

Testimony of
Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Wednesday April 13, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY ON GM 667 RELATING TO
RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO FOR THE POSITION OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear in front of you today. I would also especially like to thank all my family and my friends who are here to support me, especially those who have traveled from Maui to be here today.

I am so honored and excited at this opportunity to serve as a Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit Court. I would especially like to thank the Judicial Selection Commission for the important role they play in this process, and Governor Abercrombie for nominating me and giving me a chance to be considered by the Senate.

I was raised on the island of Maui, attended public school, attended a university on the mainland, and was fortunate to have been able to return to Hawaii to attend Law School at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I would not be here today, or be the kind of person I am today, without the support, guidance and love of my parents, Walter and Mominani, my husband, Wendell, and my three very intelligent, over achieving and competitive siblings. When you grow up, as the middle child, and the middle girl as well, believe me you have to work twice as hard. No words can describe how thankful I am for all the sacrifices they have made for me, and I love them from the bottom of my heart.

I have only had three (3) jobs in my life. My whole career has been about public service. I started out as a law clerk working for Judge McConnell upon graduation from law school. I then became a prosecutor with the County of Maui and remained with the office for nine (9) years. I was later appointed to be a District Court Judge of the Second Circuit by Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon. I currently hold this position as well as being the Deputy Chief Judge for the Second Circuit. I have held a District Court Judge for the past thirteen (13) years. I have been retained twice as a District Court Judge once in 2003, and again in 2009, so I am on my third term as a District Court Judge.

As a District Court Judge, I preside over civil and criminal calendars, civil and criminal trials, handle arraignment and pleas, change of pleas, motions, preliminary hearings, review search warrants, informational charging packets and temporary

restraining orders. I have also worked closely with various agencies in the transition of District Court to its new Judiciary's Information Management System (JIMS). I understand that in the near future our criminal system will transition over as well. With over five (5) years experience with the JIMS system, I will be more than happy to share my expertise with my fellow Circuit Court judges when this occurs.

I have also had the opportunity over the past thirteen (13) years on many occasions to preside in Circuit Court. I have handled criminal arraignments, pretrial conferences, motions and sentencing; I have also handled civil calendars, status conferences and civil motions. I have done drug court, probation revocation cases (similar to HOPE probation), handled grand jury and swore in new United States citizens. I have presided over approximately ten (10) criminal jury trials and one (1) civil non-jury trial. The criminal charges in these trials ranged from Sexual Assault, Violation of an order for Protection, Assault, Promoting a Dangerous Drug, Prohibited Acts related to Drug Paraphernalia and Attempted Murder.

I believe that my background as a District Court Judge and as a Judge who has sat in Circuit court on numerous occasions makes me uniquely qualified to sit in Circuit Court. Serving on the Circuit Court, and being the only woman amongst three men will be a blessing and a challenge, both of which I am looking forward to. If given this opportunity to service, I will do my very best to draw upon all my life experiences as a Maui keiki o ka 'aina, an attorney, and a judge to meet every challenge.

My philosophy is simple, to be fair and open minded, to treat everyone with respect, to listen to the facts and apply the law, and to make decisions promptly. I want every person who appears before me to feel that the court has been accessible to them, that they were given an opportunity to speak, and that they were treated fairly.

In summation, I would like to thank all of the people who submitted testimony on my behalf and those that came over today to testify. I thank the committee for this opportunity to appear before you and I look forward to answering any questions.



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

RHONDA I.L. LOO
Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit Court

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Rhonda I.L. Loo for the position of Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit Court.

The HSBA Board has established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial and executive appointments generally utilizing the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. The HSBA uses the following criteria, which are not exclusive: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been nominated. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."

As part of its procedures for evaluating and taking positions on judicial and executive appointments, the HSBA Board utilizes a subcommittee of the HSBA Board to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members. The subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the complete materials submitted by the nominee and members and conducts an interview of the nominee.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds Rhonda I.L. Loo to be qualified for the position of Circuit Court Judge, Second Circuit Court.

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LATE TESTIMONY

April 12, 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,

Please find my letter recommending Ms. Rhonda Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

I have worked closely and traveled extensively with Judge Loo and found her to be impartial, fair, trustworthy and honest.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Deputy Sheriff II George "Keoki" Pereira
Sheriff Division/Maui Section

From: Wendie Rhody [surf.song@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:05 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Testimony for Rhonda Loo

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Steven and Wendy Rhody

Subject: GM667 - In support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Chairman Senator Clayton Hee and members of the committee we are residents of Maui County and would like to provide this written testimony in support of Rhonda Loo.

We have known Ms. Loo for almost 20 years in both of our jobs in the emergency medical field and as a personal friend. We have also witnessed her working in the court system and were thoroughly impressed by her fairness and compassion.

We feel very strongly that she will be an asset to the Circuit Court bench and would like to offer our full support for her nomination and we humbly ask that you confirm her to this position. We can be contacted if you have any further questions and thank you for this chance to comment on Judge Loo.

Yours faithfully,

Steven C. Rhody, MICT
Wendy J. Rhody, RN, EMT
808-572-0494

From: mrmdebb@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 10:14 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Nomination of Rhonda Loo

LATE TESTIMONY

My name is Deborah Morimoto. I am the Supervising Court Clerk for the 2nd Judicial Circuit-Rural Court Division. I have worked with Judge Rhonda Loo for over 12 years. She would be a great asset to the Circuit Court bench. She brings with her many years of experience in processing cases that encompass traffic crime, criminal and civil cases. She has sat in Circuit Court numerous times when our Circuit Court judges have been on leave or attending seminars. I have great confidence in her abilities, skills, and knowledge of the law. We will miss her in District Court, but are confident that she will flourish in Circuit Court. She is an energetic administrative judge and is always involved in every facet of our organization. Please confirm the appointment of District Court Judge Rhonda I. L. Loo to the 2nd Judicial Circuit, Circuit Court bench.

From: Anne Takabuki [atakabuki@Waileagolf.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:26 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Appointment of Rhonda Loo to Second Circuit Court

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State of Hawaii

Dear Chairman Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo as a judge of the Second Circuit. Judge Loo has an impeccable record as a district court judge and is well respected by her colleagues here on Maui and throughout the State of Hawaii. I have know Rhonda for some twenty years, and can personally attest to her integrity and dedication. She has served us well as a District Court judge, and I know she will do an excellent job as a judge of the Second Circuit Court. I strongly urge you and your fellow committee members to confirm her nomination.

Warmest aloha,

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

From: Michelle.M.Tardiville@courts.state.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:02 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Support for Judge Rhonda Loo

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
FROM: Michelle Tardiville, Judicial Clerk, Service Center/Law Library/Jury Pool of the 2nd Circuit
DATE: April 12, 2011
RE: GGM 667 - Rhonda I.L. Loo to the Second Circuit Court

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro,

I am writing to you in support of Judge Rhonda Loo's nomination to the Circuit Court of the 2nd Circuit. Although I have only worked for the Judiciary since 2010, I have had nothing but positive interactions with Judge Loo.

Judge Loo is an important asset to our Courts. She conducts herself with professionalism and the highest degree of integrity in all matters. It is apparent Judge Loo is greatly respected and well-liked by her peers. I personally appreciate her approachability and her willingness to be available to our department. Judge Loo is humble, down to earth, and extremely hard working; her dedication apparent in that even when she may be pressed for time, she makes it a priority to look over and carefully consider the matters which are set before her. Judge Loo is more than qualified to sit on the Circuit Court bench.

I would ask that you please consider Judge Loo for the position. You will not regret your decision to confirm her. I appreciate you allowing me this opportunity to share my thoughts with you about Judge Loo.

Mahalo,

Michelle M. Tardiville
Judicial Clerk - Second Circuit
Service Center/Jury Pool/Law Library
(808) 244-2706 Ext. 2815

From: Simone Polak [simonepolak@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:16 PM
To: JDLTestimony; scp@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Written Testimony in support of GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m

Subject: Written Testimony in support of GM 667- Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court

Honorable Senators Hee and Shimabukuro and fellow Committee Members!

I strongly support the nomination of Judge Loo for Circuit Court judge of the 2nd judicial circuit. Her integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, her professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position cannot reasonably be questioned by anyone. Likewise, Judge Loo is in great health and exercises regularly.

I have known Judge Loo professionally for over 20 years, first as a fellow deputy prosecutor and then as a fellow judge. As a deputy prosecutor, Judge Loo was always available for case discussion with junior prosecutor, even though she was quite busy with her own case work. That demonstrated by conduct that she is hard working, does not shy away from work and has a good heart and a lot of patience. The same is true for her judicial performance as it regards hard work and bringing along inexperienced attorneys whether new prosecutors or public defenders or new private counsel.

Judge Loo is in her third term as a district court judge. She has a very good record that can be reviewed. The Committee would do well to review her record and to give Judge Loo the ability to address any concerns that might be submitted anonymously, especially by people whose primary motivation is to advance the chances of another judicial selection commission selectee on the list, if this nomination can be undermined and railroaded. I am confident, however, that under your leadership, due diligence will be applied.

Judge Loo has both criminal and civil experience which is a huge plus for a circuit court judge. Judge Loo has sat on numerous jury trials and circuit court matter as a temporary circuit court judge, thus she has professional experience and again has a proven record of her ability to perform her work with competence.

Regarding her legal skills and analysis, As a deputy prosecutor having worked in appeals for 7 years, I had the opportunity to review her trial records. I have never encountered a record where Judge Loo made any unreasonable or indefensible rulings. on the contrary, when you worked on a Judge Loo appeal, it was a pretty good indication that the trial court decision would be upheld.

When I served as a district court judge, Judge Loo was the administrative judge. Although extremely busy with her own full case load, and her involvement as a lead participant in the expansion of the JIMS system, she always found time to assist her fellow judges in analyzing particular legal issues. From those experiences, it was clear to me that Judge Loo had an excellent grip on the law, good reasoning skills and solid judgment.

In closing, Judge Loo is an excellent candidate for the circuit court of the second circuit, Maui needs a female circuit court judge, Judge Loo is qualified and deserving of the full support of the entire Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the full Senate!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or at 808-264-1501.

From: TMHIFO@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 4:27 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Re: GM 667 Letter supporting Rhonda I. Loo for circuit court

LATE TESTIMONY

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
and Member of the Committee

From: (Bambi) Eden Elizabeth Hifo

Re: GMM 667 Support for Rhonda Loo

I write in support of the confirmation of The Honorable Rhonda I. Loo as second circuit court judge. I have known her as a colleague and interacted with her during her years on the Maui district court bench, usually at judiciary education conferences held in Honolulu. She is bright, energetic and genuine. I believe she would make a good circuit court judge.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Aloha.

2075 S. Kihei Rd., #220
Kihei, HI 96753

LATE TESTIMONY

April 11, 2011

SUPPORT

In reference to: Honorable Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for 2nd Circuit Court
Appointment; GM667

Chairperson
Judicial Selection Commission
State of Hawaii
417 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson,

As the Forensic Coordinator for Maui County, I have been honored to work alongside Judge Rhonda Loo in helping to forge the bond between Maui's judicial and mental health systems. Judge Loo's successes are many, and her positive attributes abound. Through Judge Loo's initiatives, we have managed to develop and sustain a viable mental health calendar in district court, and bring outside agencies together to help reduce criminal recidivism in our community.

My entire team has been very impressed by Judge Loo's willingness and openness to learn more about mental health, and her responsiveness to sensitive issues. Judge Loo is intelligent, impartial, responsible, caring, and patient, and she truly exemplifies the understanding that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." She listens to what parties have to say, and is fair and just in her determination of a sentence.

My team and I are in unanimous agreement that Judge Loo will be an invaluable asset and a perfect replacement as our new 2nd Circuit Court Judge! I have the privilege to work with all the Judges and most attorneys in our Circuit, and I cannot think of one person who would disagree with me on this recommendation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any follow-up as needed. I can be reached at 404-245-4208.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rampersad

Dara N. Rampersad, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Maui County Forensic Coordinator
Adjunct Professor

LATE TESTIMONY

April 12, 2011

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

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 find my letter recommending Ms. Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

I have known and worked closely with Judge Loo while working with her at the Judiciary in District Court as well as Circuit Court and have found her to be impartial, fair and honest.

Thank you for allowing me the time to submit my testimony in support of Judge Loo and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Evie-Ann T. Kahalekai
Circuit Court Clerk II
Second Circuit Court

From: Rashawyn.S.DeFrancia@courts.state.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:02 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Support Letter for Judge Rhonda I L Loo

LATE TESTIMONY

Dearest Senator's Hee and Shimabukuro,

I am writing this letter in support of the confirmation for Judge Rhonda I L Loo as the new Circuit Court Judge here in the Second Circuit. I have known Judge Loo for the past 12 years and have worked side by side with her in the last 5 as a court clerk. On the bench, I feel she is extremely fair and thorough with her rulings. Outside of the courtroom she is a very caring, fun, energetic, human being who always puts others needs before her own.

Judge Loo will surely be missed but we know that it's time for her to move forward in her career. She would most certainly be up for the challenges that the Circuit Court cases bring. She is a very intelligent, kind hearted individual who will be a great asset to the already wonderful staff in the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,
Rashawyn DeFrancia

From: Mollie M. Klingman [Mollie.Klingman@mpd.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 2:55 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to 2nd Circuit

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
GM 667- in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit

Hearing date: April 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Honorable members,

I am a Captain with the Maui Police Department. I have known Judge Lai Loo for over twenty-four (24) years. I had the privilege of working with Judge Lai Loo as far back as the 1980's, when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Maui County. I greatly respect Judge Lai Loo, and it an honor to be given the opportunity to show my support for her. She is highly intelligent, and has the integrity and demeanor for this position. She has always been very fair, and she has a wealth of experience. Judge Lai Loo has been accommodating, and gone out of her way to meet with members of law enforcement when guidance or direction is sought. She is patient, confident yet she is also humble. There is no doubt in my mind she would be a wonderful addition. I offer my full support for her nomination, and humbly ask that you confirm her to this position. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (808) 357-1842.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

Mollie Klingman

LATE TESTIMONY

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
April 13, 2011, 900 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

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

As a Deputy Sheriff for the Second Circuit, I have the liberty of serving Judge Loo in court and have found her to be a fair judge, firm when making decisions, professional, and courteous to everyone who appears before her. I have also been in court when she presided in the Circuit Court as an Acting Circuit Court Judge. At the Circuit Court level, she continued to display her intelligence, legal skills, and proved to be capable of handling all types of matters including jury trials, felony cases, and civil matters.

Judge Loo is well respected by the law enforcement community. She has the experience, integrity, and demeanor to be a Circuit Court Judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade K. Kamaka
Deputy Sheriff

LATE TESTIMONY

April 12, 2011

SUPPORT

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,

Please find my letter recommending Ms. Rhonda Loo to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

I have worked closely and traveled extensively with Judge Loo and found her to be impartial, fair, trustworthy and honest.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Deputy Sheriff II George "Keoki" Pereira
Sheriff Division/Maui Section

LATE TESTIMONY

CYNTHIA E. SASADA
200 LONO AVENUE
KAHULUI, HAWAII 96732

April 12, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Senate
State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

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

I have known Judge Loo for over five (5) years and I am pleased at being allowed the opportunity to comment on her many positive attributes. Judge Loo is experience, dedicated and hardworking. She has the integrity and ability to serve the people of our State. I humbly ask for the confirmation of Judge Rhonda Loo to serve in the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Cynthia E. Sasada

From: Pat Masumoto [yespat@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:18 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc: Rhonda.I.Loo@courts.state.hi.us
Subject: GM 667 - support of Rhonda Loo to the 2nd Circuit Court

Attention Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

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

Because I know Judge Rhonda Loo and Senator Clayton Hee personally, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter.

Both of you are high on my list of outstanding public officials.

I've worked with Rhonda on two community-type projects, and she was remarkable.

I unhesitatingly support Rhonda Loo in any and all capacities: as a Judge, a woman and a human being.

Sincerely,

Pat (Hasegawa) Masumoto

"Maui Woman Making A Difference"
By Hawaii State Status of Women
Resolution passed by Maui County

LATE TESTIMONY

**Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc.
P.O. Box 901, Kula, Hawaii 96790-9302
Phone: (808) 878-1202
Fax: (808) 878-2178**

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 the President for Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc. and have had the pleasure of
knowing Rhonda for the past several years. She is smart, fair, ethical and
hard working. Furthermore, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to
public service on Maui by her previous employment as a Maui County
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and her current position of District Court
Judge for the Second Circuit for the past 13 ½ years. For these reasons I
support her nomination without hesitation.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Sumner P. Erdman

From: Kimberly Sloper [kimberlysloper@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 10:43 AM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: GM 667 - Re: Gubernatorial Candidate Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court - Hearing Date 4/13/11 @9:00 am

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

Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

I am writing to support the nomination of Judge Rhonda Loo to the Second Circuit Court. She has the temperament and judicial ability to be a valuable asset to the Judiciary and the community as a whole. I had the pleasure of working with Judge Loo when I was a law clerk for Judge Raffetto and she sat per diem for him while he was serving his military service. In that regard, I have seen her ability to step in and efficiently handle a heavy circuit court calendar with expertise and compassion. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I appeared before Judge Loo on numerous occasions. Her ability to move the district court calendars along is impressive, all the while, affording each case its due, recognizing that the individuals appearing before her are just that, individuals, bringing varied life experiences and histories to the courtroom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Sloper

LATE TESTIMONY

April 12, 2011

Mr. Clayton Hee, Chair
Ms. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Dear Mr. Hee and Ms. Shimabukuro:

It is my great pleasure to be able to write this letter supporting the Honorable Rhonda I.L. Loo, Second Circuit District Court Judge, to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

I have known Judge Rhonda Loo since I began employment with the Judiciary in 1986. At that time, she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui. Throughout our professional relationship, Judge Loo has demonstrated that she is a sincere, organized and dependable attorney and judge who is able to perform her duties with diligence, intelligence and balance so that our mutual clients were appropriately represented and received the maximum benefit from the system of care that is available in our community.

In my current position as the Judiciary's Second Circuit Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judge Loo had been instrumental in our efforts to establish and implement a full service restitution program for criminal cases in the District Court which began in 2004. Prior to the implementation of the restitution program, District Court had a reported average of only 20 restitution cases per fiscal year. It should be noted that we currently process approximately 50 new victim referrals from the District Court each month. This clearly demonstrated the need for the provision of a systematic, formal restitution program which offered direct services to victims to address restitution in each applicable criminal case. Since that time, we have met with Judge Loo on a regular basis to ensure quality control of the program.

This is just one example of her positive "can do" attitude and down to earth demeanor which has made it easy for our Client Services Division to work with the District Court in our collaborative efforts. All of her great qualities clearly exemplifies her commitment to justice.

As such, it is with my highest recommendation that Judge Rhonda Loo be confirmed to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy S. Kozaki". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a typed name.

Sandy S. Kozaki

LATE TESTIMONY

Melissa T. Pavlicek
c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 447-1840

April 13, 2011

Chair, Senator Clayton Hee
Vice-Chair, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 9:00a.m., CR 016

Re: GM667: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO, for a Term to Expire in Ten Years.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of **RHONDA IWALANI LAI LOO's** nomination to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am an attorney and business owner who has known Ms. Loo since we both attended high school together in Maui.

I have served as the president of Hawaii Women Lawyers and as the chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Diversity Committee. Seeing strong, qualified women attorneys appointed to the judiciary is very important to me, not only for the "role model" aspect, but because I truly believe that a diverse judiciary, reflective of our island community will bring about greater understanding of viewpoints. I was extremely surprised to learn that no woman has previously been appointed to serve as a Maui Circuit Court judge. Ms. Loo exemplifies all of the positive attributes necessary for trusting her with this appointment.

Please support Ms. Loo's nomination.

LATE TESTIMONY



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4167

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766

LOCAL 142

April 12, 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 Senator Hee:

My name is William Kennison. I am writing to you and the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor to state my unequivocal support for Judge Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Judge Loo and her family for a long time. I became better acquainted with Judge Loo when I began serving on the Police Commission of the County of Maui. Judge Loo was a prosecutor in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney at that time and some of the prosecutors, police officers and commissioners occasionally met for a social or recreational outing, such as golf. Judge Loo participated in some of these informal events and was well-liked by everyone. In my discussions with her about community events and Maui County, I found Judge Loo to be well-informed and very intelligent. Having been raised on Maui, Judge Loo showed a very deep concern for the community and a strong desire to help make the county a better place for its residents. Therefore, I was not surprised that Judge Loo later applied and was selected to be a district court judge.

I have followed Judge Loo's career as a judge over the years because being a business agent and then head of the Maui Division of the ILWU, I often met with union members who had to go to district court for certain offenses. Many of these members had to appear in Judge Loo's court and these members said that she was always very courteous and respectful of everyone there, including defendants and lawyers. They also said Judge Loo was fair in dealing with their offenses.

Now, Judge Loo has been appointed to serve as Circuit Court Judge in the Second Circuit. In my humble opinion, Judge Loo will make an excellent circuit court judge. She has already proven as district court judge that she will serve the community with a great deal of integrity and competence. Being a "home town" product, Judge Loo will always uphold the law with the best interests of the community in mind.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
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Thus, if there is any complaint about Judge Loo's honesty and integrity, I would be astounded. From what I know about Judge Loo is that she is thorough in her research of the law and her decisions are not arbitrary or based upon personal bias.

In closing, I ask the Judiciary and Labor Committee to find Judge Loo worthy of her nomination to be a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit and to recommend to the other honorable members of the Senate that Judge Loo be approved without delay.

Sincerely,

ILWU Local 142
Maui Division

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Kennison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Kennison
Division Director

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: THE CHAIR AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: SEARAY BELTRAN, STS

SUBJECT: GM 667 – IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE RHONDA I WALANI LAI LOO TO THE SECOND CIRCUIT
COURT

Dear Senator Clayton Hee and members of the Committee on judiciary Government and Labor.

I am a person that believes in the justice system when the right person is in place. I have the honor of knowing Judge Rhonda Loo for the several years as a friend. During this time she has been both helpful in providing our local police in the procedures of the court and to those that have been in court for the first time for whatever reason.

One of the things that I like about Judge Rhonda Loo is that she has been fair and impartial on matters relating to procedures and the law and upholds that administrative rules of the judiciary. She has been a community minded citizen in both within her own community and that of the State of Hawaii.

I strongly urge your consideration and the Committees to pass the appointment of the Honorable Rhonda Iwalani Lai Loo to the Second Circuit Court.

Very truly yours,
SeaRay Beltran, STS