



LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPORT

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

**EDMUND D. ACOBA**  
District Court Judge, Fifth Circuit Court

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

Hearing: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Edmund D. Acoba for the position of District Court Judge, Fifth Circuit Court.

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

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

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds Edmund D. Acoba to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, Fifth Circuit Court.

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**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

4444 Rice Street, Suite 220, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766-1300  
TEL (808) 241-4930 FAX (808) 241-6319

April 19, 2011

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

Re: Judicial Nominee, EDMUND DEAN ACOBA  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District  
Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii  
Date of Hearing: April 20, 2011  
Time of Hearing: 9:00 A.M.

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

I am in absolute support of Edmund your judicial nominee for the District Court of the Fifth  
Circuit. I respectfully request that you approve and confirm his nomination.

First of all, please allow me to give you my perspective. I belong to the class of 1981,  
William S. Richardson School of Law (we were known back then as the University of Hawaii  
School of Law). After law school I was a trial attorney at the Kauai Prosecutor's Office until  
1996. From 1996 to 2008, I was a solo practitioner doing criminal law and family law. I was a  
board member of the Hawaii State Bar Association for four years. I was also a board member  
for the Defender Council for about seven years. In essence, I have been a trial attorney for most  
of my legal career. In addition, being on the above-mentioned boards, I was always mindful and  
concerned about the quality of legal services provided by Hawaii lawyers.

I have known Edmund all of his life. I have always known Edmund as a gentleman, athlete,  
scholar, and a community leader. Edmund maintains a steady and stable personality and treats  
people with dignity and respect. I have watched him excel in athletics – football, basketball,  
baseball, paddling, surfing, karate, and skiing. He has used all of these attributes and given back  
to our community in his many years of community service as an instructor, coach, and volunteer  
work. A review of his honors and awards and years of community service involvement is

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impressive. It is impressive because it clearly demonstrates his devotion to making Kauai a better place.

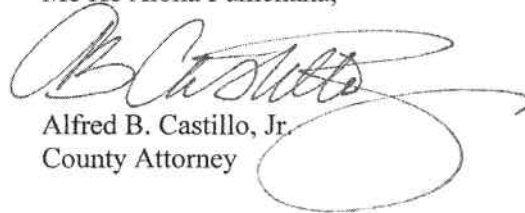
I have also had the privilege and opportunity to observe Edmund's outstanding legal career. He has always maintained a high degree of professionalism. His integrity and honesty is beyond reproach. He is one of Kauai's top trial attorneys (ask him about the flag).

The judiciary would benefit immensely from what Edmund brings to the table. I am confident that he will make a fine judge especially because he is very much respected in our community as well as our legal community. He has been in the courtroom his entire legal career. I am sure that he has a lot of respect for the bench and will always promote excellence.

Finally, Edmund is a devoted family man – a single parent. He is extremely dedicated to his two sons – Michael and Beau. They have become outstanding young men.

Again, I humbly ask that you sincerely consider Edmund and confirm his nomination for judge of the District Court of the Fifth Circuit.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,



Alfred B. Castillo, Jr.  
County Attorney

**Testimony of Timothy Ho, Chief Deputy Public Defender  
State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

April 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

RE: JC 1: Nomination of Edmund Acoba to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to recommend that Edmund Acoba be confirmed as the next judge of the District Court, Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii. As a fellow Kaua'i native, I have known Edmund for over thirty-six years, as teammates on the same pop warner football team, classmates at Waimea High School, and colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender. In high school, even though Edmund was the "stud" athlete, he was always humble, down to earth, and compassionate toward his fellow students.

I have always known Edmund to be a hard working and passionate attorney. As our supervisor on Kaua'i, he has struggled through the management of his office through budget cuts and staffing shortages without a single complaint. He has earned the respect of prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges. Before beginning his career at the Office of the Public Defender, Edmund spend a few years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I am confident that he will be fair to all of the parties that appear before him.

Edmund has both the educational and legal background which makes him highly qualified to preside over cases in the District Court which are of a wide variety and sensitive in nature. He will have a good judicial temperament and a keen ability to interpret the laws and mete out justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** William.C.Bagasol@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2011 10:00 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF EDMUND ACOPA, JUDICIAL NOMINEE, 5TH CIRCUIT DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

I have known Mr. Edmund Acoba for over 27 years. We met as students at the University of Hawaii in 1984 and I have followed his legal career from the start.

While he has experience as a prosecuting attorney, I have worked with him over the last two decades as deputies at the Office of the Public Defender. During such time he has accumulated a wealth of litigation and administrative experience. He is an extremely hard worker and is a natural with working well with others. Mr. Acoba has done an excellent job as head of our Office on Kauai. Through the years, whether it be in court or in the community he has demonstrated his sincere commitment to public service.

Mr. Acoba has the integrity, legal ability and knowledge to be an outstanding jurist. My associations with him, leave me no doubt that he has the judicial temperament to be on the bench. It is without hesitation that I support Mr. Edmund Acoba as District Court Judge.

LATE TESTIMONY

SUPPORT

April 19, 2011

Aloha!

We support Edmund Acoba as our District Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit on Kaua`i. He has worked as a Prosecuting Attorney and as a Public Defender for over 10 years, altogether. Through those years he has gained the qualities and knowledge for being a fair and honest judge. Edmund has also been involved in many various community activities and projects and has gained the recognition that he deserves as a person of his community.

We truly believe that Edmund can do the job. We strongly urge for Senate confirmation of his nomination of judgeship to the District Court of Kauai.

Mahalo,  
Diane & Norman Vea

# LATE TESTIMONY

April, 19, 2011

Aloha,

I support Edmund Acoba's nomination for District Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit Court. His work both as a Prosecuting Attorney and as a Public Defender as well as his continuous commitment to various social and educational programs throughout Kaua'i and the State of Hawai'i ensure that he is the most qualified candidate for this position.

I strongly encourage confirmation of his nomination.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ka`āina Hull

# LATE TESTIMONY

Erna A. Kamibayashi  
4451 Piiwai Place, Koloa, HI 96756  
Work Email Address: [erna.a.kamibayashi@hawaii.gov](mailto:erna.a.kamibayashi@hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 274-3131

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April 14, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is in support of Mr. Edmund D. Acoba for the position of Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit district of Kauai.

I have known Edmund Acoba most of my adult life. My association with him began when I was hired by the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in 1988. I would see Edmund regularly as our offices are located on the same floor of the Lihue State Building. Through the years I have witnessed his desire, dedication and commitment to serve our community. He has demonstrated this commitment through the endless hours of donated time given to the youth programs on Kauai through the form of coaching basketball, football, baseball, mock trial events, serving on his local PTSA board and serving as a volunteer judge through our youth teen courts. He has also given endless hours of volunteer service to his church.

Through his employment as Supervising Attorney of the Public Defender Office, Edmund has demonstrated his capabilities of making sound decisions and his years of experience has prepared him for the task of being the Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. I strongly believe that Edmund would make good sound decisions and would represent our island well.

Edmund has gained the respect and admiration from his colleagues, staff, family, friends and community. He has demonstrated integrity and righteous ethics as well as demonstrating great love and pride for his community. He has shown these values through example and by helping others.

It is with the utmost confidence that I ask you to consider Mr. Edmund Acoba for the position of Judge in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit district of Kauai.

Me Ke Aloha,



Erna A. Kamibayashi