

LATE TESTIMONY



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

MELANIE MITO MAY
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 Melanie Mito May 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 Melanie Mito May to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit Court.

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April 12, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC 4 - Melanie Mito May
Judicial Nominee to the District Court of the First Circuit
Senate Judiciary Committee
April 20, 2011 9:00 A.M.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to write to you in support of the nomination of Melanie Mito May by Justice Recktenwald for appointment as a District Court judge of the First Circuit.

Having known Ms. Mito May for over thirty years, I feel privileged to be able to regard her and her entire family as close personal friends. It is my belief that Ms. Mito May possesses the legal experience necessary to oversee proceedings in Hawai'i's court system. Her integrity, commitment and fairness, all qualities highly sought after in judges at all levels, are beyond reproach. The intelligence she has displayed during her service as an attorney representing NetEnterprise has been exemplary. Her volunteer work with organizations such as the Waikiki Health Center and the Honolulu Japanese Jaycees illustrates her devotion to the principles of duty and community responsibility. I am supremely confident that this level of performance and commitment will continue if confirmed as a District Court judge.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination of Ms. Mito May as a District Court judge. Her service will be an invaluable contribution to the judicial system in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Toth".

Jason Toth
Chairman

From: Malia Kakos [maliakakos@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 9:35 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: JC 4 Melanie Mito May as First Circuit judge

LATE TESTIMONY

Measure: JC 4 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.

Hearing: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

I strongly support Melanie Mito May for the position of District Court Judge. Having known Melanie since 2000 and worked with her for five years, I know that she will serve this community well due to her dedication to justice. I have always been impressed by her sound work ethic and willingness to consider all sides of the matter. I believe Melanie has a great temperament to be a judge as she always remains calm in stressful situations and treats everyone with the utmost respect. I highly recommend Melanie Mito May for this position.

Sincerely,
Malia Kakos, Esq.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 9:57 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: michele.kauinui@altres.com
Subject: Testimony for JC4 on 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: JC4_Letter of Support_Judicial Nominee_Melanie Mito May.jpg

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 4/20/2011 9:00:00 AM JC4

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michele Kauinui
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: michele.kauinui@altres.com
Submitted on: 4/19/2011

Comments:

April 18, 2011

LATE TESTIMONY

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 Judicial Nominee, Melanie Mito May
April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

My name is Michele Kauinui, Human Resource Services Manager at ALTRES, Inc. This letter is respectfully being submitted in full support of Melanie Mito May, judicial nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Over the past five years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. May as our primary employment attorney through ALTRES. She has provided us and our diverse client base with expert guidance through complex situations, and we have seen first-hand her strong work ethic, professionalism, and high level of service. Ms. May's thorough understanding of the law as it applies to various industries and contexts, and her ability to relate it in practical situations, have been invaluable.

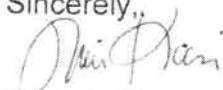
From my experience, one of Ms. May's greatest strengths is her ability to methodically analyze every situation from an objective viewpoint. She consistently applies sound reasoning and judgment, and can articulate her analyses and recommendations in a manner that is easy to understand, especially for people that may not be familiar with the law and/or legal terminology. She has an exceptional ability to communicate clearly and with compassion.

In addition, Ms. May's calm and approachable demeanor naturally creates a very comfortable environment. Her disposition and remarkable skill to make people feel at ease in any situation helps to resolve even the most difficult situations.

Without a doubt, Ms. May would apply her same dedication and qualities if selected and confirmed for the District Court of the First Circuit. She would truly be an asset to the State of Hawaii judicial system.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Michele Kauinui
Human Resource Services Manager

LATE TESTIMONY

MARR JONES & WANG

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

Labor and Employment Law

April 18, 2011

Via E-Mail (JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

**Re: Testimony in support of Judicial Nominee
Melanie Mito May, JC 4
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.
Hearing Location: Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

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

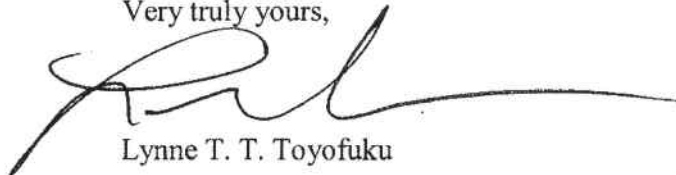
Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to express to you my unqualified support for the confirmation of my partner, Melanie Mito May, to the position of District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

I have known Melanie as a colleague since I joined Marr Jones & Wang, fka Marr Hipp Jones & Wang in January, 2004. Over the course of the past seven years, I have been impressed at Melanie's abilities as a legal advocate, including her brilliant legal analysis, her articulate writing as evidenced in legal memoranda to the court, and her emphasis on civility among colleagues, even under the most adversarial circumstances. She also expresses herself well verbally in court and gets her point across in a way that does not polarize others.

Succinctly stated, Melanie possesses the ability to be decisive and straightforward while implementing a collaborative rather than a right/wrong approach in working with others. She is an active and concerned listener and encourages input from everyone involved in a task or decision.

I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Melanie as a Honolulu District Court Judge. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Lynne T. T. Toyofuku

ALAN S. OKIMOTO
412 North Kuakini Street, #101
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2303
(808) 536-1218
E-mail: sempai@aloha.net

April 19, 2011

Testimony of
Alan S. Okimoto
on JC4

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,
State of Hawai'i, Judicial Nominee, MELANIE MITO MAY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Thank you Chair Hee and committee members. I am Alan S. Okimoto and I am testifying in support of Melanie Mito May's nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Melanie since 1996, when we were both members of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. Melanie had just returned from the mainland after graduating from law school. While most people would have taken some time to reacquaint themselves with the local community, she wanted to get involved immediately and did not hesitate to take on the challenge of chairing a major project. I found her to be intelligent, hard working, honest, responsible, compassionate and well organized. Those traits have carried over into her professional career as an attorney.

Melanie has a friendly disposition, which makes her well-liked by everyone she meets. She is also a caring and devoted mother and loving wife. Given the above, I strongly believe Melanie has the temperament and qualities you are looking for in a District Court judge.

I respectfully ask the committee to confirm Melanie Mito May's nomination.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

MEASURES DEFERRED TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2011
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

DECISION MAKING ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE(S):

GM741
Testimony
Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROCK B. LEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2017. (Term amended to 6-30-2016 by GM780)

JDL

Pass

GM775
Testimony
Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE WILKINS, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

JDL

Pass

No testimony will be accepted.

FOR AMENDED HEARING NOTICES: If the notice is an amended notice, measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If there is a measure that is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT 808-586-7330.

