



LATE TESTIMONY

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

LANSON K. KUPAU
District Court Judge, First 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 Lanson K. Kupau for the position of District Court Judge, First 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 Lanson K. Kupau to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit Court.

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LATE TESTIMONY



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1101

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Rm. 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in support of JC 3, Nomination of Lanson K. Kupau to the District Court of the First Circuit

Dear Chair Hee:

I write in support of Lanson K. Kupau, Judicial nominee to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Kupau is a proven candidate for the bench as he already serves as a per diem judge for the District and Family Courts. In addition, he has a lengthy and vast record of experience as a litigator both in private practice and for the government.

More than anything else however, Mr. Kupau has life experiences that reflect his hard-working and humble character that will serve the judicial system well. He worked his way through college by serving our country in the armed services and to this day volunteers his time in youth athletics and pro bono legal work. He is community-minded and a dedicated father and family member.

Mr. Kupau will be a fine judge and I therefore humbly recommend his confirmation.

With warm regards,

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress
Hawaii, District 1

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

LATE TESTIMONY

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

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LATE TESTIMONY

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April 19, 2011

Via Email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

Dear Chair Hee:

I write in strong support of the appointment of Lanson K. Kupau to serve as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii. I have practiced law for over 10 years, and have worked in both the public service (Department of the Prosecuting Attorney) and in the private sector (Imanaka Kudo & Fujimoto.) While working at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I attended court sessions in the State District Courts and Circuit Court on a daily basis. In my practice today, I regularly litigate cases in State Circuit Court and the Federal District Court. From my experiences, I have learned that the best judges are those who possess the intelligence, temperament, and decision-making abilities necessary to run and manage a courtroom.

Mr. Kupau possesses all three of these qualities. His intelligence and legal abilities are manifest by his successful legal career; he was a litigation partner at one of Hawaii's largest law firms. He also possesses the proper temperament that is necessary of a judge; he is patient with others and treats his colleagues with the utmost respect. Finally, I have known Mr. Kupau to be a solid decision-maker; he is able to make decisions quickly, decisively, and with solid reasoning.

I believe these are all qualities and traits that are required of somebody who serves as a judge in our court system. For these reasons, I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Kupau to serve as a District Court Judge.

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

Very truly yours,



Ryan E. Sanada, Esq.

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April 19, 2011

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol Building

Re: CONFIRMATION OF LANSON KUPAU
District Court Judge, First Circuit
JC 3

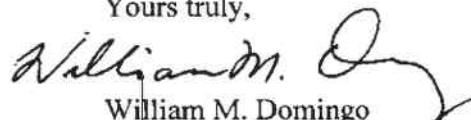
Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I whole-heartedly give my support for Lanson Kupau's appointment as district court judge. I have known Lanson since we were State Public Defenders in the early 90s. He was an impressive up-and-comer with great trial skills and a wonderful way with juries and especially clients. I was saddened to see him leave to enter private practice. Through the years we've kept in touch and I always received glowing feedback from fellow attorneys who either worked with or against Lanson

I was greatly pleased to see that Chief Justice Rectenwald chose him for a district court judgeship. He was very effective in his short stint as a per diem district court judge and I have no doubt that he will continue to represent the judiciary with his fair decisions and warm demeanor. Lanson has a huge heart to go along with his huge intellect. He understands the role that judges hold in the public eye and he definitely has the people and the rule of law in the forefront. He will not shy away from the tough facts or unpopular decisions.

In closing, the confirmation of Lanson Kupau will be a decision you and the public will most definitely hold as "pono." Mahalo and Aloha.

Yours truly,


William M. Domingo

RUSH MOORE LLP

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

LATE TESTIMONY

Attorneys at Law

Offices in Honolulu and Kona

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April 18, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

RECEIVED APR 19 2011

Dear Senator Hee:

I write to you on behalf of Lanson K. Kupau, Esq. whom I have known for the past 18 years. I truly believe that he is extremely qualified to be a District Family Court Judge for the State of Hawaii.

Having known Mr. Kupau for 18 years, I understand he is part Hawaiian and part Samoan. With this ethnic background, I surmise that juvenile delinquents facing incarceration will relate more with Mr. Kupau than with another Judge who is not of Hawaiian or Samoan descent. I would also mention that not only is Mr. Kupau ethnically appropriate, but he is also well qualified as a jurist in that he knows not only criminal law but civil law as well.

He was a well-respected Partner at the prestigious law firm of Kobayashi Sugita & Goda. As you know, becoming a partner at Kobayashi Sugita & Goda is an incredible feat. For a part-Hawaiian and part-Samoan attorney to become a partner at the Kobayashi Sugita & Goda law firm, he must have displayed among other things, incredible intellect.

In closing, I support Mr. Kupau 100 percent. I do not believe there is any candidate that is more qualified than Mr. Kupau. By appointing Mr. Kupau to the bench, you will truly be selecting a person who will make you and the State of Hawaii not only proud but appreciative.

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

Very truly yours,

RUSH MOORE LLP
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Jason M. Tani

cc: Lanson K. Kupau, Esq.