1111 HOALU PLACE  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TELEPHONE NO. 808-281-3813

April 11, 2011

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

Re: GM 667 in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee  
Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
April 13, 2011, 900 a.m.

Dear Senate Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the Honorable Rhonda I.L. Loo for the position of Circuit Court Judge in the Second Circuit Court. I have been a Judicial Assistant/Courtroom Clerk at the Second Circuit for 17 years and have personally worked with Judge Loo since she was appointed to the Second Circuit as a District Court Judge.

For over the past ten years, Judge Loo presided in Circuit Court when a Circuit Court Judge is out on leave or vacation. She has been very accommodating and reliable because there are many times that we call her in the morning to inform her that we need a judge to cover Circuit Court. She never hesitated and always arranged for coverage in the District Court so that the Circuit Court cases could go forward. As an acting Circuit Court Judge, she presided over jury trials, civil and criminal cases.

Judge Loo is very qualified to be a Circuit Court Judge. She works extremely hard, is a fair judge, gives all the parties a chance to speak in court, is very thorough when ruling on a matter, and professional. One thing I also admire about her is that she treats her staff and everyone with respect.

Her intellect and integrity have made her a highly respected jurist. Her legal skills and personal and professional background make her very qualified to be the next Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit. I strongly urge you to support her confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Delfey Ann Fernandez

**From:** [Theresa K. Nishida](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Judge Rhonda Loo, Confirmation to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:16:22 AM

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Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am submitting this written testimony in support of Judge Rhonda Loo's confirmation as Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

My name is Theresa Nishida. I am a sergeant in Lahaina Patrol where Judge Rhonda Loo presides.

I have known Judge Loo for about twenty years, five years as a prosecutor and about 15 years as a District Court Judge.

She is a smart lady and is a fair judge.

In the past, I have taken youth groups on field trips to Judge Loo's court where she allowed the children to sit, listen and observe to her hearings and the issuance of sentences. It is eye opening for some youths who witness someone they know in our community or can associate with to be sentenced. After the court proceedings, Judge Loo would spend some time with the youth to answer any questions and explain the nature and process of her job. The youth field trips to Judge Loo's court has always been a positive learning experience as it gives our children an alternative way to better to understand our judicial system.

Personally, I have always known Judge Loo to be hard working, intelligent and very capable as a District Court Judge. She maintains high integrity within her court as well as within our community. In the past fifteen years, Judge Loo has proven to be a very sound Judge. As a result, I urge you and the committee to confirm Judge Loo as a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit in the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

*Sgt. Teri Nishida*

Teri Nishida  
Sergeant, Maui Police

Lahaina Patrol

Department

**From:** [Molly.G.Kahakauwila@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Molly.G.Kahakauwila@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony@](mailto:JDLTestimony@)  
**Subject:** Judge Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 3:27:25 PM

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April 11, 2011

To Clayton Hee & Maile Shimabukuro

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo.

Rhonda Loo has been our Administrative Judge in the District Court of the Second Circuit for quite some time. She is very respected by her colleagues as well as the public, very friendly and an awesome team player. Rhonda is a smart individual, very knowledgeable with the law, structured and holds her position sternly. She is instrumental in the changes and/or developments throughout the District Court. Also, she is a great communicator on our behalf, to outside agencies that affect our daily productions.

I am very thankful and appreciative to have her as our judge, and to have develop a friendship with her throughout the years. I strongly support Judge Rhonda Loo.

Sincerely,

Molly G. Fernandez-Kahakauwila  
Judicial Clerk IV

April 11, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM667 – Supporting confirmation of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

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

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I am a dentist on Maui and have had the pleasure of knowing Rhonda since our high school days at Baldwin High School and currently see her occasionally on a social basis. She is smart, ethical and hard working. Furthermore, I firmly believe that her deep roots on Maui is one of the primary reasons she belongs on the Court. For these reasons I support her nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

/s/ Kevin Omuro

Kevin Omuro, DMD

**To:** Senator Clayton Hee, Chair and  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**From:** Christine Haskins  
P.O. Box 267, Kihei HI 96753  
Mobile: (808) 298-5050 Email: mauichaskins@yahoo.com

**Re:** GM 667- confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the  
Second Circuit Court

**Hearing date:** April 13, 2011 at 9:00am

I, Christine Haskins, have known Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for approximately 18 years and had the pleasure of working closely with her at Maui's Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. I am testifying in support of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's nomination to the Second Circuit Court.

Ms Lai Loo is one of those rare individuals who combine professional ability with genuine concern and effectiveness. In my position as Victim/Witness Counselor, I shared cases with Ms Lai Loo and found her capabilities to include establishing rapport with children, adults and families faced with multiple challenges such as domestic violence, divorce, economic difficulties, substance abuse, mental health issues, and disabilities as well as with members of our professional community. I observed Ms Lai Loo's effective communication and service to persons of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic status. Her versatility and depth of understanding serve her, her clients and our community well.

Ms Lai Loo's dedication to her clients was consistently reflected in her professionalism and through preparation. She is patient, an excellent listener, and appropriately caring. Her level headed, common sense approach to complicated matters enables her to take a stand in support of justice in a fair and heartfelt manner. She is intelligent and hard working. Her honesty and loyalty earn her the trust of colleagues and clients alike.

As District Court Judge, Ms Lai Loo has been an asset to our community. As a Second Circuit Court Judge she will be able to continue to serve this community in a broader and even more effective way. It is my firm conviction that her appointment would be fortunate for each Maui resident and the community at large. It is my hope that we will have the good fortune to further benefit from her expertise and service.

Very truly yours,

Christine Haskins

**RICHARD K. MINATOYA, ESQ.**  
P. O. Box 1366  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
[RichardK.Minatoya@alumni.usc.edu](mailto:RichardK.Minatoya@alumni.usc.edu)

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
REGARDING

**GM 667 - CONFIRMATION OF RHONDA I. L. LOO  
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011  
9:00 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 016

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

My name is Richard Minatoya, and I am a Hawaii licensed attorney, and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of **RHONDA I. L. LOO** as Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

I appeared before Judge Loo on numerous occasions: as a government attorney and private defense counsel in criminal cases, and as a government attorney and private counsel in civil cases. I found Judge Loo to be knowledgeable, patient and fair to all parties. I also found that she has the necessary intelligence, common sense, legal knowledge, and integrity to serve as an excellent judge. I know that she will do a superior job on the bench.

Judge Loo will continue to be a tremendous asset for the Judiciary and the Second Circuit as a circuit court judge. I wholeheartedly support her confirmation without reservation, and I strongly request that this committee recommend her confirmation to the full Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Robert G. Hill III  
P.O. Box 2295  
Wailuku, HI 96793

April 11, 2011

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

Re: GM 667 - in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai  
Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
Hearing date of April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha,

I am a 25-year veteran of the Maui Police Department and have known Judge Loo for over 2 decades. I know her personally as a friend and also professionally. Judge Loo's three most prominent qualities that I can personally attest to are fairness, knowledge and integrity. Integrity being her strongest and most defining character trait.

Judge Loo has served in an exemplary manner in the past and will continue to in the future. I place my unconditional support behind her and humbly request that you confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Hill III  
Lieutenant – Maui Police Department  
(808) 244-6346



April 11, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM667 – Supporting confirmation of Rhonda Loo to the 2nd Circuit Court

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

I am a Judiciary-registered spanish-english interpreter and I regularly interpret proceedings in Maui's District Courts. Judge Rhonda Loo consistently stands out for the highly professional way she handles her courtroom and for the real respect and care she shows for everyone involved in her cases. She is my favorite judge to appear before.

She has also been especially supportive in many ways of the court-interpreter program and the important service it provides to non-english speaking defendants. In my case, she is the one judge who has gone out of her way to provide me with feedback and encouragement, which has been a great help to me as an independent interpreter for the courts.

In short, I think Rhonda Loo is a great District Court judge and will be a great Circuit Court judge. Accordingly, I ask that you please confirm her nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco Montes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francisco Montes  
733 Pulehuiki Road  
Kula, Hawaii 96790

April 11, 2011

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

RE: GM 667 - Confirmation of Gubernatorial  
Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the  
Second Circuit Court  
Hearing Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

I have been employed by the State of Hawaii, Judiciary for nearly eighteen (18) years and have been supervising the Intake/Investigations (Presentence) Unit of the Adult Client Services Branch since 2005. Since that time, I have had to learn sentencing dispositions for the different Courts (Circuit, Family and District) to insure that accurate information is being provided in our reports. District Court traffic matters were the most confusing of all and Judge Loo took time out of her very busy and tight schedule to assist our unit in gaining a better understanding by reviewing and revising a matrix we created of all the different traffic offenses and applicable dispositions for each. Her willingness to assist us with this task is truly appreciated and has benefitted everyone in our unit. We are now more confident in determining appropriate sentencing recommendations for these type of cases.

This is just one example of what a dedicated and knowledgeable Judge and accommodating person she is. There is no doubt in my mind that she will be an asset as a Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,



TRACI TEXEIRA  
(808) 357-1782

April 11, 2011

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

RE: GM 667 - Confirmation of Gubernatorial  
Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the  
Second Circuit Court  
Hearing Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senators:

I have been employed by the State of Hawaii, Judiciary for nearly eighteen (18) years and have been supervising the Intake/Investigations (Presentence) Unit of the Adult Client Services Branch since 2005. Since that time, I have had to learn sentencing dispositions for the different Courts (Circuit, Family and District) to insure that accurate information is being provided in our reports. District Court traffic matters were the most confusing of all and Judge Loo took time out of her very busy and tight schedule to assist our unit in gaining a better understanding by reviewing and revising a matrix we created of all the different traffic offenses and applicable dispositions for each. Her willingness to assist us with this task is truly appreciated and has benefitted everyone in our unit. We are now more confident in determining appropriate sentencing recommendations for these type of cases.

This is just one example of what a dedicated and knowledgeable Judge and accommodating person she is. There is no doubt in my mind that she will be an asset as a Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,

  
TRACI TEXEIRA  
(808) 357-1782

**LAW OFFICES OF MARK T. HONDA**

**WELLS STREET PROFESSIONAL CENTER  
2145 Wells Street, Suite 102 A  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
Telephone: (808) 242- 5550  
Facsimile: (808) 242-4071**

April 11, 2011

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Re: Confirmation of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
Judge – Second Circuit Court

Dear Senators:

Having been in practice on Maui for the last 34 years as a trial lawyer, I am well acquainted with Judge Rhonda Lai Loo during the last 20 years or so. I first became acquainted with her as a Deputy Prosecutor and I was handling criminal defense cases.

Thereafter upon her elevation to the District Court bench I have appeared before her on numerous occasions over the last approximately 14 years. It is my observation that she is one of the hardest working judges who handles massive calendars at District Court and has never waived in her judicial temperament and case management of the numerous and voluminous cases before her. Furthermore, I have appeared before Judge Loo when she was acting Circuit Court Judge substituting in the absences of either Judges Cardoza, Raffetto or August.

With this background in mind I have nothing but the strongest support for Judge Loo in her appointment to the vacancy on the Circuit Court bench. Of all the other potential applicants for this position I believe that she is second to none. It has been my experience that she possesses more than the adequate experience, intelligence, compassion and judicial temperament which is necessary for the position of Second Circuit Court Judge. It is with no reservation that I strongly support Judge Rhonda Lai Loo to the appointment of Circuit Court Judge here in the Second Circuit.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate in contacting me at (808)242-5550.

Very truly yours,

MARK T. HONDA

MTH:rnm

**From:** [Davelynn Tengan](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, GM667, Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit-Hrg: April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 7:59:10 AM

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To: Senator Hee and Members of the Committee on the Judiciary and Labor  
From: Davelynn M. Tengan, Attorney at Law, 55-D N. Church Street, Wailuku, HI 96793  
Re: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, GM667, Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit; Hrg: April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

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

These comments are submitted as testimony in strong support of confirmation of the nomination of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. In doing so below, I address eight criteria used by the Hawai State Bar Association in reviewing a nominee.

With regard to the criteria of “integrity and diligence”, Judge Loo is an industrious woman whose hallmark is diligence. Judge Loo is an honest and fair individual, personally and professionally, and her behaviors and lifestyle are consistent with strong moral character. As she values and honors her family members, so does she value and honor the responsibilities and incidents of her present position as a judge, and I am sure that would be the case as well in the position of Circuit Court judge.

With regard to the criteria of “legal knowledge and ability”, Judge Loo can handle any criminal motion or jury trial, from the lowest-level penal violation or offense to the highest level crime within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts. As a deputy prosecutor, she was a Circuit Court trial deputy for several years and handled the entire range of jury trials, from low-level felonies to the most serious trials, including murder. Judge Loo was particularly proficient, and specialized to some degree, in drug and child sex assault cases. As noted above, Judge Loo can preside over Circuit Court criminal jury trials, and has presided over several Circuit Court criminal jury trials, as well as having presided over 13 years worth of District Court criminal matters. Judge Loo is also, by virtue of her service as a District Court judge for 13 years, familiar with civil matters such as summary possession and ejectments, injunctive relief, collections matters, contract disputes and specific performance, and mental health, and has presided over Circuit Court civil calendars in the absence of a Circuit Court judge. In any less-familiar civil areas, Judge Loo will apply her considerable intellect and abilities to learning and applying the pertinent law relating to the specific legal issues involved, just as any presently-sitting Circuit Court judge would have to do.

With regard to the criterion “professional experience”, Judge Loo has more-than-substantial jury trial experience as a litigator and as the presiding judge, as noted above. She also has ample professional experience as a judge in both civil and criminal law. And, Judge Loo has significant administrative experience in Judiciary matters, including working collaboratively with other persons and agencies in myriad matters relating to the working of the District courts, since she served in an administrative capacity for a substantial part of her 13 years in the District Court of the Second Circuit. For example, she played a significant role in helping to implement the JIMS

system in the Second Circuit, which was a huge undertaking for all persons and agencies involved.

With regard to the criterion “judicial temperament”, Judge Loo has an excellent judicial temperament. She is courteous and respectful to attorneys and parties alike, as well as to her own staff members and the staff of other offices and agencies. There is no “black robe syndrome” in Judge Loo’s demeanor or actions with parties and litigants. Judge Loo is a very “normal” – or down-to-earth - person, rather a local girl (she is part Hawaiian and is an accomplished hula dancer), and her judicial temperament, while professional, is consistent with a down-to-earth person doing an important job.

With regard to the criterion “financial responsibility”, Judge Loo is financially conservative and responsible. She does not buy flashy cars or clothes, although she always appears neatly and appropriately dressed. She has lived in the same house in an older subdivision for many years.

Regarding the criterion “public service”, government lawyers and judges, like legislators, are largely public servants in that the proper performance of their duties generally benefits the public in measurable and significant ways, and generally the compensation of those persons does not correlate with what persons of similar education, skills, and responsibilities are paid in the private sector. In that sense, Judge Loo’s entire career is one that has been devoted to public service, first as a deputy prosecutor and then as a judge for 13 years.

Regarding the criterion of “health”, Judge Loo is fit for her stated age of 49, she exercises by swimming, and she is an excellent golfer.

Regarding the final criterion of “ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position”, Judge Loo clearly meets this criterion. Further, she is the best person for the job at this time. Judge Loo has, over the last 13 years, learned how to judge and she understands her role to make the best decision she can, based on the evidence adduced and the applicable law, and she does not shirk the responsibility of making the hard decisions. She does not bully people in court, nor will she allow herself to be bullied by the more aggressive attorneys. She is ready and able to meet the challenge of now becoming a Circuit Court judge. She will make a fine judge, and she will honor the position.

Thank you for your consideration of the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

*/S/ Davelynn M. Tengan*

DAVELYNN M. TENGAN

**From:** [Kavan.K.Saiki@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:Kavan.K.Saiki@dcca.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, GM667, Hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00am.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 7:39:06 AM

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To: Chair Clayton Hee  
From : Kavan Saiki  
RE: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
GM667  
Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit Court  
Hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00am

The purpose of this testimony is to support the confirmation of Judicial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I have had the opportunity to appear before Judge Loo while she was a District Court Judge, and I have also had the opportunity to work with Judge Loo in her administrative capacity while she served as the Administrative Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit. Based upon my experiences with Judge Loo, I have no reservations regarding her confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

My first interaction with Judge Loo was while I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Judge Loo treated every person that appeared before her with dignity and respect. From experienced attorneys, to attorneys fresh out of law school, to pro se litigants; Judge Loo was courteous, patient, respectful, compassionate and fair with each of them. Those who appeared before her were treated equally regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, education or social status.

Judge Loo also displayed intelligence, wisdom, humility, and excellent judicial temperament while presiding as over cases in the District Court of the Second Circuit. Regardless of the situation, Judge Loo maintained a calm demeanor and evaluated each situation based upon reason and logic, not emotion. She demonstrated excellent legal analysis and the application of the law to the facts involved in the cases that were heard before her. Furthermore, Judge Loo always took time to explain and communicate her reasoning in a clear and effective manner to the parties involved.

After being promoted to the Supervisor of the District Court Division of the County of Maui's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, I also had the opportunity to work with Judge Loo in her capacity as the Administrative Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit. We worked together on implementing the Judicial Information Management System (J.I.M.S.) in the Second Circuit and also worked together on developing the Mental Health Court system for the Second Circuit. While implementing the J.I.M.S., Judge Loo repeatedly demonstrated her dedication to improve the efficiency and the accessibility of the justice system. While developing the Mental Health Court system for the Second Circuit, Judge Loo repeatedly demonstrated her dedication to making sure that criminal defendants that suffered from mental illness were treated fairly instead of being lost in the justice system.

Having had the opportunity to work with Judge Loo for over five years, I have no reservations in supporting her confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. Judge Loo will serve the people of Maui with fairness, compassion, humility, and

wisdom. Her courtroom will be a legal forum that will provide access to justice for every citizen in the Second Judicial Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Kavan Saiki, Investigator  
Regulated Industries Complaints Office  
Dept. of Commerce & Consumer Affairs  
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 800  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-2676  
Facsimile: (808) 587-4382  
E-Mail: [Kavan.K.Saiki@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:Kavan.K.Saiki@dcca.hawaii.gov)



State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hearing on the Governor's Selection of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
Second Circuit Court, GM 667  
April 13, 2011 9:00 AM

To the Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Greetings. As a retired Second Circuit Court judge who had ample opportunity to observe Judge Loo from her days as a law clerk at the court to her practice in court as an attorney, and to her work as a District Court judge, I believe I can authoritatively express my opinion as to the benefit of her appointment to Hawaii.

I recognize that we are not all perfect and respectively caution the tendency to focus on the negative which usually is overwhelmingly outweighed by the positive in the way of testimony for, experience of, and reputation in the legal and local community for individuals seeking judicial appointment.

I don't believe that Judge Loo's sex should have anything to do with her appointment; however, as a seasoned District Court judge with considerable Circuit Court experience, Judge Loo stands to become the first female Second Circuit Court judge and her appointment would allow our county to join the other circuits as having a female circuit judge. Nevertheless, Judge Loo in my opinion easily stands on her own merit as a jurist who will bring confidence to our judicial system and trust in the courts.

Judge Loo's conduct in court has been exemplary in my opinion and from my personal observations. She has improved over the years and can be relied upon to render justice with compassion yet remain firm in the face of adversity. She has been completely apolitical throughout her career and owes no favors to anyone. She is an excellent role model for the youth of our county. She is personable and polite without need to resort to anger or threat in interfacing with attorneys and the public.

Finally, Judge Loo was born, raised, and educated in Maui County and is a keiki o ka 'aina. Her local roots run deep and Hawaii needs more judges like her while Maui County stands only to benefit from her appointment. As an Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustee from Maui, I am concerned about the few Native Hawaiians on the bench today. We have a long way to go and I hope Hawaiians will not be deprived of this opportunity to have a highly qualified Native Hawaiian considered favorably for the Second Circuit Court bench. Governor Abercrombie's decision to appoint her was the right thing to do and I wholeheartedly agree with him.

Thank you for including this recommendation in your consideration of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Boyd P. Mossman (Ret.)

P.O. Box 1423  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Senate  
JDLEvidence@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

April 11, 2011

Dear Senators,

I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui writing in my personal capacity as a member of HSBA in support of Judge Rhonda L.L. Loo's nomination to the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit. I base my unconditional support of Judge Loo's appointment to the Circuit Court on my direct professional interaction with her as a Judge of the District Court in the Second Circuit. From February 2010 through May 2010, I appeared before her every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and, from September 2010 through March 2011, on every Monday and Tuesday. In my experience, Judge Loo definitely possesses the appropriate qualities to be a Circuit Court Judge, namely the requisite Integrity and Diligence, Legal Knowledge and Ability, Professional Experience, Public Service, and Judicial Temperament.

#### Integrity and Diligence

Judge Loo exhibits an impeccable integrity. It is clear when you appear before her that she has not already made up her mind. She actually listens to the arguments presented by the attorneys and considers them.

Judge Loo's diligence and industriousness are well-known. Few judges can work through a calendar as effectively and efficiently as she can. But Judge Loo also remains patient with defendants who do not seem to understand what is occurring. When the day's calendar is complete, Judge Loo continues to work long hours, as evidenced by emails I have received at late evening hours.

#### Legal Knowledge and Ability

Judge Loo definitely understands the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Rules of Evidence, and case law. But Judge Loo does not merely rely on her memory. When attorneys present novel arguments in motions, Judge Loo demonstrates that she has thoroughly digested the arguments and examined the case law presented. She presents her reasoning with references to the attorney's arguments that show her understanding of them and why she has accepted or denied a particular argument. Even more importantly, she will present her rationale in a manner that demonstrates that she understands the implications of her decision in a broader sense.

#### Professional Experience and Public Service

Judge Loo has demonstrated her significant professional experience through her dedication to public service. I am not familiar with the exact dates, but I know she dedicated a significant portion of her career to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney on Maui before she became a Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit.

#### Judicial Temperament

Judge Loo possesses the appropriate judicial temperament befitting a Circuit Court Judge. As a District Court Judge, Judge Loo efficiently works her way through the calendar with a quick style that attorneys appreciate. But, as mentioned previously, she exhibits a remarkable patience with defendants, particularly pro se defendants who do not understand what is happening in court. That patience extends beyond the required colloquies to accept pleas without passing into legal advice. Her ability to permit Defendants to ask questions while she remains neutral is a true skill.

Moreover, her decisions themselves – while I may not always agree with them – are always grounded in the law and are well-reasoned. That is what an attorney expects from a judge, and why I believe she will make an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

#### Conclusion

Finally, although I cannot speak to Judge Loo's Financial Responsibility or Health, I can provide a perspective on Judge Loo's general reputation in the communities of Molokai and Maui. I have had at least two conversations with a probation officer and a court mediator in which they noted her reputation for fairness. It should be noted that both expressed a hope that she would be selected as a Circuit Court Judge, as have court clerks on Molokai and in Lahaina. Among court staff, Judge Loo enjoys a reputation for industriousness and is well-respected.

For all of the above reasons, I support Judge Loo's nomination to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

Very Truly Yours,



Erik D. Olson

**From:** [h.b](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** REF #: GM667-RHONDA I.L. LOO FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OF THE 2ND CIRCUIT  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:11:14 PM

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Dear Mr. Hee,

My name is Koapakaonalani Purdy but they call me Koapaka & I'm 9 years old. My ohana is from Ulupalakua Ranch, Tutu Ikua Purdy.

My Aunty Rhonda is the nicest and talented Aunty that I've known. She helps Maui by sending criminals to Jail or help give them advice just like how she does to me. Aunty Rhonda makes good judgements, she is fair and makes good decisions. I have known Aunty Rhonda since I was born.

Aunty Rhonda helps at our ohana parties, she will drive long distances to help with the parties. She is funny and has this really funny laugh and smile that people like. I appreciate my Aunty Rhonda. I think you should change Aunty Rhonda's robe from black to a colorful one. God Bless.

Love,  
Koapaka Purdy

**From:** [h.b](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** REF#GM667 - RHONDA I.L. LOO FOR CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 2ND CIRCUIT COURT  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:36:11 PM

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April 10, 2011

Dear Judicial Committee Chair Clayton Hee,

I am writing this letter in support of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Reference # GM667 for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have known Rhonda when she was a Court Clerk for Maui Judiciary Court in Wailuku, Maui since 1988.

Rhonda is like a Hanai daughter to me when we have family gatherings such as Luaus and occasional seasonal parties that she is always there and willing to help. Never waits for someone to ask her, she always asks "Do you need help". Rhonda is very family oriented. She is a well rounded person and supports us in many community projects outside of her work capacity but always a person who holds her position very highly and professionally.

Rhonda is a perfect person for the position of Circuit Court of the 2nd Circuit who has excellent Judgement of Wisdom. She is the type of Judge that makes our community and County of Maui safe and safer for the future of my grandchildren.

Please consider Judge Loo who posses fairness and upholds her position with integrity and humility. Everyone will rise and call her blessed. Mahalo for your time.

Aloha & Mahalo,  
Barbara J. M. Baisa

**From:** [giamenel@aol.com](mailto:giamenel@aol.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 3:37:49 PM

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To Whom it may concern:

I heartily support Judge Rhonda Loo for the Second Circuit Court. She possesses all the qualities expected in a person for this position. Judge Loo's upbringing, background, education, high moral standards, fairness, compassion, and quality execution of the law contribute to her outstanding experience necessary for our justice system.

I strongly urge you to confirm Judge Loo for the Second Circuit Court. It will be to the benefit of us all.

Respectfully,

Catherine Giamenelli,

Lai family friend, retired Teacher

**From:** [Mary Lou Barra](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 2:21:34 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lou Barra

**From:** [Stephanie Stucky](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 2:24:29 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stucky



**From:** [GM.C](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 3:48:14 PM

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Senator Clayton Hee  
Judicial Committee Chairperson

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Loo's appointment as a Circuit Court Judge for Maui. You're probably going to get a lot of letters and emails from lawyers and doctors. But that's not me. I'm just an average person, born and raised on Maui. I've known Judge Loo for a long time. She's really down-to-earth, doesn't act snobby, and really understands the people. Even when she was appointed as a district court judge, she treated everyone the same which is really rare for someone like a judge. Some judges (I won't name any names) can't be bothered with little guys like me, who don't have any power or money or influence or connections. But Rhonda (she told me to call her Rhonda, not Judge Loo) cares about us average Joes. And that's how it should be in court. It shouldn't matter that you don't have money or friends in the right places; the law should treat you the same as the next guy. You should really support Judge Loo in being a Circuit Court Judge. We need her.

Sincerely,

G. Momi Kwock

**From:** [JANICE NISHIMURA](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:03:39 PM

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Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.  
Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have know Rhonda since I worked with her at the Prosecutor's Office around 1989. She was a Prosecutor at the time and was very personable and professional. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes.

I currently work at Maui Waena Middle School and on several occasions she has taken the time to come to our school and talk with our students, as both a Prosecutor and recently as a Judge. She was able to communicate to them as a previous Public School Student. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values.

I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Janice Nishimura, MEd.  
Maui Waena Intermediate Counselor

**From:** [Bernice Hwang](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 5:54:40 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit the Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a circuit court judge of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Bernice Hwang

**From:** [Grace M. Cortez](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 3:50:55 PM

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Senator Clayton Hee  
Judicial Committee Chairperson

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing on behalf of Judge Rhonda Loo in support of her appointment as a Circuit Court Judge for Maui. As a young attorney, I have always admired and respected Judge Loo. From her days as a young prosecutor, I would watch her in the courtroom speaking eloquently and knowledgeably about the law. The jurors loved her too, not only for her compassion, but also for the way she could break down complex legal concepts in a way that the average lay person could understand and apply to the case at hand. She was always well-prepared, and was especially adept at preparing witnesses particularly young, vulnerable children who were victims of serious crimes. This preparedness extended to her time on the District Court bench. Judge Loo knows all of the cases, even the cases where she substitutes for other judges, like the back of her hand. In addition to her knowledge of the subtle nuances of each case, Judge Loo's quick mind serves her well in applying the appropriate Hawaii rules of criminal procedure, Hawaii rules of civil procedure, and Hawaii rules of evidence. Judge Loo has been hugely influential in my desire to come back to Hawaii to study law at the University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law, despite other offers from law and MBA programs on the continental United States. Additionally Judge Loo consistently makes the time to support the Maui County Bar Association, such as participating in the annual golf tournament for many years now. Judge Loo even encouraged me, as a young law student, to apply for the Maui County Bar Association scholarship – one that I gratefully and humbly won, and I continue to donate time, money, and/or food to the organization to this day.

I enthusiastically support Judge Loo's bid for the Circuit Court Judge of Maui. I think she will be a great asset to the people of Maui County, and will bring justice and fairness to a society deeply in need of both.

Sincerely,

Grace Momilani Cortez, Esq.

State of Hawaii, Judiciary

**From:** [Warren Collier](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 8:47:30 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She is the aunt of one of my very good friends. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit the Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a circuit court judge of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Warren Collier

**From:** [Mim Keli'ihoomalu](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:13:05 AM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator [Clayton Hee](#), Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. Being a Educator at one of our Public Schools on Maui and also responsible for our Career Day on Campus, I can say that Judge Loo has given time out of her busy schedule to come and talk to our kids, to share her experiences and love and dedication for her career. It is always great for our local children to see a "local girl" pursue her dreams and make it a reality, always emphasizing hard work and persistance. She has a high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attibutes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Mim-Louise K. Keli'iho'omalu  
Wailuku, Maui

**From:** [docjfcj@aol.com](mailto:docjfcj@aol.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 8:01:20 PM

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Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

This is a letter in support of nomination and confirmation of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. She has the experience and reputation that will be beneficial for Maui.

Thank you, in advance, for your strong consideration of her and for your ultimate confirmation to this position.

Mahalo,

Joan F. Junger



**From:** [Terry Jones](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:24:10 AM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Rhonda for 15 years. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Stacy Yagi

**From:** [anegrini@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:anegrini@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 3:37:21 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known her for over ten years and I feel she is well qualified and deserving of this position. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Allen Negrini

**From:** [Lindsey Negrini](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 3:56:01 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known her for about 7 years now and I have the highest respect for her and what she stands for. She is a well structured, highly motivated and organized person who is well qualified for this position.

On a personal note, she is a very honest and personable person with great family attributes. She is a hard working unselfish person whose main goal is making the community a better place.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Negrini

**From:** [Jenny Wong Collier](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 7:05:50 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. Her high moral character will allow her to make decisions with integrity. She also has a variety gifts and persona attributes that deem her suitable for the responsibilities ahead. Her even temper, fairness, and humility shows through even in the smallest measures. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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 a circuit court judge of her caliber and she will bring that same honesty, strength, fairness, and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Jenny Wong Collier

**From:** [Glenda N](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 7:14:35 PM

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To: [JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.  
Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Rhonda over 19 years. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Glenda M. Nishida  
347 Molokai Akau Street  
Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [jody kekiwi](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** REFERENCE GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court Judge of Second Circuit with hearing date of April 13, 2011 @ 9AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:32:09 AM

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TO: Honorable Chairman Clayton Hee for JDL Testimony  
RE: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court Judge of Second Circuit  
REF#: GM667

To the Committe on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing this letter in support of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for consideration and confirmation to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

My family and I have known Rhonda for over 20 years and consider her as a close personal family friend. I met Rhonda many years ago at a family luau when she was recruited by one of my cousins to help us serve in the buffet line; thus, she has become one of the family. Rhonda is a friend to many because of the way she portrays her true self and has a contagious smile. Rhonda possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, great humility and is of high moral character.

I am not an expert in the field of law, but as a business woman, community volunteer, and most importantly a mom, I do consider myself qualified to judge the quality and character of individuals. I believe selecting a judge is not much different from selecting a good friend or even a dentist; you meet them and you just know that it's a good match and you look forward to building a long and lasting relationship.

My family and I believe Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, is an exceptional candidate for the Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit for the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo!

Jody Kekiw-Jones  
POB 602  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [Ellen Coffey](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:20:08 AM

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1053 Hoomau Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-9471  
April 11, 2011

Chair Clayton Hee  
Judicial Selection Commission  
State of Hawaii  
417 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court  
Judge of the Second Circuit

Dear Chair Hee:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for my friend, Rhonda Loo. I first met Rhonda at Maui Community College during the 1979 - 1980 academic year where we took a History course together. Rhonda was an early admit student from Baldwin High School. We met up again years later at the Judiciary where Rhonda was a law clerk and I worked as a clerk-typist in the documents section. I have seen Rhonda work her way up through the ranks. From the Judiciary, she became a prosecuting attorney with the County of Maui, and then in 1997, she became judge.

I have enjoyed Rhonda's friendship. Over the years, I have found her to be cordial and courteous, fair and respectful, traits that I believe she has used during her years of employment in the field of law, and will continue to employ in the future.

Please consider Rhonda for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I know that she will uphold her position at the highest possible level. She will continue to give to Maui her very best.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen F. Coffey

**From:** [Lorraine Reynon](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, 2nd Circuit Court Judge, April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 12:46:21 PM

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I know that she has very high moral character and she is very ethical. She is fair minded, decisive, and will make intelligent decisions. She also brings to the bench many talents and attributes. In addition, she is a product of the Hawaii State Public School system. She is from Maui, lives here and will make decisions that will benefit the Maui community. The majority of her family resides on Maui and hence her strong family values. We really need a person of Rhonda's stature in the 2nd Circuit Court and ask that the committee support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation. Thank you.

Aloha,

Lorraine M. Reynon (Maui resident)



**From:** [Ty Takeno](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Reference GM667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 11:15:48 AM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I am a teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui community. She is an excellent role model for our children, especially for girls, and volunteers to speak at Maui Waena's Career Day. Judge Loo is a product of public schools. This is so important because our nation's faith in the public education is declining. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and is very humble. She is steady and careful in her considerations. She is a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. She is also honest, strong and compassionate and will bring these qualities to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Sheri Takeno

**From:** [h.b](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** REFERENCE GM667-RHONDA I.L. LOO FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OF THE 2ND CIR.  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:14:48 PM

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Dear Mr. Hee,

My name is Leimana Purdy and I am 7 years old from Kula, Maui. My ohana is from Ulupalakua Ranch from Tutu Ikua Purdy. I know Aunty Rhonda is a good person or she would'nt be a Judge now. She came to visit me in the hospital when I was born, she came to my birthday parties and she supports me by playing in my halau golf tournament for me for Keiki Hula every year.

Aunty Rhonda is a nice Judge and a good Aunty. I want you to love and accept my Aunty.

Thank you for accepting my Aunty.

God Bless You,  
Leimana Kaleinamanu Purdy  
(Kamehameha School Maui Campus 1st Grader)

**Stephen T. Orikasa  
P.O. Box 2968  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793**

**April 11, 2011**

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**Re: GM 667 – In support of confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai  
Loo to the Second Circuit Court**

**Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members,**

**I am a Police Sergeant/Detective with the Maui Police Department and am providing my written testimony in support of Rhonda I.L. Loo. I have had the honor of knowing Judge Loo for the last eighteen years both as a friend and an Officer of the Court.**

**I have seen her performance from being a prosecutor to a District Court Judge, administering the law as required and making decisions expected of her. She is highly intelligent, has excellent work ethic, and is multi-task efficient, conscientious, and committed and most importantly a level of integrity and disposition most of us only dream of attaining. She has distinguished herself throughout the community as a fair but firm Judge and will continue to do so as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.**

**There is absolutely no doubt that Judge Loo will be an asset to the Circuit Court bench and offer my complete support of her nomination and confirmation.**

**Sincerely,**

**Stephen T. Orikasa**

**From:** [Debora Loque](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda I. L. Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:21:17 PM

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

Re: GM 667 in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the  
Second Circuit Court

April 13, 2011, 900 a.m.

We are in total support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda I. L. Loo to the Second  
Circuit Court.

She has served the Second Circuit as District Court Judge and is qualified to continue serving the Second  
Circuit as a Circuit Court Judge.  
Please confirm her nomination.

Thank you very much,  
Bert and Debora Loque

**From:** [Purdy, Barbara at PROP MAUI](mailto:Purdy.Barbara.at.PROP.MAUI)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO - REFERENCE #GM667  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:14:11 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**Dear Chair Clayton Hee,**

**I am writing to recommend Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court with the State of Hawaii, County of Maui. I have known Ms. Loo since 1987 where I was previously employed in Records Division at the Second Circuit Court and where Ms. Loo was the Court Clerk for Judge McConnell. She has lived on the Island of Maui for most of her life, she is involved in her local community and other extra curricular activity with her family and friends.**

**Judge Loo has shown her commitment in many ways to Maui County as a former Board of Director member with Maui Hui Malama, a nonprofit United Way agency that provides other educational programs, she volunteers her time to help assist with community/town events when approached, she volunteers her time to help participate in fundraising efforts for friends/family's children either by working a shift, purchasing fundraising tickets or even playing on behalf of our children on sports gala events (i.e., golf fundraising tournaments). Judge Loo not only is visible in the community and supports our efforts when called upon but she is your gardener & swimmer. She keeps herself active and enjoys a simple down time with her plants and gardening at home. She is reliable and keeps her professional, community and personal matters in perspective. This is why we love her here on Maui and is truly the best candidate for the position of Judge for the Second Circuit Court. She is a beautiful person inside-out.**

**Judge Loo would be a tremendous asset to Maui County and I strongly recommend her to you without reservation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 357-3911.**

**Sincerely,  
Mrs. Barbara J. L. Purdy**

NOTICE: This message, including any attachments, is intended for the use of the party to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please contact the sender immediately by reply e-mail, and delete the original and any copies of this message. It is the sole responsibility of the recipient to ensure that this message and any attachments are virus free.

**From:** [Nishida, Wayne A.](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:30:28 AM

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**To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair;  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**Re: GM 667 - in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the  
Second Circuit Court with hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor,  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Rhonda Loo who has  
been nominated to serve as Judge of the Second Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I had  
the pleasure and privilege meeting Rhonda through mutual friends and since that initial  
meeting have become close friends. I have found Rhonda to be an intelligent, diligent,  
personable and compassionate person who in my opinion possesses the knowledge,  
qualities and skills but most of all, the integrity that would make her an excellent circuit  
judge. I strongly support her nomination and respectfully request your favorable  
consideration of her appointment as Circuit Judge. Thank you. Sincerely, Wayne  
Nishida**

**From:** [Cheryl Nishida](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to Circuit Court  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 10:58:52 PM

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To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Re: GM 667 - in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court with hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

I am writing in support of Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court. She is very professional, knowledgeable, and highly qualified for the job. She would be a hard working, neutral, and decisive circuit court judge.

Rhonda is a personal friend who I admire because of her integrity. She treats everyone with respect no matter what their status may be. She takes her job very seriously.

I strongly urge you to select Rhonda as our next Second Circuit Court judge. She will serve us well.

Cheryl Nishida

**From:** [Gerald Enriquez](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, GM667  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 2:13:04 PM

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This message is in support of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, GM667, who has been nominated for a position as Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit Court, with hearing date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00 am.

I am a former deputy prosecutor and current private criminal defense attorney in the Second Circuit. I have been an active attorney since 2006 and have been appearing in front of Judge Loo for a significant portion of my legal career. When I was first assigned to her courtroom as a new deputy prosecutor in district court, Judge Loo played a significant role in guiding me through the day-to-day interactions within the district court system, explaining what I was expected to do and know in order to keep the calendar running smoothly, efficiently and fairly. I had already appeared in front of Judge Loo for a number of months and had thought that I was more than familiar with court protocols and the responsibilities of a deputy prosecutor during court appearances. However, during my time with Judge Loo she taught me that there were certain things that needed to be done in order to keep the record clear (for example, oral arraignments for pro-se defendants on certain charges) or to keep the court system running smoothly on the administrative side (for example, the procedure for declining contempt of court charges while avoiding cases becoming lost in the system) than I had previously been aware of. As a result, I became a more competent attorney after appearing in front of her.

In my experience, Judge Loo has been a competent, fair and consistent judge. Although I have disagreed with her rulings on a few occasions, I personally have never observed her to be unfair or to rule contrary to clearly-established case precedent. She has been patient, professional and courteous in all cases that I have observed, and she has always appeared to be well-versed in the areas of law that are part of the district court caseload. I have also never found her to be anything less than responsible and prompt in performing her duties as a district court judge. In conclusion, I believe that she would be an excellent choice for the position of Second Circuit Court Judge.

--

Gerald K. Enriquez, Esq.  
Law Offices of Gerald K. Enriquez  
PO Box 1165  
Wailuku, HI 96793



**From:** [Josie - Vasi Catering](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 5:05:10 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO  
GM 667  
4/13/2011 – 9:00 AM

I would like to offer testimony for Ms. Loo who is being considered for confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, Sate of Hawaii.

I have known Rhonda Loo for several years and know her to be diligent, hard working and fair minded in the performance of her duties as a judge. Rhonda has always shown great character and I believe she would be an excellent choice for Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Governor Neil Abercrombie has made an excellent nomination for Rhonda Loo.

Josie Hayes  
Wailuku, Hawaii

**From:** [JoAnn Allencastre](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 12:42:52 PM

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April 11, 2011

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

I am respectfully writing you in regard to GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court. Hawaii will greatly benefit from this confirmation. Please make it happen for the good of the people.

I have worked in Law Enforcement for 22 years now and have followed Rhonda I. Lai Loo's career. She is hard working, honest, fair and sound. We need her continued work for the Second Circuit.

Respectfully,

JoAnn Allencastre

April 10, 2011

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

Re: GM 667-support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Loo  
to the Second Circuit Court/April 13, 2011, 9:00 am

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

I am writing in support of Rhonda Iwalani Loo. I believe that Ms. Loo is an excellent candidate for the Second Circuit Court judgeship due to the professionalism and knowledge she has displayed over the years.

As we all know Hawaii is such a unique place due to its diverse cultures. I believe that because Ms. Loo was born and raised in Hawaii she is a great asset and possesses the knowledge to communicate well with people of different cultures.

I truly believe that Ms. Loo deserves this position because of her honesty, integrity and sincerity to serve the people of Maui.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Joy Sakamoto  
575 Akolea Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

LAWRENCE N. C. ING  
DAVID M. JORGENSEN

BRADFORD R. ING

2145 WELLS STREET, SUITE 204  
WELLS STREET PROFESSIONAL CENTER  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HI 96793-2222  
(808) 242-4555 • FAX (808) 244-6964  
dave@ihj-law.com

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LAW OFFICES OF  
**ING & JORGENSEN**  
a Limited Liability Law Partnership

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April 11, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Re: Nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo - Second Circuit Court

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is being sent in support of the nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Second Circuit Court Judge.

I first met Judge Loo when I was a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui and she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I was impressed with her demeanor and her legal knowledge from the first time I observed her in Court, and in all my dealings with her within the County, she always impressed me with her ability to identify an issue and reach a reasonable resolution. She has always struck me as a conscientious and compassionate person who truly has the best interests of Maui and Hawaii at heart.

Since Judge Loo has become a District Court judge, I've had the opportunity to appear before her in District Court, as well as on a few occasions when she has been temporarily assigned to sit in Circuit Court and I believe she has been one of the better judges we have on Maui. She gives everyone a fair opportunity to present their case while at the same time keeping control of her Courtroom in a very professional manner. I have not always been happy with her decisions (especially if they were against my client) but she has always been very clear and logical and, I would have to admit, correct, in her rationale for ruling the way she did.

I believe Judge Loo has a perfect disposition to be a judge and a great "judicial temperament", and I believe her to have the highest level of integrity and legal knowledge. I have no hesitation in whole-heartedly requesting your favorable consideration and support of the nomination of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for the position of Second Circuit Court judge.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



DAVID M. JORGENSEN  
Dave/Letters/General/Senator Clayton Hee (04-11-11)

**MR. ROBERT K.Y.F. LUNG**  
**439 Halemaumau Street**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96821**  
**April 13, 2011**

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee and Members:

Reference: GM 667 Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

This is to support the confirmation of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

As a retired Honolulu Police Sergeant, I have known Judge Rhonda Loo for more than ten years. She has been instrumental in administratively helping both police and the Department of Transportation in developing procedures for the smooth flow of traffic citations and processing of arrested drivers for operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant. Her judgment has always been fair and impartial to both victims and defendants. Although she has shared compassion for both, she has always been guided by the law. Her administrative knowledge of the justice procedures and law has helped in the proficiency of court papers and procedures. On numerous occasions she has been a speaker to the police traffic commanders and encouraged them to always do the best in their investigations involving traffic fatalities. She has also been an inspiration to promote highway safety in reducing traffic fatalities and injuries. She continues to improve the quality of life in the state by encouraging highway safety.

I ask for your support in confirming Judge Rhonda Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT K.Y.F. LUNG

April 9, 2011

Dear Nominating Committee,

I am writing to express my support for a personal friend Rhonda Loo to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court Judge position.

I have known Rhonda for over 14 years. She always is a honest, trustworthy, fair and confident person in anything she did and still does. My husband and I had the opportunity of having her marry us and couldn't have asked for a better person then her. As the years went on we expanded our family and she has been a great Aunty and role model to our children.

I am confident that Rhonda is the right person to uphold the law and make fair decisions to guide our community in the right direction.

Sincerely,  
Chariss Almeida  
Kula, Maui

## **Testimony in Support of GM 667, Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, State of Hawai`i**

Committee on Judiciary and Labor - Wednesday, April 13, 2011 · 9:00 a.m. · Conf. Rm. 016

### **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:**

Please accept this writing as my testimony in support of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, State of Hawai`i. Governor Abercrombie has made a very wise choice with this nomination.

I am Riki May Amano, retired circuit court judge of the Third Judicial Circuit. While serving on the bench, I interacted with District Judge Rhonda Loo on many occasions. She was always friendly, helpful and energetic. Her dedication to judicial excellence and to her community are unparalleled.

In 2000, Chief Justice Ronald Moon (now retired) asked Judge Loo to be one of the Second Judicial Circuit's representatives to a symposium on Kaua'i. She and other individuals from Maui gathered with their counterparts from O`ahu, Big Island and Kaua`I to learn about women offenders and ways to make the criminal justice system more effective. Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, wardens and other public safety workers joined together in sharing ideas and plans for improvement. The Maui group, lead by Judge Loo, continues to work together to this day in an admirable cooperative effort.

Judge Loo took the collaboration one step further and lead the Maui group to work on system-wide improvement relating to mentally ill defendants in criminal cases. She helped to develop a handbook of court forms to be used in the Second Judicial Circuit whenever a case involving a mentally ill defendant comes to the courts. This provides high levels of communication amongst and between the courts, community mental health offices and workers, jails and prisons, and the State Hospital. Everyone operates more efficiently and time and resources are optimized. Most importantly, this affords the best possible service to persons who really need help.

These are just two examples of Judge Loo's leadership, willingness to work hard and insightfulness. They reflect the mind of someone who thinks beyond simply putting out one fire at a time. These efforts show intelligence, compassion and humanity, exactly what we should expect of our judges.

I respectfully request your confirmation of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit. She will be the first female circuit judge in the Second Circuit, an accomplishment long overdue...for Judge Loo and for Maui.

RIKI MAY AMANO  
Judge (retired)

April 9, 2011

Aloha,

I am writing in support of my Aunty Rhonda Loo. She is very supportive and is a very great Aunty. I am only 8 years old and know how important it is to be a judge. My Aunty is fair and honest and will do her best.

Please consider my Aunty Rhonda Loo to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court Judge position.

Mahalo Nui,  
Dylan Almeida



Noreen D. Apana Yabuta  
P.O. Box 3092  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Tel: (808) 864-2575

April 11, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
GM 667 in Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial  
Candidate Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second  
Circuit Court, State of Hawaii with Hearing Date of April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Re: Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Gubernatorial Candidate to the Second Circuit Court,  
State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Hee:

My name is Noreen D. Apana Yabuta. I am writing this letter on behalf of District Court Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for confirmation for Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am a special agent for the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I have known and worked with Judge Loo professionally and personally for approximately nineteen (19) years - while Judge Loo was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Maui County and since she has served as a District Court Judge for the Second Circuit. As a Deputy Prosecutor, Judge Loo was well-prepared, thorough, knowledgeable, concise, open-minded, and fair in prosecuting criminal aliens.

I have continued to work with Judge Loo and her staff during her tenure as a District Court judge. Judge Loo is honest, knowledgeable, fair, compassionate, and displays common sense. I have found that as the community in Maui County and the state of Hawaii grows and becomes more diverse, Judge Loo has continued to exhibit the experience and knowledge expected of a judge of the highest caliber for the State of Hawaii.

Judge Loo knows her community well and has a thorough understanding of the problems and challenges people of various backgrounds may face. Judge Loo volunteers with various youth activities and is always willing to devote her personal time and energy for the community and the people of Maui County.

The people of the State of Hawaii will be well served if Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo is confirmed as a judge for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii. I give Judge Loo my highest recommendation for confirmation as Judge for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,

Noreen D. Apana Yabuta

**From:** [Charmaine.P.Franco@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Charmaine.P.Franco@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** rhonda loo letter of support to circuit court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:15:47 AM

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I have been a bailiff in District Court of the 2nd Circuit court and I have had the pleasure of working with Rhonda Loo for about nine years.

She is a very pleasant person to work with and she handles her courtroom very well. She is fair and always lets the people know what they are here in court for and how the courtroom works.

I also had the opportunity to help Rhonda Loo in the courtroom when the public schools come by with the children to observe courtroom procedures. She goes over her job as Judge, as well as mine as a courtroom bailiff.

I believe Rhonda Loo would be a great Judge for the 2nd Circuit Court. She is very professional and respectful to the public as well as the employees of the State Judiciary.

She has been a pleasure to work with.

Charmaine Franco  
Bailiff

**From:** [Sonia.L.Loio@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Sonia.L.Loio@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:03:12 AM

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Aloha to all that is concerned:

Senator Clayton Hee  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
GM 667

This letter is in regards to Rhonda Loo and her nomination for 2nd Circuit Court Judge.

Judge Loo is a very dedicated and caring person. She enjoys serving the public and enjoys being part of this judicial branch. She has many years of experience sitting as a judge in district court. I believe she is ready for bigger challenges in her life as a judge in becoming a circuit court judge.

Please consider her for this position that has recently become available.

Yours Truly,

Sonia Loio  
Bailiff II

**From:** [Karen Tanaka](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:02:50 AM

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Senators Clayton Hee and Maile S.L. Shimabukuro:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo as Governor Abercrombie's appointed Judge of the State of Hawaii Second Circuit Court.

Rhonda is a competent, honest and well respected individual, one who would bring honor to this appointment.

Thank you.

Karen Tanaka

# KIEFER & GARNEAU LLC

A Limited Liability Law Company

Richard Kiefer

Greg Garneau

**Direct Dial** (808) 871-9700  
**Email:** rickkief@hawaii.rr.com

April 9, 2011

Via Email

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

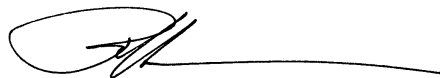
Re: GM667 – **IN SUPPORT** of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee  
Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

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

As a Maui lawyer I fully support the nomination of Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court. Judge Loo has a well-deserved reputation as a good, smart, fair and very hard-working district court judge. She also consistently maintains a professional and judicious temperament while still displaying her inherent warmth, humanity and care for all who appear before her. She truly is an excellent selection who will be a great addition to our Circuit Court.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Judge Loo. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Richard Kiefer

RJK/jey

Lisa Tamayose  
P.O. Box 4118  
Kahului, HI 96733

April 11, 2011

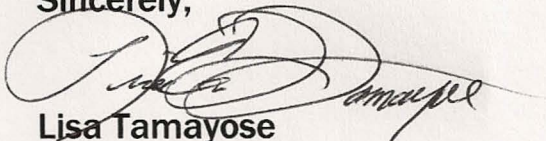
RE: GGM 667 - RHONDA I.L. LOO TO THE SECOND CIRCUIT COURT

Chair Clayton Hee  
Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

I've worked with Judge Loo for many years and I've found that she is a very positively charged person. Her door is always open to my staff and myself whenever we need clarification on the Hawaii Revised Statutes and the Maui County Ordinances.

I know that she is very dedicated in upholding the law and will continue to do so no matter where she goes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Tamayose', is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Lisa Tamayose

**From:** [Johann Smith](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Hearing GM 667, 4/13/11 at 9:00 am - A letter in support of the confirmation of RHONDA LOO  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:42:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [J. Loo confirmation letter.wpd](#)

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Hello Committee on the Judiciary and Labor. I am attaching to this email and pasting below my letter in support of Judge Loo for Circuit Court Judge for Maui County.

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Subject: Regarding the Senate hearing for GM 667 to be held on 4/13/11 at 9:00 am, Encouraging the Confirmation of J. Rhonda Loo for Circuit Court Judge of Second Circuit, Maui

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Johann Smith and I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Maui County for the last year. I am assigned to the Wailuku District Court and have been appearing before Judge Loo twice a week for the last nine months or so. Although I am a new attorney, I have had the chance to appear before a number of different judges in the district court. Without a doubt, Judge Loo is the best all-around judge I have had and I encourage you to confirm her for this appointment to the circuit court.

Judge Loo is balanced and fair. She is loyal to justice, not the defense or prosecution, and she does not play favorites. She knows the law but is open to new arguments. She is sympathetic to defendants but does not forget about the victims. Most of all, she controls her courtroom and calendar. Her courtroom is arguably the busiest in the County, but that stress and pressure never distracts her from the business at hand.

If confirmed, I know Judge Loo would take her responsibilities very seriously and devote herself completely to the people of Maui County. She has served the County for a long time and cares genuinely for the people and families that come before her. She is well respected by the local bar. She has the heart and experience to become an outstanding circuit court judge. Your committee could not pick a better person for this job.

Sincerely,

Johann Smith,

Bar No. 9242

Deputy

Prosecuting Attorney for Maui County

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Johann Smith

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Maui  
150 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
(808) 270-7787

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County of Maui.  
IT Security measures will reject attachments  
larger than 11 MB, and will block or quarantine  
high-risk file types in attachments.



**From:** [Jon](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 1:10:46 PM

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Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have known Judge Rhonda Loo for many years. She has high moral character and will make decisions that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

Jonnette Kwock

**From:** [Craig Tanaka](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for GM667: Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 7:15:31 AM

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Senators Clayton Hee and Maile S.L. Shimabukuro:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo as Governor Abercrombie's appointed Judge of the State of Hawaii Second Circuit Court.

Rhonda is a competent, honest and well respected individual, one who would bring honor to this appointment.

Thank you.

CRAIG H. TANAKA • DIRECTOR OF SECURITY & SAFETY



**MAKENA BEACH & GOLF RESORT**  
MAUI, HAWAII

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**From:** [Lori.A.Dodd@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:Lori.A.Dodd@courts.state.hi.us)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Judge Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:37:23 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**TO:** Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
**FROM:** Lori Dodd, Court Documents Clerk, Supervisor of Service Center/Law Library/Jury Pool of the 2nd Circuit  
**DATE:** April 11, 2011  
**RE:** GGM 667 - Rhonda I.L. Loo to the Second Circuit Court

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro,

I would like to take this opportunity to email you in support of Judge Rhonda Loo's nomination to the Circuit Court of the 2nd Circuit. I have worked for the Judiciary since 1994. Currently, I am the Supervisor of the 2nd Circuit Service Center/Law Library/Jury Pool office. I have worked directly with Judge Loo for the past 6 years.

Judge Loo is such an asset to our Courts. She is an awesome person and a Judge that I have extreme respect for. She is very professional and has very high integrity. She is very approachable and explains things in ways that you understand. What I appreciate and admire of her is that she is a very humble and down to earth person. She actually takes the time to see how we clerks are doing. She has even walked down Court documents to our office instead of just calling us to come up to pick them up. She is such a hard-working Judge. Even when she is physically working off-island at our other courts, she is available to us. She shows such respect for all types of people. Judge Loo is so caring and such a wonderful person. I am extremely thankful to be lucky enough to know her. I so enjoy working with her and talking with her. I feel she is extremely qualified to sit on the Circuit Court bench.

I believe that Judge Rhonda Loo will be such a great asset to our Circuit Court. I would like to ask you to please consider her for the position.

I feel you would never ever regret your decision of confirming her. Again, she is an awesome human being with such awesome qualities. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my feelings with you about Judge Loo.

Mahalo,

Lori A. Dodd  
Supervisor, 2nd Circuit Service Center/Law Library/Jury Pool

**From:** [Matt Stevenson](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Rhonda Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 8:48:06 AM

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To: SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR  
SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR  
SENATOR MAILE S.L.

Subject: Support for Rhonda Loo for Judge of Hawaii Second Circuit Court

I am very supportive of Rhonda Loo's appointment to Judge of the Second Circuit Court. I know Rhonda to be a person of the highest integrity and believe she would be a great benefit to the State of Hawaii in this capacity.

Matt Stevenson  
Director of Security  
Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea  
Tel: 808.874.2243 Fax: 808.874.2928  
Email: [matt.stevenson@fourseasons.com](mailto:matt.stevenson@fourseasons.com)  
Web: <http://www.fourseasons.com>

**From:** [Tony](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:50:58 PM

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

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

I am a Police Evidence Specialist with the Maui Police Department. I am in full support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I have had the honor of knowing Judge Loo for over five years. She always presents a truly professional demeanor and is of the highest integrity. Her support of the community and all our 'ohana provides a model that inspires those with whom she interacts. Our State would continue to benefit from her talents and skills as judge in the Circuit Court.

I sincerely request your consideration to approve the appointment of the Honorable Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

-Tony Earles  
302 Kuualoha Street, Kahului, HI 96732

**From:** [Paul J. Bailey](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:26:58 PM

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

I am writing this in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Judge Rhonda Loo for the Second Circuit Court. I have known Judge Loo in excess of 15 years both in my professional life as a Police Officer and in my personal life. Professionally, I have appeared in front of Judge Loo to testify in numerous trials and she has always shown herself to be fair, discerning and impartial. She is an experienced, hardworking and committed judge. She has been a good friend to me and my wife outside of work. I have no doubt that Judge Loo would be an asset to the Second Circuit Court.

*Det. Paul J. Bailey  
Maui Police Department  
Criminal Investigation Division  
55 Mahalani St.  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: 808-244-6469  
Fax: 808-244-6479*

**From:** [Terry L. Jones](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 5:23:12 PM

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To: [JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Date: April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Reference GM667 Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo, Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit

Judiciary Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Judge Rhonda Loo for the 2nd Circuit Court. I have personally known Rhonda for more than 20 years. She has high moral character and will make decisions and has made decision that will benefit our Maui Community. She is known and respected for her many gifts, talents, and personal attributes. She possesses a fair and open mind, an even temper, and great humility. She is steady and careful in her considerations, and always acts with decorum. Judge Loo 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. She has always struck me as a compassionate and fair person with strong work and family values. We need a justice of her caliber and I know she will bring that same honesty, strength and compassion to the 2nd Circuit Court. I ask that the committee wholeheartedly support Judge Loo's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

[Ms. Terry L. Jones](#)  
Secretary II  
Maui Police Department

**From:** [Scott Hanano](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for appointment of Rhonda I.L. Loo  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:46:14 PM

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To whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of appointing Rhonda I.L. Loo to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit.

I have known Judge Loo as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney assigned to the District Court Division for Maui County for many years and have appeared before her in all aspects of criminal prosecution. I have found her to be very fair and impartial in her rulings and in her dealing with both sides of the legal community. She has also been fair but firm in her dealings with Pro Se defendants and in dealings with the general public.

It is my opinion that she possesses the temperament, legal skills, knowledge, ability and experience to fulfill the demands and duties required of a circuit court judge. Due to her past experience sitting as a circuit court judge pro tem, the transition from district court to circuit court will be an easy one for her.

She is very well respected in the legal community and by her peers and has the integrity and character to uphold the office of circuit court judge. She is compassionate and understanding yet firm in the performance of her duties. She will serve the community well as a circuit court judge as she continues her service to the community in this capacity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/S/ Scott K. Hanano

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County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments  
larger than 11 MB, and will block or quarantine  
high-risk file types in attachments.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gchun@abprop.com](mailto:gchun@abprop.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM667 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:47:17 AM

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM667

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Grant Chun  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [gchun@abprop.com](mailto:gchun@abprop.com)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [artemio.baxa@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:artemio.baxa@co.maui.hi.us)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM667 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 4:26:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Rhonda Loo GM-667.wpd](#)

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM667

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Artemio C. Baxa  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [artemio.baxa@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:artemio.baxa@co.maui.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [GKahoohano@gmail.com](mailto:GKahoohano@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM667 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Saturday, April 09, 2011 9:13:45 AM

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM667

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: George Kaho'ohanohano  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: GKahoohano@gmail.com  
Submitted on: 4/9/2011

Comments:

I strongly support this person for the Circuit Court position. I have know he for over 20 years and have seen her operating in the courts as a prosecutor and then as a judge and have found her to be one to listen to all sides and make her decisions on the information presented and be fair and honest in her decisions.

She would be a great asset to the Judiciary

George Kaho'ohanohan  
Retired Maui Police Department Captain  
2723 Kamelani Loop  
Pukalani, Maui Hawaii 96768-8744  
808-357-7759

**From:** [Myrna L. Sabas](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:34:26 PM

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Dear Chair Clayton Hee and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting written testimony in support of Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo's confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

I have worked with and know Judge Loo for the past 17 years as a Police Officer and now as a Detective for the Maui Police Department and throughout my years I've know her to be a very hard worker and is highly efficient in her position. She is an extremely capable, intelligent and fair individual and I have no doubt in my mind that she will make an excellent and committed Circuit Court Judge. I therefore urge the Committee to confirm Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo as Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

***Detective Myrna L. Sabas  
Maui Police Department  
Property Crimes Section  
Criminal Investigation Division  
55 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793  
P: (808)244-6433  
F: (808)244-6479***

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dbm@mhmaui.com](mailto:dbm@mhmaui.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM667 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:17:09 AM

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM667

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: David B. Merchant  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dbm@mhmaui.com](mailto:dbm@mhmaui.com)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support District Court Judge Rhonda Loo's appointment to be a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have appeared before Judge Loo on a number of occasions in District Court, and Judge Loo has been prepared, diligent, decisive and has controlled her courtroom in a fair and understated manner. The decisions I have received from her have been well-reasoned and equitable. She has shown herself to be well-qualified for this next step, and I urge a "yes" vote.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [victor.ramos@mpd.net](mailto:victor.ramos@mpd.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM667 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:35:21 AM

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM667

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Victor K. Ramos  
Organization: Maui Police Department  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: victor.ramos@mpd.net  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:  
Honorable Clayton Hee and members of your committee,

My name is Victor K. Ramos, a captain with the Maui Police Department (Internal Affairs) and I ask that you support GM 677. I have known Judge Rhonda Loo for 23 years as a very competent Deputy Prosecutor and fair and compassionate District Judge. I was very pleased to learn that she was nominated to for the Second Circuit Court.

Judge Loo's integrity is beyond reproach and her temperament is perfect. There is no doubt in my mind that she will be an excellent Circuit Court Judge. I offer my full support for her nomination and humbly ask that you confirm her to this position. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on GM 677.

**From:** [luvsurfing2@aol.com](mailto:luvsurfing2@aol.com)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony to support Rhonda Loo nomination  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:25:06 AM

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April 11, 2011

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Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM667 – Supporting confirmation of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

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

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

I am the NIHP Director/Housing Coordinator for the Neighbor Islands Housing Program and the Administrative Director of Maui Aids Foundation, a non profit agency on Maui and have had the pleasure of knowing Rhonda for the past few years. She is smart, ethical and hard working. Furthermore, I firmly believe that her deep roots on Maui is one of the primary reasons she belongs on the Court. For these reasons I support her nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Steven Hire  
722 Iluna Pl  
Kahului, HI, 96732