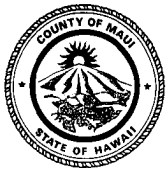


JC4

Testimony



ALAN M. ARAKAWA

MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

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



GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

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

April 13, 2011

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

Dear Chair Hee:

My name is Gary Yabuta and I am the Chief of Police for the Maui Police Department. I understand that Ms. Melanie Mito-May has been nominated for District Court Judge of the First Circuit. Not only do I fully endorse her for this particular judicial appointment for the State of Hawaii, I must truly attempt to convey to you how special I feel about her character and professional qualities that qualifies her for this important position.

I have known Ms. Mito-May for the past six years, when she first represented my department in defense of a multi-million dollar labor lawsuit. I immediately recognized that Ms. Mito-May was more than just a highly talented attorney: She was fearless, tenacious-yet compassionate, and lastly but most importantly to this peace officer with over 32 years experience, remarkably honest.

As a law enforcement executive for Maui County, I find myself somewhat hesitant from developing close friendships-other than those whom I have known for many years, but again, there is a remarkable character of Ms. Mito-May that emanates well beyond her integrity and abilities as an attorney that eventually allowed me to bond with her as a true friend-trust relationship.

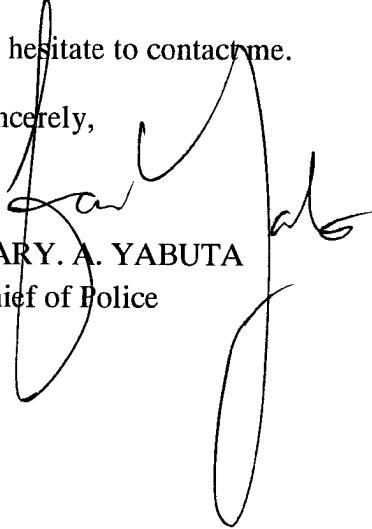
I humbly ask that this candidate be considered with the privilege and responsibility as a District Court Judge for the State of Hawaii. Not only do I feel she is deserving of the position of Judge, I further believe that she will be an impact in the future of the Hawaii judicial leadership.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
April 13, 2011
Page 2

Other than her family, I doubt that there wouldn't be anyone prouder than I would be of her, should she be considered as our District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

Sincerely,



GARY. A. YABUTA
Chief of Police

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



KENNETH G. SILVA
FIRE CHIEF

ROLLAND J. HARVEST
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

April 18, 2011

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

Dear Chair Hee:

Subject: JC4 Consideration and Confirmation of Melanie Mito May to the District Court
of the First Circuit Court

As members of the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) Executive Staff, it is a privilege and pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Melanie Mito May, a partner with Marr Jones & Wang, who was retained by the City and County of Honolulu for two Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuits.

Ms. Mito assisted the lead attorney in the first lawsuit and is the lead attorney in the second lawsuit. We have witnessed her maturity and growth, and her knowledge of the law is evident in her guidance. She successfully settled with a majority of HFD plaintiffs and provided alternatives for other litigants. Her counsel has minimized settlement costs and will provide necessary court opinions.

She is compassionate, her demeanor promotes positive interaction, and her integrity is unquestionable. As such, we highly recommend her confirmation as a District Judge.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Page 2
April 18, 2011

Should you have any questions, please call Deputy Fire Chief Rolland Harvest at 723-7102.

Sincerely,



KENNETH G. SILVA
Fire Chief

KGS/RH:sn

CONCUR:



ROLLAND HARVEST
Deputy Fire Chief



JEFFREY FARRIS
Assistant Chief



EMMIT KANE
Assistant Chief



MANUEL NEVES
Assistant Chief



THOMAS PERKINS
Assistant Chief

April 15, 2011

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

Re: Letter of Support for Nominee Melanie Mito May
April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

My name is Debbie Padello, Director of HR Operations at ALTRES, Inc. I am writing this letter to support Melanie Mito May, a judicial candidate for the District Court of the First Circuit.

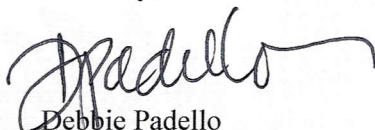
Over the past ten years that I have had the privilege to work closely with Melanie as our primary employment attorney, I have experienced a level of service and expertise like none other, going above and beyond in every situation. She has always been a valuable and completely accessible resource regardless of her multiple priorities. She always put her clients' needs first and has made a lasting impression on each person she has encountered. Melanie also has a remarkable attention to detail that allows her to look at a situation from every perspective.

Our clients look to ALTRES for HR expertise and support. These businesses are so diverse and situations can be extremely complex, but no matter what, Melanie is able to provide applicable solutions and recommendations incorporating the law and her diverse business operations background.

I have also experienced firsthand her remarkable talent to diffuse, negotiate, mediate, and resolve any situation with a constant, calm demeanor. It is a natural talent she has that I have never experienced before. It truly is like watching an artist complete her masterpiece.

I humbly ask that you consider Melanie for this honored position as I know she will not let the people of Hawaii down.

Sincerely,



Debbie Padello
Director of HR Operations

From: dlching@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 4, Weds, April 20, 9am
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 7:16:10 AM

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

I'm writing to you and your committee members to lend my strongest and unequivocal support to JC 4 and Melanie Mito May's nomination to the Hawaii District Court.

Melanie possesses the attributes I consider most important to a judgeship, intelligence, integrity, equilibrium, conscientiousness and a genuine spirit of community service.

Through my term with Melanie on the board of the Waikiki Health Center, I can attest to her professionalism, intellect and thorough preparation for issues. Her opinions and briefings to the rest of the WHC board have proven to be invaluable.

She has demonstrated inordinate wisdom and foresight in dealing with complex legal and governance issues and challenges. Melanie's technical knowledge of the law, common sense savvy in its application and her level-headed skillfulness with people and their personalities is a combination of skills few possess.

Despite having two young children at home, she finds time to serve on both our board and the Kamiloiki Elementary School Council. These organizations are not the type that bestow status to their board members. They are simply non-profit organizations that need volunteers who will work hard and support their mission. Melanie's commitment to quietly and competently serve the community is the kind of personal value set that make her an ideal candidate to serve on the bench.

Thank you for duly considering her candidacy for appointment to the District Court. I have every confidence in her ability to serve with distinction.

Respectfully,

Donna L. Ching

Donna L. Ching
Director of Development



1357 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1230, Honolulu, HI 96814-4537
T 808.521.8889 F 808.521.3757 D 808.521.8889 x230
www.leoadaly.com DLChing@leoadaly.com

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

April 20, 2011

Chair, Senator Clayton Hee
Vice-Chair, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 @ 9:00a.m., CR 325

Re: JC 4: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, MELANIE MITO MAY, for a Term of Six Years.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of **MELANIE MITO MAY's** nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am an attorney and business owner in Honolulu. I have personally known Ms. May for more than fifteen years. She is highly competent, intelligent, diligent and has earned the respect of her peers in the legal community.

I have previously served as the president of Hawaii Women Lawyers and as the chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Diversity Committee. Seeing strong, qualified women attorneys appointed to the judiciary is very important to me, not only for the "role model" aspect, but because I truly believe that a diverse judiciary, reflective of our island community will bring about greater understanding of viewpoints. Ms. May exemplifies all of the best qualities that needed and desirable for a judge and I believe she will do an outstanding job if confirmed.

Please support Ms. May's nomination.

From: [Christopher Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Judicial Candidacy of Melanie Mito May (Measure No. JC 4, Hearing Date April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.)
Date: Monday, April 18, 2011 1:12:23 PM

To Chairperson Hee, Vice Chairperson Shimabukuro, and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in support of the judicial candidacy of Melanie Mito May, who I have known since her first year of law school in 1993.

As a civil litigator for the past 16 years in California (I am an inactive member of the Hawaii State Bar), I am in court at least every week. From my own perspective, I want a judge who knows the law, who comes to court prepared, and who gives each side a fair chance, be it for a routine status conference, law and motion hearing, or trial. Ms. Mito May provides just such a profile. The Senate can rest assured that Ms. Mito May will take the bench knowing the cases as well as, if not better than, the lawyers who appear before her. Moreover, she has the even-keeled temperament to allow spirited argument, the acumen to understand it thoroughly and quickly, the experience to provide big-picture perspective, and the compassion to do justice.

I wholeheartedly support Ms. Mito May's candidacy for judicial office without any reservation whatsoever and strongly encourage the Senate to confirm Ms. Mito May as a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Best regards,

Christopher L. Wong
Waxler Carner Brodsky LLP
1960 East Grand Avenue, Suite 1210
El Segundo, California 90245
Main: 310-416-1300
Facsimile: 310-416-1310
Direct Dial: 310-416-1309
E-mail: cwong@wcb-law.com

From: [Gaye Sanborn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Lanson KUPAU confirmation for District Judge
Date: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:02:09 PM

Senator Clayton Hee,

I would like to recommend Lanson KUPAU for district court judge. He is the true meaning of Honor and Integrity. He is a single father who only wants the best for his children and, does his best to guide them in the right direction. I've got to say that he is doing a great job. He has a gift of speaking to people to make them understand that the only path is the right path, his children included. That is why I believe he is the perfect person for this job. He is a very hard working and dedicated person. I feel that I am a good judge of character, and that is why I am writing to you about my friend Lanson KUPAU. I also have a very good friend who is a Senator, Suzanne Chun Oakland. She is very smart, knowledgeable, and sincere. I would like to end in saying that choosing Lanson KUPAU would be a good choice for everyone. Senator Clayton Hee, I would like to thank you for your time and allowing me to partake in this process.

Thank You Very Much,
Gaye M. SANBORN(OKAWA)

JANNA L.S. NAKAGAWA
1604 Ruth Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

April 19, 2011

By Electronic Mail

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary And Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC No. 4 – Melanie Mito May, Judicial Nominee As Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii, For Term to Expire in Six Years; Hearing on April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on JC No. 4. I strongly support the appointment of Ms. Mito May as District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

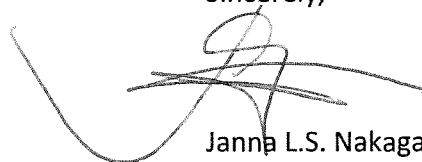
I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1996. I previously worked at the law firm formerly known as Marr Hipp Jones & Pepper, where I had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Mito May for several years.

In working with Ms. Mito May in a challenging, fast-paced legal environment, I was able to observe first hand her work product, work style and ethic, and temperament, all of which make her eminently suited to the role of a District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

Ms. Mito May is an extremely diligent and accomplished attorney. She has both legal and administrative (management) skills, which are a valuable combination. While many attorneys have legal knowledge and skill, Ms. Mito May sets herself apart with the ability to apply these in a practical and thoughtful way. She is a consummate professional and caring individual, and I have no doubt that she will advance the values and ethics required in a District Court Judge and be a tremendous asset to the Judiciary.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration in the appointment of Ms. Mito May as District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Janna L.S. Nakagawa', written over a horizontal line.

Janna L.S. Nakagawa



From the desk of
MICHAEL I. MATSUO, P. E.
235 Hiilawe Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-1351
(808) 748-5951 (W) / (808) 226-6611 (Cell) / (808) 550-5004 (Fax)
(E-mail) mmatsuo@hbws.org

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State of Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Subject: Measure Number JC4, Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit of
Judicial Nominee Melanie Mito May

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the confirmation of judicial nominee Melanie Mito May to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

While I'm not able to speak to her abilities as an attorney or her knowledge of law, I believe I can speak to her character and other relevant qualities.

I've known Melanie for about 15 years and I've always found her to be articulate and intelligent, as well as respectful and not one to blindly follow what others think. For example, many years ago, Melanie was a participant in a program that was very similar, if not identical; to one that the organization I belonged to ran. My peers and I had a certain view of the participants, one that Melanie did not entirely agree with. So, she clearly and concisely communicated her opinion in a manner that was equally passionate and logical, and respectful of our experience, history and feelings. To me, this shows that Melanie has strong convictions, but also integrity.

Several years later, Melanie was chairing a fund raising event for the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and I was helping her behind the scenes. During the meal portion of the event, while Melanie was hosting a table of VIPs, we found ourselves in a situation where several members of the media who were covering the event asked if they could sit at an empty table and eat. I approached Melanie about this and she didn't make a decision right away,

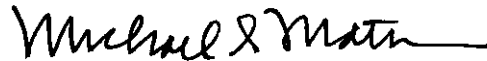
Honorable Clayton Hee
and Members
Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor
April 19, 2011
Page 2

instead she calmly asked what impact this would have on the budget, and if it would be fair to those attendees who had paid for their meals. To me, this shows that Melanie does not make "snap" decisions without first considering the consequences and if it's the right thing to do.

Integrity, articulate, intelligent, logical, respectful, caring, fair and mindful of the consequences are all qualities and character traits that Melanie displays. I believe these qualities will serve her well in anything she does. Thus, I humbly request that you confirm Melanie Mito May to an appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael I. Matsuo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

MICHAEL I. MATSUO, P.E.

Philip H. Kinnicutt
341 Iliaina Street
Kailua, Oahu, HI 96734-1807
808-254-4534
LEAFISHING@AOL.COM

April 16, 2011

The Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI

Re: JC4, Strong Support for Melanie Mito May

Dear Senators Hee, Shimabukuro, Gabbard, Ihara & Slom:

It has been my pleasure to work with Melanie Mito May for many years in the non-profit community. In the past, she provided pro bono legal services to the Waikiki Health Center during a particularly critical time in the organization's history. More recently, she now serves as a member of the center's Board of Directors.

I have come to really appreciate her legal skills and her commitment to serving the Hawaii community. I feel she would make an excellent judge and strongly support her appointment.

Aloha,

/sig/

Philip H. Kinnicutt
Past Board Chair
Waikiki Health Center

April 12, 2011

Professional Reference

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Sean K. Sanada, Esq.
SUBJECT: Confirmation of Melanie Mito May to District Court Bench
HEARING: April 20, 2011, 9:00 A.M.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to you on behalf of my colleague, Melanie Mito May. In my view, a high-caliber judge must have three essential qualities: objectivity, intelligence, and a tactful temperament. My experiences working with Ms. Mito May in litigation matters clearly demonstrate that she possesses much more than the foregoing requisites.

In terms of objectivity, it is often easy for an attorney to develop a sense of skepticism when it comes to evaluating the veracity of an opponent's claims. Ms. Mito May, however, always stressed the importance of assessing the positions of all parties to a case on an individualized and objective basis. In her eyes, it is not in the best interests of our clients to simply take their respective positions as the absolute truth. Rather, it is important to consider both sides because there may be times when our clients are wrong and need to be advised appropriately. To Ms. Mito May, justice for everyone is the goal, and this may only be accomplished by maintaining true objectivity in every case.

With respect to intelligence, Ms. Mito May has undoubtedly amassed a wealth of knowledge during her impressive career as a Partner in this firm. On several occasions, I sought assistance from Ms. Mito May in my approach to complex substantive and procedural litigation matters. While Ms. Mito May did not have the answers to every question, she always knew where to find them. I believe that, as a member of the bench – whether dealing with complex civil or criminal matters – Ms. Mito May's intelligence will allow her to continue finding the right answers.

Ms. Mito May's demonstrated temperament is nothing less than ideal for a member of the bench. She is never quick to pass judgment, maintains an open mind and does not let her emotions interfere with her ability to make sound decisions. While Ms. Mito May treats everyone with the utmost respect and civility, it goes without saying that Ms. Mito May is simply one of the kindest and most likeable people in this profession. I am sure that attorneys from every side will find it a pleasure to try their respective cases before Ms. Mito May. On a personal note, for me, it has been a true privilege to know and work alongside Ms. Mito May in this office and I will miss her very much.

In short, without reservation, I unequivocally recommend Ms. Mito May for confirmation to the position of District Court Judge. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sean K. Sanada, Esq.

From: Jennifer Woo [JWoo@marrjones.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 6:24 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of District Court Nominee Melanie Mito May

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the appointment of Melanie Mito May to the District Court. I have had the great honor of working with and being mentored by Ms. Mito May for the past five years and believe she possesses all of the qualities needed in a good judge. She holds herself to the highest standards of integrity, is incredibly diligent, has excellent legal knowledge and ability, is eminently reasonable and patient by nature, but also has the skill and confidence to make tough choices. In short, I believe Ms. Mito May is highly qualified to fill the responsibilities and duties of a District Judge, and that she will make an exemplary representative of our State's judicial branch. I therefore urge you to confirm the nomination of Ms. Mito May to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Jennifer C. T. Woo, Esq. (formerly Jennifer C. Tsou)
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: jwoo@marrjones.com

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From: Ken M. Nakasone [knakasone@ksqlaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:39 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of JC4 - Melanie Mito May - 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 JC4 – Melanie Mito May

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 Melanie Mito May to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have worked with Ms. Mito May as counsel on employment matters and through the Society of Human Resource Managers (“SHRM”) Hawaii Oahu Educational Foundation Program.

Ms. Mito May has always impressed me with her preparedness and her knowledge of the law. More impressive however is that Ms. Mito May has consistently demonstrated an ability and willingness to help out and contribute to the SHRM Hawaii Oahu Educational Foundation Program when needed.

I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Mito May 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
Dir: (808) 535-5744
Mobile: (808) 381-9009
Fax: (808) 539-8799
Email: knakasone@ksqlaw.com

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From: Jodi Yamamoto [jyamamoto@yshawaii.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:22 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Melanie Mito May for District Court Judge

Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express my strong support of Melanie Mito May for the position of District Court Judge. I have known Ms. May for almost 15 years, and she is bright, diligent, hard-working, fair, and simply a pleasure to work with. I believe that she would serve the community well as a District Court Judge. Ms. May has been practicing law for approximately 15 years mainly in the areas of labor and employment law and is an excellent attorney. Given her legal skills and ability, I believe that she will be able to quickly adapt to new challenges and substantive areas of law.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a statement in support of Ms. May. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Warmly, Jodi Yamamoto

Jodi Shin Yamamoto
Yamamoto & Settle
A Limited Liability Law Company
700 Bishop Street, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Main: (808) 526-4730
Direct: (808) 792-1283
Fax: (808) 526-4735
Email: jyamamoto@yshawaii.com
Website: www.yshawaii.com

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From: Jodi Yamamoto [jyamamoto@yshawaii.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:26 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Melanie Mito May for District Court Judge

Please note that the testimony below is related to Measure JC4 to be considered at the hearing on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 9:00 A.M.

Jodi Shin Yamamoto
Yamamoto & Settle
A Limited Liability Law Company
700 Bishop Street, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Main: (808) 526-4730
Direct: (808) 792-1283
Fax: (808) 526-4735
Email: jyamamoto@yshawaii.com
Website: www.yshawaii.com

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From: Jodi Yamamoto
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:22 PM
To: 'JDLEstimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov'
Subject: Melanie Mito May for District Court Judge

Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express my strong support of Melanie Mito May for the position of District Court Judge. I have known Ms. May for almost 15 years, and she is bright, diligent, hard-working, fair, and simply a pleasure to work with. I believe that she would serve the community well as a District Court Judge. Ms. May has been practicing law for approximately 15 years mainly in the areas of labor and employment law and is an excellent attorney. Given her legal skills and ability, I believe that she will be able to quickly adapt to new challenges and substantive areas of law.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a statement in support of Ms. May. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Warmly, Jodi Yamamoto

Jodi Shin Yamamoto
Yamamoto & Settle
A Limited Liability Law Company
700 Bishop Street, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Main: (808) 526-4730
Direct: (808) 792-1283

Fax: (808) 526-4735

Email: jyamamoto@yshawaii.com

Website: www.yshawaii.com

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From: Darin Leong [DLeong@marrjones.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 9:05 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Melanie Mito May

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express my support for Melanie Mito May to be confirmed to the position of District Court Judge. I have worked closely with Melanie for approximately four and a half years, and in that time, have been able to observe her intellect, judgment, work ethic and character, all of which are exceptional.

Melanie has a keen intellect for legal issues, whether they be procedural or substantive. In our office at Marr Jones and Wang, she is considered the expert in wage and hour law, perhaps the most analytically complex area of law in which we practice. Melanie has mastered these legal concepts and is able to explain them to clients and other attorneys in clear and concise fashion. Whether it be simple or complex legal issues, I am confident that Melanie has all the analytical tools necessary to serve on the bench.

While legal analysis is important, I realize that at the District Court level, a judge's judgment is perhaps more important, as District Court judges have discretion in many areas of decisionmaking. Melanie has the judgment to make an excellent judge. She finds practical solutions to problems and is always aware of the need to find the most practically efficient solution.

Melanie's work ethic is without question. She is always willing to put in the time necessary to get the job done. She is a fixture for after-hours work in our office, never complaining, and always with a smile. I am confident Melanie will bring a strong work ethic to the court.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Melanie's character and temperament is of the highest order. She is honest, genuinely cares about those around her, and cares about justice. This type of character is essential on the bench in District Court, where people (often unrepresented) need to know that the judge has their best interests at heart. In the five years that I have known Melanie, I have never seen her lose her temper, despite being repeatedly put under the stresses of litigation.

In sum, Melanie would be an outstanding addition to the judiciary. While everyone in our office will be sad to see her go, I highly recommend Melanie's appointment to the District Court.

Darin R. Leong, Esq.
Marr Jones & Wang
A Limited Liability Law Partnership
Pauahi Tower
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1500
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 536-4900
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Email: dleong@marrjones.com

From: Jason Minami [JMinami@marrjones.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 2:08 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of JC4, Melanie Mito May

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 JC4

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 Melanie Mito May as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I am an associate attorney at Marr Jones & Wang, LLLP, and have personally worked with Melanie Mito May over the past 15 months. I can attest that she is extremely disciplined and hard-working, has the utmost integrity, and possesses a sharp legal mind that will suit her well on the District Court bench. She is also extremely generous with her time and has on numerous occasions taken the time out of her busy schedule to mentor me and my fellow associates.

As a former deputy prosecuting attorney, I have no doubt that Melanie will quickly assimilate to the District Court criminal calendar. She possesses the legal acumen to recognize and address even the most convoluted legal issues. Coupled with a calm, even-keeled demeanor, she will easily manage the courtroom and issue fair, well-reasoned and unbiased rulings. While Melanie's departure will be a major loss to the firm, especially to the associates who rely on her guidance, I find consolation in the fact that our personal loss will benefit the Hawaii Judiciary and the people of our community with her service on the bench. Melanie truly possesses the ability, temperament and character to be an excellent District Court Judge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide any further information.

Very truly yours,

Jason M. Minami, Esq.
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1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1500
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Telephone: (808) 536-4900
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Email: jminami@marrjones.com

April 15, 2011

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

**Re: Letter of Support for Nominee Melanie Mito May
April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325**

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

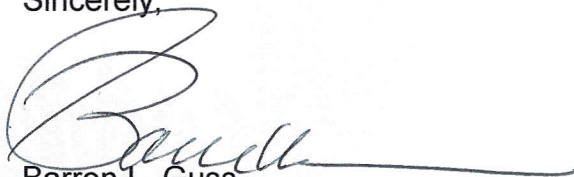
My name is Barron Guss, President and second-generation owner of ALTRES, Inc., a 40-year old Hawaii company. I am writing this letter in full support of Melanie Mito May, a judicial candidate for the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have worked with Melanie for over ten years. As one of our primary employment attorneys, Melanie has been a vital and valuable asset to my company and the 500+ businesses that we service. I have personally seen her flourish into an outstanding attorney. Melanie's attention to detail and analytical ability enables her to see situations from different perspectives. The businesses we service are from almost every industry including non-profit and for profit organizations. She has proven time and time again that she is able to look at every situation, as complex as it may be, from all perspectives and integrate her expertise and knowledge of the law to provide the most fair and equitable solution.

Melanie's integrity, work ethic, and dedication are one of a kind. She is truly a person that goes above and beyond in serving her customers and the community. I am confident that she is the right person for this position and am grateful that she will be serving the people of Hawaii and our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barron L. Guss
President and CEO

BLG:lo

KRIS N. NAKAGAWA
1604 Ruth Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

April 18, 2011

By Electronic Mail

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

Re: JC No. 4 – Melanie Mito May, Judicial Nominee as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii, For Term to Expire in Six Years; Hearing on April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on JC No. 4. I strongly support the appointment of Melanie Mito May as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii ("District Court Judge").

I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1992 and presently employed at the law firm of Morihara Lau & Fong LLP. I was also employed as both a summer and full-time law clerk for an Associate Judge at the Intermediate Court of Appeals in the early 1990s.

I first met Ms. Mito May when I was employed as a Deputy Attorney General for the Employment Law Division of the Attorney General's office in the late 1990s. At that time, Ms. Mito May was practicing labor and employment law. In sum, I believe Ms. Mito May has the necessary judicial temperament and administrative skills, and the requisite knowledge and experience to perform the duties required and expected of a District Court Judge. Her knowledge and experience as a labor and employment law practitioner will definitely be useful in her role as a District Court Judge. Accordingly, I believe Ms. Mito May will be a great asset to the judicial system and the State of Hawaii.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration in the appointment of Ms. Mito May as District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

Sincerely,



Kris N. Nakagawa



TO: Senator Clayton Hee
Chair Judiciary and Labor Committee

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair Judiciary and Labor Committee

FROM: Sheila Beckham
Executive Director

DATE: April 15, 2011

RE: Confirmation hearing for Melanie Mito May, District Court of the First Circuit:
Judicial Nominee

I have had the privilege of knowing Melanie Mito May in her capacity as a volunteer member of Waikiki Health Center's Board of Directors where she has served for seven years. Ms. May currently serves the health center as Chair of the Human Resource Committee and member of the Governance Committee.

In her interaction with fellow board members, staff, and community, Ms May is always pleasant, professional, and demonstrates diplomacy. She critically analyzes each situation, with attention to detail, and is committed to Waikiki Health Center's mission to provide health and social services to everyone...regardless of ability to pay. Her integrity and thoughtful demeanor are a positive example to her fellow board members.

I recommend Melanie Mito May to be confirmed as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit.

You are welcome to contact me at 791 9302 if you have further questions.