

JC1

Testimony

TESTIMONY OF LIANNE H. PARONGAO  
KAUA'I RESIDENT  
ON JC1  
RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION & CONFIRMATION TO THE DISTRICT  
COURT OF THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII, JUDICIAL NOMINEE  
**EDMUND D. ACOBA**  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR (JDL)  
APRIL 20, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

Dear Chair Clayton Hee and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter, as a Kaua'i resident, in support of the nomination of Edmund D. Acoba to the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Acoba has extensive experience as a litigator in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, both as a Public Defender and as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for a total of 24 years. He currently serves as the Kaua'i Supervising Attorney of the Office of the Public Defender and maintains a caseload in addition to his administrative duties. As such, he is well qualified for the position of Judgeship.

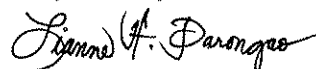
Mr. Acoba is highly respected and is an active leader in the community who tirelessly involves himself with countless activities related to church, martial arts, Pop Warner, baseball, basketball, Waimea High School Alumni Foundation, mock trial, PTSA, canoe paddling, Kaua'i Bar Association, and much more – too numerous to mention.

I have known Mr. Acoba for many years, both personally and professionally, and he has carried himself with utmost integrity and humility. He is an honorable man of excellence whose character is highly regarded among his peers, as well as his family and friends.

Given the strengths and passion of Mr. Acoba, and his willingness to serve the community, he undoubtedly will be an asset to the Fifth Judicial Circuit. His commitment to the citizens of our State of Hawaii exemplifies the spirit of public service, and I believe he will serve us exceptionally well.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Edmund D. Acoba,

Respectfully submitted,



Lianne H. Parongao  
[ani\\_pgc@hotmail.com](mailto:ani_pgc@hotmail.com)

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

April 20, 2011

JC1: Nomination of Edmund D. Acoba to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

This is in strong support of the nomination of Edmund D. Acoba to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit. Edmund is a well-qualified candidate who has demonstrated his qualities as a leader both in the community and in heading our Kauai branch of the Office of the Public Defender. He has served as a Deputy Public Defender since 1989. Since 1997, he has supervised the Kauai branch of the Office of the Public Defender. Edmund is especially well-suited for the family court because, for much of his career, he has specialized in the area of juvenile justice. He has regularly attended national conferences relating to the juvenile justice system, often at his own expense and has handled numerous family court criminal matters.

Edmund has been a very loyal and resourceful public servant. For much of his tenure as the Kauai supervisor, the office has been beset by budget restrictions and personnel shortages. Edmund has always found a way to cover all of the courtrooms and secure necessary office equipment without complaining about the budget problems. He has truly been a valuable member of our office and would be difficult to replace. However, he would be an exceptional addition to the bench on Kauai.

Edmund has been an outstanding community leader. He has been very active in the Little League and Pop Warner programs on the island and hundreds of the island's youth have benefitted from his efforts and his teachings. Having been a lifelong resident of Kauai, he is very much in tune with the community and the residents of that island would greatly benefit from his practical and legal wisdom.

I have the highest respect for Edmund and I truly believe that he has all of the tools to excel as a family court judge in the Fifth Circuit. It is with great pride that I highly recommend him.

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

April 18, 2011

To the Hawaii State Judiciary committee,

I am writing my testimony in behalf of Edmund D. Acoba for consideration for District Court Judge on the island of Kauai. He has always given 110% of himself in whatever he decided to pursue. Whether it may be playing Pop Warner Football in his youth or coaching future lawyers of America.

He is well known on the island of Kauai for his unselfishness in community involvement and has received numerous awards and recognitions. He has applied himself on the national level being elected the Regional Director of the Western Conference with the Pop Warner Little Scholars Inc. There he has helped propel the organization in voicing his ideas and helped in creating rule changes.

He is very humble and thinks things through for the best decision regarding the situation. He is very reasonable and upholds his decisions with integrity. If put into a situation he is not afraid to stand on his two feet and voice himself with summations or interpretations for argument of rules and or guidelines that may have not been followed and apply a ruling or decision that would fit the consequence.

Lastly, he will be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Judicial system. I know he will conduct himself with utmost integrity and be committed to his role of Judge. He is an honorable individual that will always give his best in his body of work and life.

Sincerely,

*Eric Acoba*

Eric Acoba

April 14, 2011

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Simeona A. Mariano, Esq.  
91-1045 Makahani St.  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
(808) 368-2937  
simeona78@hotmail.com

RE: **JC 1, Confirmation Hearing-Edmund D. Acoba**  
Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Edmund D. Acoba, nominee for the Kauai District Family Court Judgeship.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Acoba during my appointment as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kauai from 2004 to 2007. At that time Mr. Acoba headed the Public Defender's Office on Kauai and handled all family court cases. As the deputy assigned to the Adult Family Court cases, I worked on numerous Abuse of Family and Household Member and Temporary Restraining Order Violation cases with Mr. Acoba. In working with him, I gained a wealth of knowledge and received invaluable guidance at a critical time in my career because this was my first job as a practicing attorney. Today, I can say that it has helped me in my current position as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

As an adversary, Mr. Acoba was very fair and reasonable with me in the way he handled cases. He helped me with court procedures and policies and answered any questions I had. After concluding a significant trial or hearing, Mr. Acoba would offer constructive criticism on ways that I could improve my skills. I appreciated it and found it extremely helpful in developing myself professionally.

As a public defender, Mr. Acoba is passionate about his position and the justice system. He has dedicated his legal career to public service, including working as a prosecutor. He has handled a wide range of cases throughout his many years of practice. I have always found him to be a very compassionate and zealous advocate for his clients. As a lifelong resident of Kauai, he is also very active in the community and a huge supporter of organized youth sports.

In working with Mr. Acoba, he has become both a friend and a mentor to me. He treated me with respect and dignity in the courtroom and outside from work. I was fortunate to have worked with him and to develop a friendship I appreciate and enjoy to this day. I strongly believe Mr. Acoba possesses excellent characteristics of determination, trustworthiness and humility. He is a mentor and friend that I have tremendous respect and admiration for because of his outstanding public service work and for his help and guidance to me.

I believe that Edmund D. Acoba is well qualified for and most deserving of this judgeship and he would be an exceptional addition to the State of Hawai'i judicial bench and justice system as the District Family Court Judge of the Fifth Circuit.

Sincerely,

Simeona A. Mariano, Esq.

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

April 18, 2011

Re: Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2011-1

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate:

It is with great pleasure and pride to fully support the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice, and his selection of Edmund D. Acoba, for the vacancy in the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii

To almost everyone in the family and community, we all know Edmund as "Ed." As his sister, I write to you today to share what I had learned from him and his support and love for the children of Kauai through the Pop Warner Football and Cheer Program. He was the true advocate of "No Child Left Behind." His involvement in the program was because he believed that each child has the ability to succeed on and off the field. Pop Warner Football and Cheer was not only a sports program but also a scholar program. Given his educational background and profession, he came up with the resources and the avenues for every participant in the program to fairly achieve what they wanted. He encouraged goal setting to establish team direction, emphasized team effort and promoted family fellowship. Ed's innovative fundraising ideas and his application of what we as his staff refer to as the "credit system" allowed post season travel for our Kekaha Teams to the other islands and engage in home and home games. It was during his leadership in the Kauai Pop Warner Football and Cheer Program that the football teams from the Kauai, Maui and the Big Island were given the opportunity to participate in the National level. As a result of his leadership coupled with his dedicated Cheer Staff of the Kekaha Pop Warner Program, Kauai was nationally recognized in Pop Warner Cheer history when the Midget Cheer Team brought home the 1<sup>st</sup> Place trophy in the National Cheer Competition. It was during that same year, that one of the Kekaha cheer participants was also awarded a Pop Warner Scholarship.

What he did for the Pop Warner and Cheer Program- he did for Kekaha Youth Baseball. Again following his lead, applying his philosophy and implementing the credit system, our Baseball Mustang and Bronco teams were able to participate in outer island tournaments.

Those that followed in his shoes in the various programs that he led (including myself), were able to take over with no hitch because what he put in place was proven and validated.

These are just two examples of Ed's giving of unselfish hours to the community and the Youth of Kauai and his belief that ALL children can succeed in anything that they set their mind to. Goal setting provided direction and the constant reminder that there is no "I" in Team. So with every step Ed took, everyone took a step with him – no one was left behind. The numerous Awards and Honors bestowed upon Ed are very deserving but most of all, it is a true reflection of his character.

As someone who followed in Ed's leadership in the Kauai Pop Warner and Cheer Program and the Kekaha Youth Baseball, as his sister and friend, I fully support the selection of Edmund D. Acoba, for the vacancy in the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Kind Regards,

Darleen Rene Acoba Rivera



Steven Rivera  
2702 Glasbern Circle  
West Melbourne, FL 32904

Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure and admiration to fully support Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice, selection of Edmund D. Acoba, for the vacancy in the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii. Mr. Acoba is truly a professional in every sense of the word. He has executed his assigned duties throughout the years in a fair and impartial manner. His professionalism also extends to the local community. I have witnessed firsthand his involvement with the Pop Warner WESCON Region league that included football and the Cheer & Dance competition. It is admirable his dedication and involvement with the development of our youth that not only stressed athletics but academics as well.

He is truly a role model for our youth to follow. He is an asset to the judicial system and our community overall. He is the ideal candidate and truly deserving of this position. Once again, I fully endorse and support this selection.

Respectfully,

Steven Rivera

Edmund Dean Acoba is a born achiever. Growing up with Edmund was a great experience from Pre-K (used to be called Nursery School) to some college when he attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

For all the years that I have known Edmund, he's a person who doesn't give up and he will work hard to achieve his goals.

Throughout the years he has proved to be a GREAT: guest speaker, karate instructor, various community leadership, various volunteered work, athletic coach, legal coaching, and especially a GREAT supporter for our Kauai Youth.

Edmund D. Acoba has the ability and knowledge to be Judge for the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii and I support him all the way.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 8:50 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Cc:** kamika202@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for JC1 on 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDL 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM JC1

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tammy  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kamika202@yahoo.com](mailto:kamika202@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/15/2011

Comments:

I wanted to write to you in support of the nominated Fifth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Edmund Acoba. Mr. Acoba would make a great Family Court Judge he has the knowledge of the Judicial system and has shown compassion to all that has come to know him even those in the court system. He treats everyone with respect even to those who have not shown respect to him. In his spare time he willingly will speak to youth groups on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. He talks to them and answers any questions they have. Mr. Acoba would be a great assesst to the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court system.

Thank You for letting us write letters of support and for taking time out to read each letter that comes to you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dabay0224@hotmail.com](mailto:dabay0224@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for JC1 on 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2011 11:20:57 PM

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Testimony for JDL 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM JC1

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Darrick Bayot  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dabay0224@hotmail.com](mailto:dabay0224@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [danvwise@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:danvwise@hawaiiintel.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for JC1 on 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2011 8:20:26 PM

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Testimony for JDL 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM JC1

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Danette Wise  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [danvwise@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:danvwise@hawaiiintel.net)  
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

I am in total support of having Edmund Acoba as District Court Judge of the Fifth Circuit. I am the Assistant Court Fiscal Officer of the Fifth Circuit Court & have known & grew up with Edmund from our elementary days at Kekaha School. Edmund started at a young age showing leadership when he campaigned & was voted as Kekaha School student body president. He continued into high school still being involved in the student body & also being an outstanding athlete. Upon completion of college & becoming an attorney, Edmund is very much involved with the Kauai community. To name a few, he referees basketball games, umpires baseball games, is a current karate instructor, and a volunteer board member of his housing complex. With Edmunds close-knit family upbringing, education background, work experiences & his continual community service, I strongly agree that Edmund Acoba would a great nominee to confirm as District Court Judge of the Fifth Circuit. Mahalo!