

JC3

Testimony



HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
**Family Law Section**

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**TESTIMONY OF THE FAMILY LAW SECTION  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
REGARDING JC-3**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the  
First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee,  
**LANSON K. KUPAU**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
Room 325, State Capitol

Good morning Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the  
Committee.

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

The Family Law Section is comprised of over 125 attorneys who practice  
primarily in Family Court. We handle divorce, paternity, domestic violence,  
child protection and guardianship cases. As a Section, our testimony represents  
the views of our members only; we do not speak on behalf of the entire Hawaii  
State Bar Association.

Although we do not usually testify about judicial nominations other than to  
Family Court, we felt that we should submit testimony regarding Mr. Kupau  
because the press release announcing his nomination indicated that he had  
served as a per diem "District Family Court Judge." We were concerned that  
silence from the Family Law Section about a per diem Family Court judge might  
somehow be misconstrued against Mr. Kupau.

Although Mr. Kupau was appointed as a per diem judge for both District and  
Family Court, he has not actually served on the Family Court bench. As an  
attorney, he has not had significant involvement in family law, and accordingly,  
he is not well known among the members of our section. None of this should be  
held against him.

We certainly are not opposed to his nomination and note that Mr. Kupau brings  
an impressive resume to the District Court position to which he has been  
nominated. We wish him well and commend him for his willingness to serve  
the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

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

April 20, 2011

JC3: Nomination of Lanson K. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Lanson K. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Lanson since he began his legal career as a Deputy Public Defender. While working with him in this office, I became familiar with his excellent work ethic as a lawyer. He was always a very motivated individual who put the time and effort into being the best attorney he could possibly be.

After leaving the Public Defender's office, he entered the private practice of law where he practiced civil litigation. He gained invaluable experience in civil law and, predictably, earned the respect of many of his colleagues in that field. In addition to being a very hard worker and excellent attorney, Lanson is a very humble and kind person. He is a family man who is very involved in the upbringing of his children and he will have compassion for all of the people who appear before him. He will always be committed to figuring out the best resolution in all the cases which he hears no matter how much time and effort the resolution takes. I recommend Lanson for this judicial position without hesitation.

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

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**From:** Robert.P.Miranda@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 8:37 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** In support of confirmation for Attorney Lanson Kupau District Court Judge

Good morning Senator(s): I am humbly requesting the confirmation of Attorney Lanson K. Kupau to Judgeship of the District Court of the First Circuit. Lanson or "Ola" as we refer to him has been a positive role model for all of us in the Kupau Clan of what determination, hardwork, dedication to family and the desire to succeed can be achieved if one follows their dream. As his brother in-law, I've known him for over 20 years and I can tell you that I've seen him struggle thru the years to realize a dream that he has pursued perhaps all of his life. As a single father to three beautiful children, Ashley, Duke and Ikaika, he maintains a hectic work schedule and yet still manages to attend all of the kids activities not to mention every family function. I have seen the professional side of him as well and can honestly tell you that having over 30 years in Law Enforcement, I have never seen a better trial attorney.

His father Lloyd Kupau Sr. had hoped that Ola would have chosen a career in Law Enforcement as himself a retired HPD Lieutenant, but Ola had other aspirations and went off to Law School, becoming an Attorney working for several esteemed Law Firms as well as the Honolulu Public Defenders Office, where he estinguished himself as a dedicated and more than competent lawyer able to handle both Civil and Criminal litigations.

I humbly ask for your confirmation of Attorney Lanson K. Kupau for Judgeship to the District Court of the First Circuit

Mahalo and Aloha

Special Agent Robert P. Miranda  
State Attorney General/Investigations Division

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**From:** Schmidt, Hayden K [hschmidt@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 12:39 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Letter for Lanson Kupau

This is a letter of recommendation for Mr. Lanson KUPAU,

It is my understanding that Lanson is being considered for a Judgeship position, I would like to lend some insight.

I have known Lanson for the past 30 years and have come to know him as a person with a high sense of integrity, good moral values and self motivated person. He traveled to mainland, which I know was a challenge for him, to obtain his law degree.

He has coached youth athletics, which I can attest from personal experience, can be challenging at times but more rewarding and humbling, when you understand that you can have a positive impact with today's youth.

Last but not least he has been very empathic outlook and is very accountable for his actions. I feel he would be a great candidate for this respected position.

Submitted Respectfully.



**Officer - Hayden K. Schmidt**  
**Honolulu Police Department**  
**District 7 - East Oahu**

**Community Policing Team (CPT)**  
**Phone: 540-8007**

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April 15, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau for Judge  
of the District Court of the First Circuit**

Dear Senator Hee,

I support the confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau to the position for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Lanson for fifteen years and believe he will be an excellent addition to the bench. Lanson is a well respected trial attorney and an advocate for the underprivileged.

The majority of Lanson's experience is in the civil area as he was a partner with KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA; and currently with the Bronster Hoshibata law firm. In addition, Lanson has criminal experience serving two years with the Public Defender's Office. The combination of both disciplines makes Lanson an excellent choice for District Court Judge. Lanson's family history can be traced to the Honolulu Police Department and to well known Labor Union Officials, and he appreciates the work and contributions that his family has made to our community.

As a single parent, Lanson appreciates the struggles that families make in raising their children in Hawaii. I believe this is critical for a judge who will be deciding cases involving people who look to the courts for justice. Growing up in Kalihi, Lanson is a role model for not only people of Hawaiian and Samoan ancestry, but for all races because he struggled to achieve the status as partner in a well-respected law firm and he continues to make a difference in our community. He will make an excellent judge



April 15, 2011

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because he is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. His moral courage is unquestioned and his integrity is impeccable.

A true judge of a person's character is how that person provides for his children and how much that person gives back to the community without regard of receiving recognition or reward. I know that Lanson has done both. Lanson has given back to the community by participating in volunteer work and coaching various organizations. More impressive than all is Lanson's pro bono legal services for low income adults and children. Legal services are so expensive that the indigent are often misrepresented or not represented at all, and that is truly a travesty.

I have had one opportunity to observe Lanson as a per diem Judge in the District Court, and he did an excellent job. I am confident that if Lanson K. Kupau is chosen, he will make an excellent District Court Judge.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on his confirmation.

Very truly yours,

**Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr.

**LYLE S. HOSODA & ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

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Telephone: 524-3700 ♦ Facsimile: 524-3838

**Lyle S. Hosoda**

**Raina P.B. Gushiken**  
**Kevin T. Morikone**  
**Thomas H. Yee**

April 13, 2011

**Via E-Mail: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)**

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

**RE: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau**

Dear Senator Hee:

I write in support of Lanson Kupau whom I understand is being considered for District Court Judge for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Kupau for approximately 10 years. I have observed Mr. Kupau over the past 10 years while he engaged in his civil litigation practice, primarily with the Kobayashi Sugita & Goda law firm, and believe that his experience makes him a good candidate to serve on the bench.

I have experienced and reviewed Mr. Kupau's written work on cases that we have had together, and against one another. His legal analytical skills make him a good candidate to be a judge. He is also a good decision-maker, gathering as much relevant information as possible, and then making a decisive, educated and informed decision. Finally, he is a leader and organizer of people.

Mr. Kupau possesses the integrity and moral courage to be a judge. He is intelligent. He has wisdom through years of experience. He has always been compassionate and extremely fair in all cases.

I believe that Mr. Kupau has the appropriate and necessary judicial temperament for the job. Mr. Kupau's honesty and trustworthiness have never been in question. I have never heard anyone say anything about Mr. Kupau being dishonest or not trustworthy.



Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State of Hawaii  
April 13, 2011  
Page Two

Mr. Kupau has been a per diem judge with the District Court since 2010. Although I have never personally appeared before him, it is my understanding from others in the Bar, that he has the respect of the legal community.

He also volunteers with the HSBA Junior Judges Program and with the World Youth Network where he speaks to elementary and high school kids. He also coaches youth baseball, and has been doing so for some time. His time in the community adds to his wisdom and experiences that will make him a fair and compassionate judge. For all these reasons, I recommend Mr. Kupau for the position as Judge.

Should you wish to discuss Mr. Kupau any further, please feel to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyle S. Hosoda", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lyle S. Hosoda

# Fukunaga Matayoshi Hershey Ching & Kop

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Wesley H. H. Ching

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April 13, 2011

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 407  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Email: [JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee and other Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I understand that you are seeking public comment on the various nominees for District Court of the First Circuit. I would like to convey to you some personal comments in support of Mr. Kupau's nomination as a District Judge of the First Circuit.

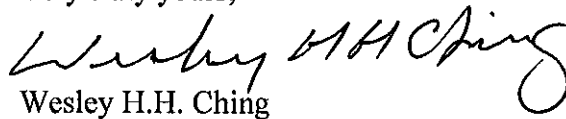
I have known and worked on litigation matters with Mr. Kupau for approximately 10 years. During that time and based on my experience, I believe Mr. Kupau would be an excellent District Court judge. Mr. Kupau possesses the dedication, work ethic, knowledge, skills and experience necessary for service as a judge. Just as important, Mr. Kupau possesses the qualities of compassion, fairness, and integrity, all of which are essential in instilling respect and trust in the judicial process and to the public and all participants in the process.

I have no reservation in recommending to you the confirmation of Mr. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit. His appointment will enhance and strengthen the judiciary and will benefit the State, the public, and all parties and counsel appearing before him.

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee  
April 13, 2011  
Page 2

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley H.H. Ching". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Wesley H.H. Ching

Leslie Lam  
47-135 Kaimalolo Place  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

April 13, 2011

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am a long-time resident of the State of Hawaii, and I am writing to express my full support for the position of District & District Family Court judge.

I whole-heartedly recommend former deputy public defender, Lanson Kupau, for the position of District & District Family Court judge. I have had the pleasure of witnessing Lanson's growth from his adolescence through fatherhood. All the while, he has displayed a heart of a true servant, and his loyalty to the community has continued to foster positive results.

While serving in the National Guard for six years he remained humble, even as he graduated with honors. He then continued his education and entered law school. His passion to prepare himself with the armor that is needed to protect others started at a very young age. As a teenager he introduced himself at family gatherings or at high school events as, "Lanson Kupau, Attorney at Law". Looking back, this memory brings tears to my eyes to see that Lanson has stayed true to this very long journey to protect his loved ones and his community.

Lanson has offered his talents and valuable time to the community as a coach in the Kaneohe district for many years. His guidance as a role model truly inspires our future leaders and has provided a path for the younger generation for a safer and sustainable future. On many occasions Lanson has also extended free legal counsel for teens and to their parents as well.

Lastly, Lanson has an incredible track record of listening intently, gathering facts, and making educated decisions that will ultimately benefit the community, especially in cases involving the security of children, women, and the elderly. He believes in keeping our citizens protected, supports prevention programs and promotes higher education.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and for your invaluable time.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lam

2300 Pauchi Tower  
1003 Bishop Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone 808.524.5644  
Fax 808.599.1881  
info@bhhawaii.net

*A Law Corporation*

# Bronster Hoshibata

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

April 18, 2011

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Senators:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to confirm Lanson Kupau to serve as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Kupau possesses all of the qualities and traits that you want to find in a District Court Judge. He is intelligent, hard-working, and fair. I also believe that Mr. Kupau possesses the judicial temperament needed for this position. Needless to say, I also believe Mr. Kupau is of outstanding moral character. Based on my personal experience of working with him, I can say without any reservation that Mr. Kupau will be an outstanding jurist who will serve the people of Hawai'i with distinction in that capacity.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Mr. Kupau for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sunny S. Lee, Esq.

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April 15, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee     *By Electronic Mail* ([JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov))  
Hawai'i Senate  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee,

I write to strongly commend to you Mr. Lanson K. Kupau as a candidate for confirmation as a Judge of the District Court. Mr. Kupau is one of those rare attorneys who excels both inside and outside of the courtroom. He is a natural fit for the bench because of his extensive knowledge, common sense, leadership, and personality. If selected, he will be the type of judge who will see to it that justice is not only done, but seen to be done.

By way of introduction, I am a retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and Judge Advocate who has been in private civil practice with the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP since my retirement from the Corps in November of 2003. I spent the last seven years of my Marine Corps career presiding over General and Special Courts-Martial as a military judge. I believe that my time on the bench, albeit in a much different forum, provides me with some practical insight into the qualities that make for a good judge.

First and foremost, Mr. Kupau has the right "judicial temperament." Time and again, the one resource that I repeatedly consulted during my time on the bench was the Honorable Judge Devitt's "Ten Commandments for the New Judge." The traits of which he speaks: common sense, kindness, patience, dignity, hard work, not to take oneself too seriously, and that there are no unimportant cases are the true discriminators for predicting future success on the bench. Mr. Kupau possesses all of these qualities and

Senator Clayton Hee  
April 15, 2011  
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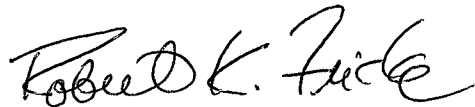
more. Win or lose, litigants will leave Mr. Kupau's courtroom knowing that they were given a fair opportunity to have their day in court.

I first met Mr. Kupau in 2003 when we represented different parties in a multi-party, contested case involving very strong personalities in a dispute over a high profile trust. I was immediately impressed with Mr. Kupau's command of the facts and the law, his ability to evaluate a case, his maturity, and the respectful manner in which he dealt with all participants. Mr. Kupau's legal memoranda were always well thought out, well researched, and well written. He was also very comfortable and effective in pretrial conferences, depositions, and motion hearings. I have no doubt that he will bring the same level of preparation to the bench as a judge that he brought to his cases as an advocate.

Since 2003, I have continued to cross paths with Mr. Kupau both professionally and socially. In a very recent case where our respective clients' interests were aligned, he provided our team with the wise counsel that made a real difference in the case outcome. In his private life, he is a devoted father to his children and a giving member of the local community.

If confirmed, Mr. Kupau will be a superb addition to the bench. Please contact me at 547-5840 if I may answer any additional questions you may have about him. Thank you very much for considering him for confirmation.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Fricke

RKF:jmd

April 14, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judicial and Labor  
Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Aloha Senator Hee,

I am writing to support Lanson K. Kupau for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Lanson for the past twenty seven years both personally and professionally. Lanson is my brother-in-law whom I first got to know when he was in college and as he continued into law school. I know him to be very diligent in everything he does, from his hard work in school, his first practice as a public defender, and as a family man.

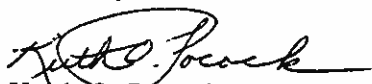
Lanson has always been very dedicated to his parents and has been very supportive of them in every way possible. His dad has been a dialysis patient for the past twelve, very challenging years. Lanson has always been there to support his parents and provide for their needs.

His is the father of three children and is very involved in every aspect of their lives. From their school endeavors, sports participation, extra circular activities, he always makes time to be there for them. He is insuring that they are growing up to be positive, contributing members to society.

When he was a public defender he always did his best to see that those clients assigned to him were treated fairly and given fair representation of their rights. He did this and maintained a wonderful family relationship with many of the members of his family who were in law enforcement. One sister was a police dispatcher, another is a police officer and her husband is now retired from the Honolulu Police Department. His father is retired from the HPD and I was a ranking officer during his tenure at the Public Defender's office. Lanson was always able to keep his professional life separate from his family life while keeping what was most important in perspective.

I believe these qualities and his beliefs qualify him for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. He is an intelligent person who works very hard to insure that justice is meted out fairly and within the rights guaranteed to all of us. I believe Lanson will be an extraordinary asset to the court system as a Judge and ask your favorable consideration in this matter. He would be very honored to be chosen to serve in this position.

Sincerely,



Keith O. Pocock  
Assistant Chief of Police – Retired  
Honolulu Police Department



April 15, 2011

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

JC 3: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, Lanson K. Kupau, for a six years term.

DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

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

I am writing in strong support and with great respect for Lanson Kupau. I urge you to confirm Mr. Kupau's judicial nomination to the District Court of the First District. I have known Mr. Kupau for 18 years and I am able to comment on his superior qualities, which establish his qualifications to serve and succeed as a District Court Judge. I have also practiced law in District, Family, and Circuit Courts in Hawaii since graduating from law school in 1988. From 1990 to 1997, I was a deputy public defender for the State of Hawaii. I have appeared in front of numerous Judges and worked as a law clerk from 1988-1990 on Maui. I have the background and understanding of the qualities and attributes needed when presiding over cases in District and District Family Court.

Additionally, I serve on the Supreme Court's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts (CEAC), whose mission is to promote the fair resolution of all cases, promote fair treatment in the administration of justice and provision of services, and facilitate and increase access to the courts. One of the recent requests to our committee by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii was to review the OHA report on disparate impact and treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Judiciary. Clearly, this committee is also committed to CEAC's mission and the implementation of progressive initiatives that address access, fairness and justice for all. One aspect of a comprehensive plan to achieve these goals is the appointment of Judges who will strive to provide equality and access in the courtroom and who will devote their time and effort outside the courtroom to assist our community in reaching these goals. Mr. Kupau will definitely be committed to both and is a great role model.

Mr. Kupau has a keen intellect, an astute awareness of the complex factors that contribute to individual choices, a strong commitment and dedication to the people of Hawai'i, a deep understanding and reverence to the Constitutions of Hawai'i and the United States, and is both a keiki o ka aina and a kanaka maoli.

Mr. Kupau's unique and inspiring background enables him to relate to the people and circumstances that a District Court Judge presides over every day. He was born in Kalihi; lived in Kaneohe; is of part-Hawaiian, part-Samoan, German and Irish ancestry; he is a single father raising 3 teenagers; attended both public and private schools in Hawaii and California; enlisted in the Air National Guard to pay for college; comes from a family of police officers; was a deputy public defender; worked in private law firms with various specialties; is extremely active in community service; donates time and resources to empower the youth; and takes great pride in being a role model in our diverse and wonderfully blended community.

Mr Kupau's character, which is distinctly influenced and molded by the afore-mentioned events and experiences, is above reproach. His road to this appointment has been a bumpy climb, but he has never wavered in his strong conviction for justice, his love of family and community, his compassion for marginalized populations, and his tireless work ethic. It is difficult to write specific aspects and choices that I know of because they are extremely personal, however I can and will state that through all of the hardships that Mr. Kupau has gone through he continues to embody the essence of all that is good in people. He believes and makes a difference in so many people's lives now and this appointment would allow him to expand his dynamic touch to a greater number of people in Hawai'i. This in turn will begin to address the systemic disconnect between the judiciary and the people it serves, which is the goal we strive to meet.

In conclusion, I highly and humbly recommend to this committee that your confirmation of Lanson Kupau to a judgeship in District Court of the First District will serve our community well. Not only will it evidence the committee's commitment to CSEC's mission and goals, it will also begin the daunting task of developing and building a stronger connectivity between the Judiciary and the community it serves. Lanson Kupau possesses all the qualities and values needed to be a great judge and will serve the people of Hawai'i with ha'aheo (pride) and ha'aha'a (humility).

Sincerely,

Jill Leilani Nunokawa

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April 13, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson Kupau

I write to comment favorably, on the nomination of Lanson Kupau to the Honolulu District Court. A quick background: Mr. Kupau was my Associate in his early years of practice when he joined the Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda law firm years ago. As his Supervising Attorney, I was responsible for much of his early training and supervision over his professional work product.

I don't take credit for Lanson's current judicial capabilities (he presently serves admirably as a per diem judge); but I want to comment on his early professional maturation and how it, together with his background, position him uniquely for a District Court Judgeship.

Lanson by his own admission does not boast an "academic or personal pedigree." However, raised in Kalihi, the son of a policeman, he has emerged from somewhat "rough and tumble beginnings" without forgetting them. One who has "been there, done that," when he first joined our law firm, he was "rough and ready" to take on everything, both fists raised.

Over time, he learned the "reasoned response" and developed into an effective lawyer and advocate. He has a fine "bedside manner" to go with a down to earth, realistic view of the world. In a court of first impression and first involvement for so many of our citizens, his experience and skills will give real life meaning to "equal justice." I heartily commend his candidacy.

Very truly yours,

DALE W. LEE

April 13, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Written Support Lanson K. Kupau – Nomination District Court Judge

Aloha Senator Hee,

Mahalo for taking the time to read my statement in support for nominee Lanson K. Kupau for District Court Judge.

It is with great honor that I share with you today, my support for Lanson K. Kupau. I have known Lanson since we were students at Damien Memorial High School twenty-eight years ago. I valued my friendship on the basis of integrity, honesty and fairness. These are enriched values that Lanson demonstrated from “back in the days” and now. A lot can be said about Lanson’s broad understanding and knowledge of the judicial system and laws that govern our communities. In casual conversation, we often discuss issues that range from child and elderly abuse to illegal activity such as drugs and identity theft. It never ceases to amaze me how well diverse Lanson is in all aspects of our social and economic surroundings. It is also his professional and effective leadership skills to work closely with our government leaders and the public and private sectors that make him an outstanding candidate.

You sense that Lanson is very passionate about protecting our children from abuse and an equally strong stance against those who prey on innocent people such as our kupuna. With that being said, I have all the confidence that Lanson would be an excellent District Court Judge and a great member of the judicial courts.

Mahalo Senator Hee for taking the time to allow me to share with you, some of my reasons why Lanson K. Kupau would be an excellent District Judge.

Mahalo,

Ed Saunders

# STARN O'TOOLE MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

April 15, 2011

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

## Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee:

I write to express my sincere and strong support of the confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau for District Court Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I am the President of the law firm of Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher and have been practicing law for almost 40 years. In my many years of practice, I have, on many occasions, had the opportunity to serve as co-counsel on cases with attorneys outside of my law firm. Mr. Kupau is one of those attorneys. He was co-counsel with our firm on a very complex trust litigation case. I experienced firsthand Mr. Kupau's legal skills and abilities and found him to be a dedicated, hardworking, responsible and thoughtful individual with great integrity, all qualities which would make him an outstanding addition to the District Court bench.

Mr. Kupau's legal experience includes (1) his past practice as a criminal defense attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, trying numerous bench and jury trials and representing both adult and juvenile defendants, (2) insurance defense, (3) personal injury, (4) construction defects, (5) medical malpractice and (6) general civil litigation, with an emphasis on commercial litigation and regulatory issues. He also has participated in numerous arbitrations and mediations and has first and second chaired several Circuit Court trials. The people of Hawaii would be well served to have a District Court judge with the legal qualifications and wide ranging experience of Mr. Kupau.

Mr. Kupau's service to the children's athletics community includes (1) team fundraising for uniforms and equipment and (2) coaching Little League, PONY, Cal Ripkin Jr. and Babe Ruth baseball, Kaneohe PAL basketball and AYSO soccer. His pro bono service to the community includes (1) counseling troubled youth, (2) providing legal services to low income children and adults, and (3) working with Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii and Children's Alliance of Hawaii.

Senator Clayton Hee  
April 15, 2011  
Page 2

I believe Mr. Kupau would bring outstanding leadership, decision making skills and high integrity to the judicial process. I recommend Mr. Kupau's confirmation to you both wholeheartedly and without reservation. Should you have questions or desire any further input from me, I would be happy to provide them to you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Starn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Peter Starn

**LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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SUITE 2022  
841 BISHOP STREET  
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HOWARD K. K. LUKE  
DAVID M. HAYAKAWA

TEL: (808) 545-5000  
FAX: (808) 523-9137

April 18, 2011

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

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

Re: JC3 Hearing: April 20, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau  
For the Position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit

Dear Chairperson Hee and Fellow Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau as a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I know Mr. Kupau on a personal and professional basis, although not as well as some of the other appointees and nominees to the district court in the past and present. While my enthusiastic support of his appointment is based in part on my limited familiarity with his superior professional work, far more compelling is the outstanding professional and personal reputation that Mr. Kupau has gained in our legal community over the years. Mr. Kupau has enjoyed widespread respect and admiration from his peers. I have heard nothing but praise from members of the judiciary, the partners and associates of the law firms with whom he has worked, and the attorneys who have been acquainted with him in and out of court. The expressions of respect and admiration have been unanimous. To everyone, "Lance" is an outstanding attorney, and a great guy.

Complementing his exemplary legal career and his outstanding professional reputation are Mr. Kupau's many contributions to the community. Perhaps because of his personal background, Mr. Kupau has been a great counselor and mentor to our island's youth, and to the disadvantaged in our community. He has been involved with the World Youth Network, encouraging young people to make the right career choices, and with the Children's Alliance of

JC3 Hearing: April 20, 2011 9:00 a.m.  
Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau  
For the Position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit

Hawaii. He has participated in numerous youth athletic activities as a coach and fundraiser. These activities have been pursued in addition to his pro bono professional activities with Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii and as a moot court judge with the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law.

In summary, I strongly recommend that the appointment of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau as a district court judge be supported by a finding that he is eminently qualified to serve in that capacity. I have no doubt that he will be an excellent judge, and that he will exemplify the highest standards of our state judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with these comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard K. K. Luke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

HOWARD K. K. LUKE  
Attorney at Law



**GUY S. MATSUNAGA**

ATTORNEY AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION  
1188 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1612, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808)524-9191

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The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in support of JC3-Lanson K. Kupau

This letter is regarding my support for Lanson K. Kupau for the confirmation as a First District Court Judge. I have had the opportunity to witness his prowess as a fierce litigator on the occasions I have been opposing Counsel. He is aggressive and tough, but always "battles" with the highest standards of ethics and morals.

As a per-diem Judge, Mr. Kupau has an even temperament and has always been fair and respectful to both the attorneys, as well as to the public who appear before him. Due to these qualities, Mr. Kupau would be an asset to the State of Hawaii as a District Court Judge. He is perfect for the position. I'm sure that with the opportunity, he will always make the right decisions; one that is not biased towards personal beliefs, rather, what is right according to the law.

Sincerely,

Guy S. Matsunaga



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Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau  
[JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

## **Aloha! Senator Hee:**

I am writing to you to give a great recommendation for Lanson Kupau. He is being considered for a District and District Family Court Judge. What a great honor! He is very enthusiastic and excited to be nominated again.

I have known Lanson since 1997, when I was performing with the "Local Divas", a singing group made up of Loyal Garner (who died from cancer), Melveen Leed, Nohelani Cypriano and myself. We always rehearsed at Loyal's home, where Lanson was living with his wife (Loyal's niece) and three children. \*Sadly, Lanson is now divorced and is the sole support and parent for his three children.

I know Lanson to be a wonderful father, a participator in the community via coaching youth baseball for 8 years, basketball, a donator of his time and money to various little league teams for uniforms, equipment, fundraising et al. This while working full-time as an Attorney in Honolulu.

Lanson presides about once per week. as a per diem judge for district and district family courts. I believe he's been doing this for

several months.

He's always counseled youngsters who have gone astray to get them to stay in school and participate in sports for needed discipline. Lanson volunteers with the HSBA's Junior Judges Program and with World Youth Network to speak to elementary and high school kids about making positive life choices.

He donates some of his time to represent kids and adults who have lost their way and unable to afford an attorney. He has compassion on them because of his experience with parenting his own children.

His children are members of New Hope Windward - where it has had a tremendous impact on their lives in terms of providing a foundation for them.

What impressed me is Lanson's diligence about paying back his student loans. He is trustworthy, has integrity, is diligent, has a tremendous personality and is very compassionate!

Given his life experiences and his background, I think he would make a great District and District Family Court Judge. He has come up the hard way, working his way through college, being devoted to his family and children and always showing respect to anyone he meets.

He makes us proud to call him a "Keiki O Ka Aina"! Those who know him professionally can comment about his professional qualifications, which are many.

Honorable Senator, thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will give him a serious look, he will not disappoint you. Senator, keep up the good work. We are proud of your efforts!!!

As a person who works with thousands of volunteers annually (27 years now with the Great Aloha Run and 20 with the Bed Race), I can spot a sincere and hard-working person and a doer. Lanson is that person.

Mahalo and Aloha!

*Carole Kai Onouye*

Carole Kai Onouye (sent by email, so no signature)

President

Carole Kai Charities, Inc.

Dbas Great Aloha Run

418 Kuwili St. Suite 102

Honolulu, HI. 96817

(808) 528-7388 office; (808) 528-7392 fax; (808) 306-3869 cell

April 18, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capital  
415 S. Beretania St., Room 228  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Subject: **Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau**

This letter is being sent in support of Lanson Kupau, Esq., who is nominated by Chief Justice Recktenwald to be a District Court Judge in the First Circuit.

I support Mr. Kupau's nomination without reservation.

Mr. Kupau has the intelligence, legal knowledge, and extensive life experience to serve the people of Hawai'i as a district court judge. His clients, of which the State was one, have benefited greatly from his dedicated efforts and I am sure his addition to the Judiciary will enable him to continue to serve his community in a manner in which we will end up being grateful beneficiaries.

Our community is a trusting community. That is our nature. We look at people in positions of authority and expect them to be honest and fair. We want to believe that our system of government is a system that works for us and that, in the end, the right thing will be done no matter if we agree or disagree. This is especially true for judges and not everyone has the capacity or ability to instill that confidence.

I believe that Mr. Kupau is a person that validates our community's trust and that he will, through his work, serve as an inspiration to others to do good and to be better.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Mr. Kupau.

Paul Yuen  
2724 Kahoaloha Lane #1101  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
(808) 949-055

April 18, 2011

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

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support the confirmation of Mr. Lanson Kupau as a District Court judge.

I have known Mr. Kupau since 2005. I had just been hired to do some work in an industry that was new to me, and Mr. Kupau was our attorney. Though I was experienced with the tasks I would need to perform, I had no knowledge of the behind-the-scenes workings of the industry.

Throughout the course of the project, Mr. Kupau provided clear guidance about what was necessary and also explained the statutes that dictated the necessary actions. Mr. Kupau was never impatient, condescending or otherwise rude—and I asked a lot of very basic questions! I worked with Mr. Kupau on other projects since then, and he continued to patiently provide clear responses to my questions. I have also found Mr. Kupau to be very well-organized. He was able to locate virtually anything I'd sent him, even if years had passed. Mr. Kupau's organization and clear communication saved me from countless hours of work.

I've also found Mr. Kupau to be open-minded and flexible. There were several times when I wanted to do something differently from how he thought it should be done. Mr. Kupau kept an open mind during our discussions of the merits of various work plans. He didn't hesitate to acknowledge good ideas and would support adjusting plans based on input from others.

Mr. Kupau would sometimes have to contact angry claimants. He was always able to calm them down, even while disagreeing with them every step of the way! I know from talking to claimants afterwards that while they weren't happy about not getting what they wanted, they understood and accepted Mr. Kupau's explanations. I admire Mr. Kupau's ability to inspire respect, even from people who disagree with everything he said.

On a personal level, I am familiar with Mr. Kupau's dedication to his family and to the community. Mr. Kupau provides guidance to youth of all ages. Through his work with HSBA's Junior Judges Program, World Youth Network and many years of coaching baseball, Mr. Kupau is influencing children and young adults to make positive life choices.

Mr. Kupau can be authoritative and assertive without being aggressive, he does not come across as arrogant, and he treats everyone with courtesy and respect. If I ever had to appear in court, I would be thankful to have someone like Mr. Kupau as the judge.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Phillipson

STARN · O'TOOLE · MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

April 14, 2011

**Via e-mail: [JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLEvidence@Capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau**

Dear Senator Hee:


I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau to serve as a District Court Judge.

I know Lanson from working with him on several cases. If Lanson were to serve as a judge it would be a great benefit to the people of Hawaii. He is hard working, articulate, gracious even under pressure, and, although a vigorous advocate, always had what was fair in mind. Lanson also brings a wealth of experience to his new role, with a background in both civil and criminal matters.

Lanson would be a great judge because he will understand the difficult theoretical legal issues he will be called on to decide, and also communicate with both lawyers and lay people in a manner that inspires confidence in our judicial system.

I have no doubts that Lanson would be a great asset to the people of Hawaii as a judge, and highly recommend him for that position.

Very truly yours,



Trevor A. Brown

TAB:ghs

cc: Lanson K. Kupau, Esq.



Thomas H. Yee  
345 Queen Street, Suite 804  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 14, 2011

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

RE: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee:

I write to express my support for Lanson K. Kupau as nominee for one of the four judicial vacancies with the District Court and District Family Court. I have known Lanson for over ten years and have had the privilege of working with him for nine of those years. Lanson was a mentor to me when I first began my legal career, and a close friend over the ensuing years. In that time, I have known Lanson to be a great litigator, with a clear and innovative legal mind, and a strong courtroom presence. I have also known Lanson to be a highly compassionate person with a strong sense of morals and ethics.

I believe these qualities make Lanson ideally suited to serve the people of Hawaii as a District Court judge, and I urge you, both as a member of the bar and as a resident of this State, to consider his appointment.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Thomas H. Yee

Thomas H. Yee

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

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April 18, 2011

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

By *Electronic Mail* ([JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov))

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee,

I write in support of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau as a Judge of the District Court, State of Hawaii. Mr. Kupau has my unqualified, strongest recommendation for confirmation. Mr. Kupau is an outstanding attorney, a superb courtroom trial advocate, and a wonderful father and person. In short, Mr. Kupau will be the type of judge whom counsel will look forward to practicing before.

By way of introduction, I am an attorney who has been in private civil practice with the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP since 2001. Prior to that, I served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps. During my tour with the Navy in Hawaii, I served for a year in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. As such, I have spent the majority of my legal career as a courtroom trial attorney, and believe I have a good sense of the qualities that make for successful judges.

I first came to know Mr. Kupau in 2003 when we represented different parties in a hotly contested case, involving multiple parties, each represented by their own counsel. Mr. Kupau immediately impressed all of those involved in the case with his in-depth knowledge of substantive case law, procedural rules, evidence, and courtroom trial advocacy skills. Perhaps more important, Mr. Kupau practiced a level of civility in his dealings with all parties that greatly aided in our eventually resolving the case. Since that time, I have continued to enjoy both professional and social contact with Mr. Kupau.

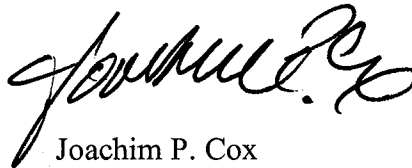
During my interaction with Mr. Kupau, I have seen him perform in all aspects of the trial process, to include depositions, pretrial conferences, motion hearings, and trials. I have also seen Mr. Kupau supervise and mentor younger attorneys. Mr. Kupau's efforts as an attorney and mentor are tireless.

Senator Clayton Hee  
April 18, 2011  
Page 2

I also find that Mr. Kupau's performance as an attorney benefits from a solid basis of good common sense, and an even temperament. This temperament and common sense, along with Mr. Kupau's maturity and extensive trial experience will serve him extremely well on the bench. With this, I have no doubt that Mr. Kupau's service as a judge will continue to instill confidence in our judiciary; it is in his nature to treat people fairly and respectfully, and to address each case with the importance felt by those involved.

In sum, I truly believe you will be hard-pressed to find a better candidate for confirmation as a judge. If I can answer any additional questions from your committee concerning Mr. Kupau, please do not hesitate to contact me at 547-5617. Thank you for your consideration of his application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joachim P. Cox", written in a cursive style.

Joachim P. Cox

JPC:jd

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**From:** Ken M. Nakasone [knakasone@ksglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:30 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau - April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325  
Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

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

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Kupau since September of 1999 when we both joined Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda laterally from other firms. At Kobayashi, Mr. Kupau always worked hard putting in the long hours to get the best results for our clients.

With his experience as a public defender, Mr. Kupau served as a valuable resource in addressing and handling any criminal matters/issues that came up in the course of the firm's general civil and commercial litigation practice. Mr. Kupau's ability and experience in civil and criminal cases will enable him to properly take on all the responsibilities of a District Court Judge.

Beyond his legal ability and experience, Mr. Kupau is also a person with the characteristics necessary to be a District Court Judge including, but not limited to, integrity, intelligence and wisdom, compassion and fairness, diligence and decisiveness and a very even judicial temperament.

**I have had the opportunity to observe him at work as a Per Diem Judge in the District Court. Mr. Kupau has the special ability to uphold the law in a way that all the parties before him can understand and relate to. This is exactly what is needed for our District Courts.**

I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Kupau as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Ken Nakasone**

Ken Nakasone

Kenneth M. Nakasone  
Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda  
999 Bishop Street, Suite 2600  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 539-8700  
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**From:** Thao T. Tran [ttt@ksglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:20 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau - April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Date and Location of Hearing: April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325  
**RE: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau**

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

It is with sincere pleasure that I write in support of the confirmation of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Kupau since the commencement of my employment with Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda in September 2008. I believe that Mr. Kupau possesses the qualities that are necessary to be a great judge and a great asset to the State of Hawaii Judiciary System.

Mr. Kupau's extensive professional background makes him more than qualified to perform the duties and responsibilities of a District Court Judge. However, what I believe to be the most valuable qualities in a judge are found in Mr. Kupau. He is personable and compassionate, yet firm, consistent, and fair. I recalled receiving my first assignment from Mr. Kupau. He was very approachable, friendly, and courteous. He offered clear instructions on the assignment and was available when I needed assistance and further guidance. At the same time, Mr. Kupau did not hesitate to provide me with constructive criticisms.

I strongly believe that Mr. Kupau will be an excellent addition to the District Court for the fact that not only can he remain neutral while balancing the rules of laws with the sense of the community he serves, but also Mr. Kupau understands the effects of his work on those people involved in the matters. I had the opportunity to observe Mr. Kupau on the bench as a per diem judge in the District Court. He applied the laws and, at the same time, made sure that the parties before him understood the reasons for his rulings. I observed in one matter in which the party was nervous and intimidated by the courtroom setting to the point that she was crying, Mr. Kupau spoke to her in a compassionate manner to calm her nerves and was able to get her to understand the charges and made her feel more comfortable to speak to him. I was impressed by the way he handled the situation and, at the same time, remained firm as to the law.

In sum, Mr. Kupau will bring a fair and firm, yet compassionate balance to the judicial seat. I am pleased to have the opportunity to write in support of the confirmation of Mr. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit. I recommend Mr. Kupau highly.

Thank you for taking your time to review my statement in support of Mr. Kupau.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Thao T. Tran

Thao T. Tran, Esq.  
Labor and Employment Law  
Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda  
999 Bishop Street, Suite 2600  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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---

**From:** D. Trinidad Hunt [trinhunt@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:26 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Lanson Kupau for District Court Judge

To Whom It May Concern,

I believe that Lanson Kupau is an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

During the 9 years of our relationship I have observed Lanson as a father, husband, coach, and a professional. He is warm, kind, encouraging and giving in his work with young people as well as with their parents.

I reiterate my commendation. I believe with my whole heart that as a District Court Judge, Lanson will consider deeply, think discerningly, and act with wisdom in regard to all cases.

Much Aloha, Trinidad

D. Trinidad Hunt  
President  
Élan Enterprises LLC  
Trinidad Hunt Publishing Group  
[trinidadhunt.com](http://trinidadhunt.com)





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**From:** Aunty Jo Range [jhele@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:03 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

April 14, 2011

To: Senator Clayton Hee - Senate Committee Chair on Judiciary and Labor

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

Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee,

My letter is in support of District Court Judge Nominee Lanson Keola Kupau. I have known Keola and his family for over 25 years via his older sisters Kernette Pocock and Nalani Kupau-Miranda through working with them at the Honolulu Police Department. They are very close friends of mine and my husband grew up with them in our current neighborhood of Kalihi during their childhood days. Keola comes from a very loving and supportive family that has long been associated with Law Enforcement. His father Lloyd Kupau Sr., is a well-respected retired Lieutenant from the Honolulu Police Department and his mother Maizlette is a very strong and lovingly supportive force for the entire Kupau family. Keola's older sister Kernette is currently a Police Radio Dispatcher with the Maui Police Department, however she worked as a PRD for the Honolulu Police Department for many years, before moving on as a Driver's License Examiner for the city of Honolulu and then on to the U.S. Immigrations as an Inspector. Kernette's husband is a well-respected retired Assistant Chief Keith Pocock who served for many years with the Honolulu Police Department and chose to move his family to Maui after his retirement, where he is currently working for Maui Sugar. Keola's other sister Ranette "Nalani" Kupau-Miranda initially began her career with HPD as a Police Radio Dispatcher as well and years later chose to become a Honolulu Police Officer currently working in Patrol District 4 (Windward side). Nalani's husband Robert Miranda also a well-respected retired Detective from the Honolulu Police Department with many years of service and is currently working as an Investigator for the Attorney General's office.

As you can see, Keola's family has long been productive citizens that hold a positive interest in enforcing the law, with Keola's choice of pursuing law from a different vantage point, completing their circle. Keola is an excellent father to his children. Although very busy as an attorney, he always finds time to spend with his children and his nieces and nephews whenever possible, supporting all of them in every way conceivable. As a single parent, Keola has consistently shown he is capable of caring for his children with deep love, support, common sense and direction despite his busy career. He also has a very strong support group in his family and friends. Keola's firm, yet loving upbringing that is an important part of our Hawaiian values, validates his accomplishments in his life and career.

Keola is not only a very handsome man that carries himself respectably, but very intelligent, open minded and highly capable of viewing issues from different perspectives. We believe Keola's work experience as an attorney for over 19 years as a Public Defender and with various law groups is a definite asset in his capacity to serve as a Judge for the District Court of Oahu. He has been mentored by many highly respected honorable people in the Judicial system throughout his career, encountered many different types of court proceedings and persevered in all he is faced with. That

experience has prepared him for this very important position. We are certain that Keola will be proficient in his decisions toward cases brought before him that justifiably uphold the laws of this state.

My Husband and I along with his family truly look forward to seeing him take on this new avenue in his life with an exceedingly intelligent and objective mind that can only allow him to excel further in his career and add to the highly respected judges already presiding with the District Court. Selecting Lanson Keola Kupau as a District Court Judge for Oahu will be a decision you will soon see, was an excellent choice that you can reflect on with much gratification in the years to come.

With our deep and humble respect,

Johnnette Range – Retired Honolulu Police Radio Dispatcher  
Varney Range – Code 740 Nuclear Director Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard  
1611 Haupu Place  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Home Phone: 808-841-1498 / Cell: 808-256-2389 / Email: [jhele@msn.com](mailto:jhele@msn.com)

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**From:** Ronald Ogomori [rogomori@hi-lawyers.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:13 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Lanson Kupau

Senator Clayton Hee:

I am an attorney and partner at Ogomori & Yoshimoto, LLP, and am providing my full support for the confirmation of Lanson Kupau as a District Court Judge. I have known Lanson since 1993, when I joined the Office of Public Defender. Lanson and I worked together at the Office of Public Defender for almost 2 years (until the latter part of 1994). Thereafter, Lanson and I again worked together during the period from 1995 to 1998 (this time at what was then known as Reinwald O'Connor & Playdon). Finally, Lanson and I both worked at Kobayashi Sugita & Goda during the period from 1999 to September of 2008.

### **LEGAL SKILLS/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Lanson has a wealth of experience in both civil litigation (both plaintiff and defense work) and criminal law due to his diverse and very valuable work history. This background would allow Lanson to handle the many facets and work assignments that are required of the district court judges. In addition, Lanson has the necessary confidence that would allow him to make a decision on crucial legal issues that are inherent in each and every case. Lanson has a strong work ethic and a calm demeanor that would allow him to excel in this position. He is also a skilled writer, litigator and is extremely well versed in the rules of civil procedure and evidence.

### **INTEGRITY**

Lanson is a person of the highest integrity and moral courage. He is a person who keeps his word and can be trusted. He is a great son, friend, colleague, and father. I would strongly recommend him and hope that is confirmed as a district court judge.

### **JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT**

I firmly believe that Lanson would be fair and compassionate to the parties and the attorneys that appear before him. Having appeared before a large number of judges in his practice has given him a clear idea as to how he likes to be treated in the court room. As such, Lanson would likewise treat parties and counsel respectfully but decisively. Having worked with Lanson for over 15 years and observing him in many stressful situations, I truly believe that he would be able to maintain his composure even in the most trying situations.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Lanson has donated his time for students for years and is the type of role model that children in this state can look up to.

### **ABILITY TO FULFILL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION**

Lanson has a keen sense of getting to the core of a case and dispute. Lanson has the requisite intelligence, wisdom and temperament to be a fine district court judge. Due to his varied work history, Lanson has a wealth of experience in handling both civil and criminal matters. If he is confirmed as a district court judge, Lanson would offer the type of versatility and varied background that are truly needed. One of Lanson's greatest strengths is his ability to be fair and compassionate to all of the parties and the attorneys that appear before him. He would be honest but firm. In addition, Lanson is always prepared for the hearings and cases that he is handling.

In summary, I believe that Lanson would make an excellent judge. He is smart, fair, compassionate, decisive, hard-working and highly organized. Thank you.

Ron

Ronald T. Ogomori

Ogomori & Yoshimoto, LLP  
925 Bethel Street, Suite 304  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-695-4501 (direct)  
808-695-4500 (main)  
808-695-4599 (fax)

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**From:** Slowmobetta@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 9:00 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

April 14, 2011

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

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Clayton Hee:

I am pleased that you are accepting public comments on the nominees to fill the vacancies in the District & District Family Courts on O'ahu. Below are my comments in support of nominee Lanson K. Kupau, Esq. for District or District Family Court judge.

As a family friend, and daughter of a former Third Circuit Court judge, I have had the privilege over the years to watch this young man grow intellectually and morally through his high school, college, and law school years, and now in his chosen profession. Mr. Kupau is knowledgeable, thorough, and meticulous both personally and professionally. Making partner at a previous law firm in a very short period of time speaks volumes about his competence, character, and discipline.

Mr. Kupau is a natural leader and organizer of people. He steps in without hesitation and graciously extends a helping hand to all who cross his path. He is articulate; he is energized by challenges, large and small; and he operates with the attitude that there is always a solution, always a resolution to any situation. For Mr. Kupau, there are no obstacles in life, only creative challenges that have no boundaries.

He is a man of the highest integrity. He is respectful of others and encourages them to set good examples. I can see this both in his professional life and in the way he is raising his children. He is extremely intelligent and is wise beyond his years.

Mr. Kupau has a good heart. Outside of the office environment, I have seen him diffuse situations that were potentially explosive. He has a very calming personality; he does not need to raise his voice to make his point.

Mr. Kupau gives 100% plus to everything he does, and extends himself without limit to make fair decisions and give good and common sense advice. I have no doubt that he works his cases with the same intelligent, compassionate approach I have witnessed over the years.

I remember earlier times when Mr. Kupau was employed at the Public Defender's office. He had an excellent track record, envied by his fellow attorneys and even by the opposition. His tenacity and due diligence were second to none. His approach to each case was the same: hardworking, thorough, knowledgeable of the law, and professional in every respect.

Besides my father, the late Judge Maurice Sapienza, Mr. Kupau is one of the most honorable and trustworthy men I have known and I am proud to call him my friend. Mr. Kupau is highly respected by his associates, colleagues, and community members.

If he is fortunate and privileged enough to be selected as one of the District or District Family Court judges on O'ahu, he will exercise his duties with diligence, with intelligence, and with compassion. He would be a valuable asset to the profession and to the State of Hawaii.

If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or by telephone at 227-5693.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Sapienza, Legal Assistant

State of Hawaii, Department of the Attorney General

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**From:** Heather Ukauka [ukaukaf001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 10:27 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

My name is Heather Ukauka. I am a flight attendant for Hawaiian Airlines and wanted to inform you my feelings about one of your candidates for judgeship, Lanson Kupau. I have known Lanson since he was 18 years old and he has grown into a responsible, loyal and caring young man. He always had a great sense of humor with a tremendous heart, but as he has gotten older he has shown even more of a sense of compassion and responsibility for others. As a single parent myself, he has been a great male influence in my boys life as well as my nieces. He has always treated my boys as his own sons and in return, my sons have always looked to him as a father figure and have always known they can rely on him for any issues or problems that come up for them in their lives because he has always been there. Last year, he went to my niece's school to urge the school's Disciplinary Board not to expel my niece (who had gotten into some trouble) and assured them that he would be involved in making sure my niece stayed on the straight and narrow. He has taken and encouraged my niece to attend church with him and his kids at New Hope Windward's high school services to make positive changes in her life. His compassion was also displayed when he and my niece took care of Loyal Garner until her death in 2001 of cancer. Loyal was like a mother to Lanson and he and my niece lived with her for 12 years before her passing. In fact, Lanson gave the eulogy for Loyal's funeral.

I personally also have always known that Lanson would be there for any of us. He always extends his assistance when anything comes up and is always hopelessly giving. I admire him greatly for having the fortitude to strive for excellence in his personal life as well as professional life. I met him when he was going to school and working at Wendys after school in order to pay for life's bills. For several years, he worked for my father, Jimmy Ukauka, at Bay View Golf Center. He went to school full time during the day and worked full time at night in my Dad's driving range while he studied. He paid his own way through school, which says a lot about his work ethic. As you may know, he got his law degree in a little over 2 years, which is much shorter than normal. After law school, he came back to Hawaii and married my niece (the love of his life since she was 15 and he was 18 ). They were happily married and together for 25 years when his wife reconnected with an ex-boyfriend from Mexico (where she was born) and left him a single parent. He was blindsided, as he never saw it coming, but he has stepped up to the plate to continue to be the best father anyone could ask for. His children continue to excel in life and I believe it's in great measure to the fact that he has provided them with the love and stability that a child needs during such traumatic events such as the abandonment of your mother. He has always managed balancing the very important love and care of his family and friends with the responsibility of being an admirable professional who gets the job done. I think his wonderful work ethic, his knowledge, his humble character and great compassion make him an excellent choice for the position of judge.

Sincerely,

Heather Ukauka

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**From:** tara mccraw [suiemc@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 6:35 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

It is with pleasure that I recommend Lanson Kupau, who has been nominated for the four vacancies for District and District [Family Courts](#). Mr. Kupau recently visited our third grade classroom to talk to the students about his career and anti-bullying for the Junior Judges program. The children, other teachers and I benefitted greatly from Mr. Kupau's discussion. He has an extremely down to earth style and he gave a very interesting outlook on the rights and responsibilities of children. The children greatly identified with him, as he shared his own personal experiences in elementary school. His visit was very time-wise as we have been having a problem with bullying at our school. It really made the children think about the legal aspect of bullying, which was an enlightening experience. He is a wonderful community role model and we are hoping to have him come back to do a whole-school assembly so that the whole student body might benefit. Mr. Kupau is always very gracious and willing to share his time with his community. I can imagine that he would be an asset to any endeavor he undertakes!

Respectfully yours,

Tara McCraw  
Puohala Elementary School  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



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**From:** Jamie Ornellas [jlo@ksglaw.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 8:10 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau - April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Lanson Kupau as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Lanson for over 10 years. It was my privilege to work as his secretary for many years and although we no longer work together we have remained friends. I enjoyed working with Lanson, he was a very hard worker and extremely knowledgeable about the court rules and procedures. He always treated me with respect and made me feel appreciated and valued as his assistant. He was a terrific mentor to the young associates in the firm. His door was always open and he was always willing to take time out of his very busy schedule to listen to them and offer his advice and help.

I know Lanson to be a man of honesty and integrity. He is compassionate and fair and willing to take the criticism that sometimes comes with not making the "popular" decision. He has the experience and character that will serve him well as a Judge. I strongly support the confirmation of Lanson Kupau as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ornellas

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**From:** John Y. Yamano [JYamano@m4law.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 1:28 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Senator Clayton Hee

Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Hon. Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Lanson Kupau for the District Court for the State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Kupau for over ten (10) years, and have worked on several cases with, and against, Mr. Kupau. I have practiced law in the State of Hawaii for over 25 years, and I believe you gain the greatest insight about a person's skills and character when you are on the opposite side of case from that person. In the case of Mr. Kupau, I believe that is especially true. When I was "adverse" to Mr. Kupau in a major litigation matter, he demonstrated his considerable talent and skills as a seasoned litigator. More importantly, he exhibited the highest character and integrity.

Throughout the proceeding, he remained extremely professional and steadfast in his desire to resolve the case in a fair and reasonable manner that would minimize the costs and fees to be incurred by both parties. Quite frankly, that type of attitude and approach to litigation is too rare in this day and age.

I believe that Mr. Kupau will make an excellent addition to our judiciary, and that we would be lucky to have someone with his skills and temperament on the bench.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this written testimony in highest support of Mr. Kupau's nomination.

Sincerely,

John Y. Yamano, Esq.

(808) 721-4791

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**From:** Jason Minami [JMinami@marrjones.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 1:37 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Hearing: Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Lanson K. Kupau as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. Having worked with Lanson at Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda LLLP for over two years, I can personally attest that he has the knowledge, ability and character to be an excellent District Court Judge. As an associate attorney, I often sought Lanson's guidance with regard to the practice of law and could always count on his sage advice. Lanson always had an open door to me and my fellow associates, which was very much appreciated. I am confident that Lanson's generosity with his time will be an asset to the Judiciary and will benefit all who appear before him.

I have also had the opportunity to observe Lanson as an advocate in the courtroom. His litigation skills are formidable, and in many respects, unmatched. Lanson brings with him significant experience in both the criminal and civil arenas, which allows him to recognize, address and resolve unique legal issues in a reasoned yet practical manner. These attributes will no doubt serve him well on the bench.

I know that Lanson is a dedicated family man, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him and his ability to raise his three children on his own. Again, I firmly believe that Lanson has the ability and character to excel as a District Court Judge and hope that you will favorably consider his confirmation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require any further information.

Very truly yours,

*Jason M. Minami, Esq.*  
*Marr Jones & Wang*  
*A Limited Liability Law Partnership*  
*Pauahi Tower*  
*1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1500*  
*Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*  
*Telephone: (808) 536-4900*  
*Facsimile: (808) 536-6700*  
*Email: [jminami@marrjones.com](mailto:jminami@marrjones.com)*

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**From:** Rene Pagaoa [rpagaoa\_sjm@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:31 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of JC3- Lanson Kupau

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Mr. Hee

I have had the pleasure and honor in knowing Mr. Kupau for the past 8 years, through various community sports, and been my son's baseball coach since the beginning. We have grown to be great friends, and I consider him and his family as my own family. He is always the first to volunteer his time or donate when things are needed, also not only does he dedicated his time on the field as a coach, but also has sponsors many of our teams and his children's teams, as far as donating jackets, baseball pants, baseball helmets, football jersey's, and providing pizza nights for our players after practices. Mr. Kupau is a very exceptional coach, providing the children not only with the basics of the game, but also teaches them to be considerate respectful young men. He has inspired many children to live their dream and to reach for the highest goal, and insure them that no matter who you are or where you come from, if you strive and push yourself in all aspects in life you can be anything that you would want to be. His talks are so very inspirational, that my son's football coaches had asked him to come and speak to the players, before our championship game. When talking to the children about this talk many of them was determined to push themselves, and win, which we did. Not only is he a exceptional coach, and friend, he is a very loving and dedicated father. Being a single father of 3 can be quite difficult at times and he still finds the finds time attend all of his children's sporting and school events, and provide them with all the opportunities that life may offer them along with long lasting life lessons. Because of his compassion and love for others, along with his sincere dedication in helping others changes their lives, Mr. Kupau will be an excellent addition to the court system. I sincerely ask that you consider Mr. Kupau.

Sincerely,  
Rene N. Pagaoa

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**From:** Kernette Pocock [kmkupau@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 2:55 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Testimony in support of JC3-Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee,

This letter is in support of District Court Nominee Lanson Keola Kupau. I have known Keola all my life because he is my youngest brother. He is the youngest of 4 children born to Lloyd and Maizelette Kupau. We grew up in Kalihi on Rose Street and moved to Kaneohe in 1974. My brother attended public schools until he attended Damien Memorial High School. After graduation he attended Honolulu Community College and joined the Air National Guard. After he graduated from the University of Hawaii, he obtained his law degree in San Diego, California and moved back to Hawaii. Our parents were always supportive of him and did everything they could to help him realize his goal to become a lawyer. I remember them collecting aluminum cans to redeem and going to the swap meet in Aiea to sell flowers, mats and other items to support him in San Diego. He made good use of his time there and went to school year round to he could finish as quickly as possible, always keeping in mind the sacrifices our parents were making to help him achieve his goal.

Using our parents' example, he is very family oriented. He is a single parent raising 3 teenaged children. He's very active in whatever the kids are doing, and they know that their father loves them and is always there for them. He has instilled the values we learned from our parents to them, making sure they know right from wrong and that family is very important.

My brother is a good person. He has always been a loyal, loving son, father, brother and uncle. He does the best he can possibly do with whatever task is at hand, always making sure he's well prepared. Our parents are very proud of him, as is the rest of our family. I know that if he's given the opportunity to serve his community as a District Court Judge, he will be fair and compassionate in his decisions. I humbly ask that you be favorable in your decision towards my brother, he will not disappoint you.

Sincerely,

Kernette M. K. Pocock  
Kula, HI 96790

114 Pekelo Pl;  
(808)878-3839

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**From:** Christine Mactagone [keliimac@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2011 12:46 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Clayton Hee Chair,  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Thank you for the opportunity to give our testimony in support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau.

My husband and I have known Lanson for more than 30 years. He and my husband, a Captain in the Honolulu Fire Department, have been best friends since high-school. Through the years Lanson has been a supportive, dependable, reliable and invaluable friend. Since starting Law school, Lanson has made it clear that he has set a list of goals for himself that he is determined to achieve. One of the most important of these is to work his way up to becoming a Judge. We hope we can help him to achieve that goal.

Lanson is a man of great integrity and is extremely dedicated to his family. He is a proud single father of three beautiful children. These children are respectful, charming, courteous, loving and athletically gifted. Ashley, Lanson Jr. and Janson have all of these wonderful traits because Lanson is tirelessly involved in every aspect of their lives. Lanson tends to live by example - teaching his children to be ambitious, setting goals for themselves and encouraging them to work hard to achieve their dreams. He encourages them to believe that with perseverance and hard work they are bound to achieve remarkable success. But also that they need to give back to the community that has supported them throughout their lives. His love and dedication to his children is commendable.

Lanson is also extremely dedicated to his work. What strongly impresses us and has been acknowledged by others is Lanson's acute knowledge of the law, his ability to communicate with intelligence, his self-confidence and self control. You can depend on him to be an honest, observant and fair participant in every situation. Lanson is able to handle stressful situations with clear thinking, patience and maturity.

Lanson has consistently exhibited exceptional leadership, a keen teamwork spirit and an excellent and harmonious relationship with people around him. He has the leadership quality, initiative and interpersonal skills needed to be an effective Judge in our court system. He will bring with him immense pride and dedication to the Courts.

It is without reservations that we write this testimony in support of Lanson K. Kupau for Judgeship. We are confident that Lanson will be an invaluable asset to the court system.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Mactagone  
46 years old, Captain in the Honolulu Fire Department  
808-520-1539, [Bmactagone@msn.com](mailto:Bmactagone@msn.com)

Married for 27 years to  
Christine K.P. Mactagone

45 years old, Cardiology Technician with Kaiser Permanente

808-520-1538, [keliimac@msn.com](mailto:keliimac@msn.com)

Parents of 3, Grandparents of 2

47-333 Lulani St.

Kaneohe, HI. 96744

808-239-6202

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**From:** Nalani Kupau Miranda [mirandar002@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2011 6:33 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** JC3 Lanson Keola Kupau

April 17, 2011

To: Senator Clayton Hee - Senate Committee Chair on Judiciary and Labor

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

Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

Dear Senator Hee,

My letter is in support of District Court Judge Nominee Lanson Keola Kupau. He is my younger brother and the youngest of four children of Lloyd and Maizelette Kupau of Kaneohe.

He's a single father of three teenagers, 17 year old Ashley, 15 year old Duke, and 13 year old Janson. Although very busy, he's still able to assure that they're school work is taken care of and participates with their sports and other school and community activities. He's been a volunteer basketball and baseball coach in Kaneohe for a number of years.

Setting goals for himself and following through is something that I've admired in him and he has instilled that in his children.

I believe his work experience as an attorney for over 19 years is a definite asset in his capacity to serve as a Judge for the District Court of Honolulu. He'll be able to make the tough decisions with his knowledge and experience in both criminal law and civil law. I am certain that he'll be proficient in his decisions toward cases brought before him and justifiably uphold the laws of our state.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope that my brother, Lanson Keola Kupau, will be confirmed to serve as a District Court Judge with the State of Hawaii Judiciary and uphold the law of our state proudly. Once again thank you.

Sincerely,

Ranette Nalani Kupau Miranda  
45-111 B William Henry Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

[mirandar002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mirandar002@hawaii.rr.com)



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**From:** Sanborn, Lloyd [lsanborn@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 8:55 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

Chairman Clayton HEE & Committee Members,

I've had the pleasure of knowing Lanson K. Kupau for several years. During the years of our acquaintance, I have known him in many capacities.

Lanson is a caring, loving, and supportive father, son, brother, and family man. It is a calling he cherishes dearly!

He is a kind, thoughtful, and generous friend with a voice of reason and the ability to make everyone around him better.

He is a committed and dedicated member of the community as well, volunteering his time coaching, mentoring, sponsoring, and supporting various church, school, non profit and youth organizations including: Police Activities League, Little League, Pop Warner, Women Speaking Out, & My Hero just to name a few.

He is a respected, talented, and skillful attorney who has also provided his services pro bono for the betterment of others in our community.

Lanson has touched and influenced my life and many others as well. He is truly a 'pillar' of our community.

I will strongly affirm that Lanson is a person of integrity who adheres to the highest moral and ethical standards. He is honest and sincere in dealing with others, always treating them with respect, kindness, tolerance, and dignity. He will protect the rights, liberties, and freedoms of all as provided by the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Hawaii. His actions will be fair, objective, impartial and tempered with reason and equity.

Lanson would be a tremendous asset to the State Judiciary and has my highest recommendation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lloyd SANBORN  
Metropolitan Police Sergeant  
Honolulu Police Department  
801 S. Beretenia Street  
Ph: 808-216-4836  
Email: [lsanborn@honolulu.gov](mailto:lsanborn@honolulu.gov)

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**From:** Mark.K.Morita@dcca.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:40 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Lanson Kupau for District Court Judge

Honorable Clayton Hee, Senator  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and members of the Committee:

Lanson has provided outstanding legal services to the Insurance Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for the past 10 years. In that time, he has competently resolved our complex issues relating to corporate, business, and insurance litigation. He was the key in achieving successful outcomes for our Division.

I have never doubted his integrity and honesty. He treats our adversaries with respect and courtesy even under the most heated circumstances.

I'm honored to have this opportunity to testify in support of Lanson. I am proud to be his friend. He will be an asset to the judiciary.

Very truly yours,

Mark K. Morita

---

**From:** TMHIFO@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 11:09 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Re: JC3- Supporting testimony for Lanson Kupau/ Honolulu District Court

April 13, 2011

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee  
Committee Members

From: (Bambi) Eden Elizabeth Hifo

Re: JC3- Support for confirmation of Lanson Kupau  
for Honolulu District Court

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in favor of Lanson Kupau for a Honolulu District Court judgeship. I believe he would contribute to the judiciary as an intelligent, diligent and dedicated judge.

I know Lanson professionally through his appearances in civil cases at circuit court. He was always prepared, reasonable and demonstrated a calm, appropriate demeanor. He knows how to work, having been a partner at the Kobayashi firm for nearly a decade. He knows the stresses and demands of litigation and has maintained high professional standards while raising his three children as a single parent.

Lanson's legal background in both civil and criminal law qualifies him to handle any district court or family court calendar. I believe he would preside with integrity, competence and appropriate compassion. Therefore, I respectfully urge your confirmation of his appointment to the district court bench.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Aloha.

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**From:** Sean Sanada [SSanada@marrjones.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 1:03 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Lanson Kupau.

Hearing: April 20, 2011, 9:00 A.M.

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my recommendation of Lanson Kupau to the position of District Court Judge. Although my experiences with Mr. Kupau have been limited, such experiences were nonetheless impressive enough that I feel compelled to write on his behalf. In my previous position as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I had the privilege of working with Mr. Kupau on a very high profile case involving an actress, Cynthia Watros, from the television show, "LOST."

From the very beginning, Mr. Kupau was candid and courteous in our attempts to resolve the case short of trial. When we discussed the merits of the case, Mr. Kupau conceded to the legal arguments I intended to make that were well-supported by prevailing law. At the same time, Mr. Kupau respectfully articulated his position on the legal and factual points on which he disagreed and was particularly keen to support his position with intelligent interpretations of the law. As a result of our professional working relationship, we were ultimately able to reach a just settlement prior to trial.

Since the foregoing case, I have spoken to Mr. Kupau informally on a number of different occasions. Based on these conversations, as well as our prior case together, I am very confident that Mr. Kupau possesses much more than the requisite qualities necessary for a District Court Judge. He is articulate, objective, and maintains a significantly high legal pedigree. Moreover, Mr. Kupau's integrity is unquestionable.

In light of the above, I highly recommend Mr. Kupau to the position of District Court Judge. I truly believe that he will be an invaluable asset, in this capacity, to the legal community. Mahalo for your genuine consideration of this recommendation.

***Sean K. Sanada, Esq.***  
*Marr Jones & Wang*  
*A Limited Liability Law Partnership*  
*Pauahi Tower*  
*1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1500*  
*Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*  
*Telephone: (808) 536-4900*  
*Facsimile: (808) 536-6700*  
*Email: [ssanada@marrjones.com](mailto:ssanada@marrjones.com)*

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**From:** Franklin & Barbara Pa [paohana01@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 2:40 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: Lanson Kupau

April 14, 2011  
Franklin K. Pa  
Barbara A. H. Pa  
2275 Komo Mai Dr.  
Pearl City, Hi. 96782  
(808)455-2275  
(808)753-7541

Senator Clayton Hee,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we write on behalf of Mr. Lanson Kupau who has been nominated for the position of District Court Judge.

We both have known Mr. Kupau for 25 plus years, both socially and professionally. During this time it has been our privilege to witness this young man's tenacity and grit as he worked his way toward a law degree.

We have observed his professionalism, knowledge and assertiveness as he represented our family in resolving a personal situation.

He is an excellent single parent who cares deeply for his children and their future, getting involved in their school, sports and extra curricular activities.

In our estimation, this gentleman is knowledgeable, courteous, and honest. But we are most impressed with the way he lives and exemplifies the Hawaiian Aloha Spirit.

We are both retired Kama'aina residents who have lived and worked here on Oahu all our lives. Mr. Pa retired from GTE Hawaiian Telephone Co. after 30 years of service as a Division Supervisor.

Mrs. Pa worked for Hawaiian Telephone Co. then left to raise our six children. She worked as a Telephone Operator for Kaiser and Pali Momi Hospitals for 31 years and is presently an "on call" Operator at Pali Momi and volunteers at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

We encourage you to confirm Mr. Kupau for the position of District Court Judge, because he is, quite simply, the most remarkable and honest young man we have met. We believe he will take this position very seriously and be an asset to the Judicial system.

Mahalo,  
Franklin & Barbara Pa

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Version: 8.5.449 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3571 - Release Date: 04/13/11 07:09:00

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**From:** Vince.S.Kanemoto@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:11 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Suuport of JC3 -- Lanson K. Kupau

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 -- Lanson K. Kupau

I strongly support the appointment of Lanson Kupau to the district family court bench. I know Lanson well and can attest to his outstanding qualifications to be a judge. Lanson is a man of high moral character, and both his integrity and ethicality are beyond reproach. Also, Lanson is highly intelligent, and his tenure as a deputy public defender as well as his lengthy experience in the civil arena have provided him with a broad-based legal background particularly appropriate for a judge. Moreover, Lanson epitomizes the meaning of the word "gentleman," and his rational demeanor and thoughtful approach to matters ensure his good temperament decision-making on the bench. Finally, Lanson's deep involvement in community youth activities is reflective of his concern and compassion for others. In conclusion, I humbly ask your Committee to confirm the appointment of Lanson Kupau to the district family court bench.

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Kevin A. Souza, Esq.  
1306 Noninui Place  
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

April 18, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Judiciary and Labor Committee  
State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Via Facsimile: (808) 586-6659**  
**Committee: JDL Committee**  
**Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Re: Letter in SUPPORT of the Nomination of LANSON K. KUPAU**  
**to Serve as a Judge on the District Court of the First Circuit**

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of Lanson K. Kupau's nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit. For the past ten years, I have witnessed Lanson's keen legal mind, devotion to family, and deep love for our community.

I have practiced law in Hawaii for fourteen years, and have had many opportunities to observe Lanson practice in District, Family and Circuit Court. On each occasion, I have been impressed with Lanson's skill as a trial lawyer and his firm command of the law. More importantly, however, Lanson has always been honest, straightforward, and committed to ensuring justice.

Lanson is a consummate professional. He is unwavering in his commitment to the law, yet always finds time for his family and the community. For the past several years, Lanson has gracefully handled a thriving civil litigation practice, a per diem district court judgeship, and numerous other community activities.

I believe that Lanson's knowledge as a trial lawyer, and his strong family and community involvement, would be a credit to the Judiciary. I urge the members of the JDL Committee to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,



Kevin A. Souza, Esq.

JC 3



April 14, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Subject: Testimony in Support of JC3 - Lanson K. Kupau

To Senator Clayton Hee and Senate Committee,

This letter is my personal recommendation of Lanson K. Kupau for a position with the District Court judgeship.

I have known Lanson for the past eleven years, and have come to know him as a close personal friend within the last two years. Ever since I have known him, I have found him to be a man of strong moral character and someone who exhibits the highest degree of personal integrity. He is someone I can count on to do what he says, even when there is a personal cost to him for keeping his word.

Lanson is an exceptional and committed professional, exhibiting excellence, diligence and accomplishment in all that he endeavors. In spite of having an extremely busy schedule, he has continued to volunteer through the years, as serving others has always been an integral part of who he is. He has served in a variety of capacities, some which include coaching a number of sports organizations and providing pro bono and volunteer legal services.

Lanson's commitment and dedication as a father to his children is also truly inspiring to everyone around him. Despite his busy work schedule, he volunteers with the HSBS Junior Judges Program and World Youth Network. He has also coached his son's baseball team now for eight years. He continues to be an integral part in each of his three children's daily lives. Lanson has worked hard to provide a solid foundation of love, guidance, respect and direction to his children, which serves to enable him maintain a strong and loving connection as a father. His efforts have resulted in winning the love, adoration and respect of his children and those around him. I believe that Lanson's children are blessed to have a father who is able to model strong family values and professional ethics, while also demonstrating the importance of helping others.

I wholeheartedly believe that Lanson possesses all the professional and personal qualities necessary for a District and District Family Court judgeship position. Above all, he displays wisdom and discernment in his decision-making ability. I believe that it is these qualities that enable him to conduct his life successfully. For these reasons, I extend my utmost sincere recommendation for Lanson K. Kupau.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Sweet

Feel free to contact me at home: 808 625-3546 or Cell: 808 381-4973

April 13, 2011

VIA EMAIL: [JDL\\_Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDL_Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senator Hee:

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

I am writing this letter in support of Lanson Kupau, who I have known for about four years. I first met Lanson when he was coaching baseball for Kaneohe Little League and I was on the KLL Board of Directors. I observed him to be a positive and caring coach, qualities which carried through to his personal life. He was the type of coach I definitely would have wanted my son to play for.

Through the years, Lanson has become a good friend who can always be counted on to listen to my concerns and to give good advice when needed. He is respectful and commands respect because he's someone that always tries to do the right thing. As a dad, he is very involved with his three children in their school and extra-curricular activities. Even with his busy schedule as an attorney, I saw him at school functions or baseball games and he often talked about their volleyball or football activities.

Without hesitation, I highly support Lanson's nomination and recommend him for the position of Judge for the District and Family District Courts. If you have any questions or would like further information about Lanson, please do not hesitate to call me at 220-6220 or email me at [asegawa@atlasinsurance.com](mailto:asegawa@atlasinsurance.com).

Respectfully,



Alan Segawa  
Kaneohe Little League President 2006 to 2010

**From:** [Tokunaga, Chad](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of JC3-Lanson K. Kupau  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2011 3:43:57 PM

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Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing in support of Lanson K. Kupau's confirmation for District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Lanson K. Kupau for the past eleven years and I can personally attest that he is the type of person you would want as a Judge. He has firmly believed in fairness for everyone and the protection of their rights. Lanson has assisted many people as an attorney and as a good citizen in his community. He assisted me out of the kindness of his heart with legal matters once and I found him to be an upstanding, knowledgeable person, with a great work ethic and morals.

I truly believe that Lanson K. Kupau would make a great Judge.

Sincerely,  
Chad Tokunaga

April 14, 2011

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

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am a real estate investor in Honolulu and I wanted to let you know that I support the judicial nomination of Lanson K. Kupau as a Judge for the vacancy in District Family Court. I met Lanson at Kobayashi Sugita and Goda where he was a partner there. I am still a client of the firm and of Bert Kobayashi.

The reason I support him is because he is very dependable and committed to whatever he sets his mind out to do.

Lanson worked really hard to accomplish what he has done. It did not come easy for him. His father was a garbage man who worked hard and became a policeman.

I am a single parent like Lanson and I give him a lot of credit raising his 3 children alone without their mom and Lanson did not grumble about it nor did he feel sorry for himself. I know that when he became a per diem Judge he took a big pay cut from being in private practice and he loved the per diem Judge job.


Another reason that I support his nomination is because he has experience civil litigation in private practice which gives him the understanding of what attorneys and clients go through. This understanding is very valuable for a Judge to make appropriate and sometimes difficult decisions on peoples future.

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 14, 2011  
Page 2

If he is confirmed for District Court Judge, he will be a big asset to our community making the best decisions for the people in our State. For these reasons, I strongly urge his confirmation for District Court Judge.

Thank you for time. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions at 306-9472.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Walden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Walden  
3939 Old Pali Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Email: [djwalden@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:djwalden@hawaii.rr.com)

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Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.\*  
Kenneth Y. Sugita\*  
Alan M. Goda\*  
Lex R. Smith\*  
Wendell H. Fuji\*  
Robert K. Ichikawa\*  
Clifford K. Higa\*  
John F. Lezak\*  
Larry L. Myers\*  
Craig K. Shikuma\*  
Christopher T. Kobayashi\*  
Burt T. Lau\*  
David B. Tongg\*  
Bruce A. Nakamura\*  
Kenneth M. Nakasone\*  
Gregory M. Sato\*

Joseph A. Stewart  
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Shohei Nishimoto  
Christopher A. Santos  
Anthony Suetsugu  
Thao T. Tran  
Maria Y.Y. Wang  
Sarah S.P. Wong

\*A Law Corporation

April 13, 2011

JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Support of JC3 – Lanson K. Kupau

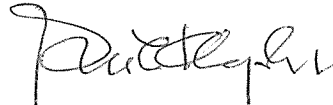
Dear Senator Hee:

I have been advised that an anonymous letter was submitted stating to the effect that Lanson was terminated at our law firm for a lack of integrity. Nothing could be further from the truth. I would think that character and integrity are very strong points for Lanson that lead me to support his nomination without restrictions. I enjoyed working with him and found him competent, consistent and a person of integrity. His leaving was his decision and was in large part to take care of obligations to his family and children.

Having spent time on the judicial commission he has a judicial temperament, an even handed manner and compassion for the general public and its concerns and problems. I believe that Lanson as a judge would be a boon for not only the legal community, but for the State in general. I strongly support his nomination.

I am available if you need to speak with me and I tried to return your calls.

Very truly yours,



BERT T. KOBAYASHI, JR.  
for  
KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA

**From:** [Thomas D. Farrell, Esq.](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony re Kupau Nomination  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2011 5:21:38 PM

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Attached please find the testimony of the Family Law Section, HSBA regarding Lanson Kupau.

regards,

**-tom farrell**

--

Thomas D. Farrell  
Attorney at Law, LLLC  
700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
T 808.535.8468  
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WRITTEN STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JUDICIAL COMMUNICATION NO. C3,  
APPOINTMENT OF LANSON K KUPAU

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

April 21, 2011

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Honorable Chairman Senator Clayton Hee, Members of the Committee

My name is Clifford K. Higa, a partner with the law firm of Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda. This statement is submitted in strong support of Lanson K. Kupau's appointment as a District Court Judge, First Judicial Circuit.

I have known Lanson since he started as an associate at the Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda law firm in 1999. Since that time we have worked on numerous cases together which have ranged from simple legal issues to complex motions and hearings involving questions of first impression.

Lanson has the temperament and the legal abilities to become an outstanding judge. He has the legal acumen and the experience to handle thorny legal issues but just as importantly, he has the ability to explain legal issues to individuals who may not have that much contact with the judicial system. He has always treated people with respect and courtesy and there is no reason to expect that to change if he is appointed to the bench. He has always been willing to work hard on difficult issues and has the integrity to request assistance when it is needed. He will be an excellent judge.

I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



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

**April 18, 2011**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
For Hearing on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325**

**By**

**Lissa H. Andrews**

**In Support of Lanson K. Kupau's Appointment as District Court Judge,  
District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii**

To Chairperson Senator Clayton Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Lanson K. Kupau's appointment as a District Court Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Lanson has practiced in Hawaii for approximately 18 years. He has experience in commercial and other forms of litigation and is an outstanding lawyer. I first came to know Lanson from being in cases where we represented different parties and have always been impressed with his legal abilities. Lanson knows the law, and knows how to identify the facts and issues important to making legal decisions and bringing about a successful resolution of a case.

Lanson is also an honorable person, and is fair, kind and caring. He has a calm, even-tempered demeanor. Lanson works very hard and cares strongly about what he is doing.

Lanson is financially responsible and involved in public service. He volunteers with World Youth Network and the Junior Judges Program where he goes to elementary and high schools and speaks to kids about making positive life choices. I believe youth look up to Lanson and I

Re: Lanson K. Kupau  
April 18, 2011  
Page 2

think he makes a difference with guiding these youth into a better place and giving them hope for what the future can hold.

Lanson is in excellent health and he will be able to fulfill the responsibilities of being a Judge.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Lanson K. Kupau's appointment as a District Court Judge.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lissa H. Andrews", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lissa H. Andrews

Lissa H. Andrews  
Case Lombardi & Pettit  
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Tel. 547-5400  
[landrews@caselombardi.com](mailto:landrews@caselombardi.com)