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**From:** James Kawashima [jkawashima@klhllp.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 12:57 AM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** FW: JC6- Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge - In Support

**From:** James Kawashima  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2012 12:50 AM  
**To:** Senate Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** JC6- Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge - In Support

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members, State Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: JC6 – Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support  
Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the State Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Let me first express my humblest apologies for not sending this by the clearly-delineated deadline you had imposed. It was the result of a mixup for which I take full responsibility. I sincerely hope that you will accept this testimony on behalf of Ms. Kawamura.

I am an active attorney practicing as a partner in the firm of Kawashima Lorusso, LLP. I was first licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii in 1972 and have represented many different clients as a civil litigator and have tried well over 50 cases to jury verdict as first chair in courts of unlimited jurisdiction, in both State and Federal Courts.

I first came to know Ms. Kawamura as a student at Iolani School, where she excelled as a student and as an athlete, a rare combination these days. I lost track of her as she matriculated to Brown University after which she earned her Juris Doctor degree at Stanford University Law School in Palo Alto, California.

While she worked for our law firm, Ms. Kawamura worked extensively and almost exclusively with me on large cases, and although the firm's practice has been to have a younger partner assisting us on a particular trial team, Ms. Kawamura's maturity, skills and intelligence has allowed us to forego involving another partner.

Ms. Kawamura's background in both the private and public sectors, but always in litigation-related positions and the many criminal jury trials that she has experienced, will all serve her well in becoming an outstanding jurist. Nonetheless, it is Ms. Kawamura's sincerity, compassion and people skills that distinguish her from almost all other candidates.

I provide this information having worked with literally hundreds of associates in the past many years that I have practiced, but also as a former member of this august body from 1997 to 2003 as one of the HSBA-elected commissioners.

Her resume speaks for itself in terms of her legal and trial experience so I will now speak to her legal ability. In the course of almost 40 years of active practice, I have worked with, and observed many, many young attorneys, some of whom I have work directly and closely with, the total number of those young people being perhaps in the hundreds and I can say with confidence that Ms. Kawamura was and is singularly the best young attorney with whom I have worked.

I am sending you this message of support and providing my candid opinions regarding the nominee, and wish her the best in her quest to become a member of the judiciary, but it is also with mixed emotions that I present this information as our law firm will lose a much valued and respected colleague. Our loss will be the State of Hawaii's gain.

I would expect Ms. Kawamura to be an exemplary jurist, especially in the courts that she has chosen to serve. I believe that she knows that she is qualified to be a candidate for the Circuit Court, but she chose to serve at the lowest level, District Court, because she understands that the great majority of our society who have any contact with the legal system would have that contact take place in the District Court. In that sense, it is the most important court in our system. I am certain that she is mature enough to handle any difficult situation and I would not imagine that she would lose her composure under any circumstances.

I provide these opinions based on my years of practicing in the courts of this state for the past 40 years and having appeared before almost every judge that is presently sitting. I close by thanking you for allowing me this opportunity to provide you with my thoughts about this nominee.

# KAWASHIMA LORUSSO

LLP

Sender's Information:  
Direct: (808) 275-0371  
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April 10, 2012

Dear: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,  
Vice Chair and Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Re: JC6-Shirley Kawamura for District Court of the First  
Circuit, Judge - In Support

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my support for the nomination of Shirley M. Kawamura, Esq. to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I am a partner at Kawashima Lorusso LLP and I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Ms. Kawamura since she began as an associate at Kawashima Lorusso LLP in December 2005. Ms. Kawamura is of the highest moral character, respectful, yet very decisive. She is a very intelligent, compassionate and caring individual and was an integral member of the firm. Ms. Kawamura was well respected not only by the attorneys in my firm, but by opposing counsel, the staff and our clients. I have often received unsolicited comments from clients and opposing counsel regarding the high quality of her work product.

It was a loss to our firm when Ms. Kawamura devoted her time to the Judiciary as a per diem Judge, but certainly understandable and a gain to the Judiciary. She had a promising career with our firm and while we were sad for her departure, it was certainly with our full support.

Ms. Kawamura is very knowledgeable about the law, she is an extremely hard worker who is always willing to learn and conducts herself in all matters in a very courteous, fair and professional manner. She has a great deal of court room experience and would understand the needs of all those who appeared before her as well as the court room staff. In addition to being an excellent litigator, she manages to balance her career as a wife and the mother of two wonderful children.

I highly support and respectfully request the appointment of Ms. Kawamura to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony. If you

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimaburkuro, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 10, 2012  
Page 2

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

Very truly yours,

KAWASHIMA LORUSSO, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Lorusso', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL A. LORUSSO

ML:sem  
00028140.WPD

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April 10, 2012

VIA EMAIL ([JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov))  
AND FACSIMILE: (586-7334)

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

RE: JC6 - Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court  
of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support

Dear Committee Members:

I heartily endorse Shirley M. Kawamura's nomination to become a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have worked closely with her in various civil cases over the years, most notably the Ka Loko dam litigation in which we represented co-Defendants, and believe that she is well suited for the position.

Shirley certainly possesses the necessary legal acumen and is able to draw from her diverse experience across the judicial spectrum, having practiced in civil litigation, criminal litigation, and served as a per diem judge. But perhaps the trait that best qualifies her to become a judge is her temperament. From my observation, Shirley has always dealt with those that she comes across in practice, whether opposing attorneys, litigants, witnesses, or court staff, with the utmost degree of candor, courtesy, and fairness. I have no doubt that she will continue to conduct herself in this exemplary manner if appointed.

Thank you in advance for considering this submission.

Very truly yours,

  
R. Aaron Creps

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**From:** Yoshioka, Lloyd S. [lyoshioka@honolulu.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** JDLEvidence  
**Subject:** JC6 – Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support

Senator Clayton Hee  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

**Subject:** JC6 – Shirley M. Kawamura for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support

I strongly support the confirmation by the Hawaii State Senate of the appointment of Shirley M. Kawamura as Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

I currently work for the Honolulu City Council as the staff attorney for the Budget and Public Safety Committees.

I have known Ms. Kawamura for over ten years and, based on my interactions with her, I am confident that she is well qualified to serve as a District Court Judge. Her work as trial deputy at the Office of the Public Defender and as a commercial and insurance defense litigation attorney at the law firm of Kawashima Lorruso gives her a unique skill set necessary to see both sides of a legal issue.

More importantly, Ms. Kawamura is an individual of the highest moral character and can be counted on to do what is right, even if such a decision may not be easy or popular.

For these, and many other, reasons I believe that Ms. Kawamura is superbly qualified to serve a District Court Judge and urge the Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Yoshioka

Testimony of Susan L. Arnett  
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

April 11, 2012

RE: JC6. NOMINATION OF SHIRLEY M. KAWAMURA TO THE  
DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Shirley M. Kawamura as a Judge in the District Court of the First Circuit Court.

I have known Miki since she was a law clerk for Judge Dexter D. Del Rosario. After she joined our office in 1999, I was both her colleague and supervisor at various times. She proved to be very strong in trial practice and, had she stayed with our office long enough, she would have handled our most serious cases as one of our top trial attorneys. As it was, she handled the most serious cases at each of the levels she served as a Deputy Public Defender. In addition to her trial work, Miki volunteered to do oral argument before our appellate courts and was as outstanding in that as we knew her to be from her trial work.

As a supervisor, it is invaluable to have someone to whom you can give the most difficult cases, from hard to deal with clients to complex legal issues. But Miki was always one who would take on whatever specific challenge a case presented. She had an impeccable work ethic and was never unprepared. I was very sorry when she left our office but she wanted the new challenge of civil work. From visiting with her over the years since she left, it is clear that she has continued the same work ethic and put in the time and effort to understand and master a new area of law.

In addition to her per diem work on the bench, I believe her varied background in criminal and civil law will be a real asset on the bench. She has worked these last few years in the area of civil defense and has the many years of trial work as a criminal defense attorney.

Miki is respected as a colleague, an opponent and on the bench. She will make an excellent District Court judge. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.