



## Hawaii State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 9, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC1, RELATING TO CHIEF JUSTICE APPOINTMENT NOMINEE KEVIN A. SOUZA

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIR HEE, VICE CHAIR SHIMABUKURO AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

REPRESENTATIVE  
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

The purpose of this letter is to offer my strong support of Chief Justice Appointment Nominee Kevin A. Souza for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, for a six year term.

As we are well aware, the appointment of judges is no small matter. Judges must hold high standards of integrity, be impartial and remain open-minded. They must be well informed about the law, able to perform intensive legal research and adept at writing concise and coherent opinions. Prior to their appointments to the bench, respectable candidates must have made meaningful contributions to both the legal profession and the community. Kevin embodies these attributes and over the many years that I have known him, I have always been impressed with his dedication to public service – both inside and out of the courtroom.

He has comprehensive knowledge of insurance defense, civil, commercial and real estate litigation, banking law, collections and foreclosures and personal injury cases etc., because of his many years specializing in these areas while in private practice. Kevin also has an extensive amount of public service experience, having worked with the Public Defender's Office, served as Deputy Chief of Staff and later promoted to Chief of Staff for former Lieutenant Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona and his leadership role as Honolulu Community Action Program's Chair of the Board. His experience as a part time judge for District Family Court over the last year only further augments his public service credentials.

Kevin is a man of honor and credibility. As such, I highly recommend him for retention and confirmation for the newly created position at the District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit because I believe that he possesses the professional credentials, the life experience and the strong record of community service that would enable him to excel as a Judge. For the reasons stated above, I firmly believe that he would make a fine addition to the District Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Kunane Tokioka  
State Representative, District 15  
Wailua Homesteads, Hanam aulu, Lihue,  
Puhi, Portion of Old Koloa Town & Oma'ō

Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street Rm. 322  
Honolulu, HI 96813



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: JC1 – Judicial Nominee – Kevin A. Souza**

Dear Senator Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members:

I am submitting written comments in support of Mr. Kevin A. Souza's nomination and confirmation to fill a new position in the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

I strongly believe that Mr. Souza possesses the qualifications and character necessary to serve the people of the State of Hawai'i.

Mr. Souza currently serves as a per diem judge and has been consistently recommended by the Judicial Selection Commission to serve at the District Court and District Family Court of the First Circuit.

A proud graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Mr. Souza was admitted to the Hawai'i State Bar in 1997. His strong commitment to public service was demonstrated when he served as the Chief of Staff to The Honorable James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr., former Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i and a former judge himself.

Mr. Souza is a gentleman who has great character, concrete morals, and the qualifications to serve as a judge. I hope you will consider supporting Mr. Souza's nomination to fill the new position at the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

With Aloha,

Representative Gene Ward  
Minority Leader Emeritus  
District 17: Hawai'i Kai – Kalama Valley

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

January 11, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

RE: JC 1: Nomination of Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the  
First Circuit

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to recommend that Kevin A. Souza be confirmed as the next judge of the District Family Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Kevin since he began his employment with our office in 1999. . While at our office, I had the opportunity to supervise Kevin in our district court section. Kevin impressed me with his legal intellect and passion for justice.

Kevin Souza has both the educational and legal background which makes him highly qualified to preside over cases in the family court which are of a wide variety and sensitive in nature. As a per diem judge, Kevin has impressed attorneys who have appeared before him with his judicial temperament and fairness to both sides. I believe that Kevin will be an asset to the Judiciary.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

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January 8, 2013

FAX: 586-7334/U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **The Honorable Kevin Souza-Family Court Nomination**

Dear Chairman Hee:

I write this letter in strong support of the Honorable Kevin Souza's nomination by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald to serve as a Family Court judge.

I am the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO"), which is the public sector union that represents all of our county police officers serving throughout the 50<sup>th</sup> State.

As a police union, we pay close attention to the judiciary appointments since the end product of our investigations is often the decisive factor in a court proceeding. In addition, our officers spend significant amounts of time interacting with the judges and testifying in their courtrooms. Our review and evaluation of a nominee is based on several factors, including but not limited to intelligence, legal knowledge and experience, integrity, judicial temperament and diligence. We use our evaluations to determine whether we will support, oppose or remain neutral on a particular nominee. We take our evaluations and recommendations seriously, as we know that the position we take on a nominee could negatively impact a nomination.

As for the nomination of per diem Judge Souza to a full time position, we voice our unequivocal and strong support for a nominee who we believe is exceptionally qualified to serve on the Family Court bench. As the largest public law enforcement labor organization in Hawaii, we support and endorse Judge Souza's nomination to this most honorable and distinguished position.

Judge Souza comes to the bench with extensive litigation experience gained from his solo law practice and having served six (6) years with the Office of the Public Defender, in addition to having worked at the McCorrison Miho law firm. He has also served as a panelist on Medical Claims Conciliation Panels and as legal counsel to the Grand Jury in the First

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**Main Office & Honolulu Chapter**  
1717 Hoe Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3125  
Ph: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"  
Fax: (808) 841-4818  
Toll Free: (800) 590-4676

**Hawaii Chapter Office**  
688 Kino'ole Street, Room 220B  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Ph: (808) 934-8405  
Fax: (808) 934-8210

**Maui Chapter Office**  
1887 Wili Pa Loop, Suite #2  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Ph: (808) 242-6129  
Fax: (808) 242-9519

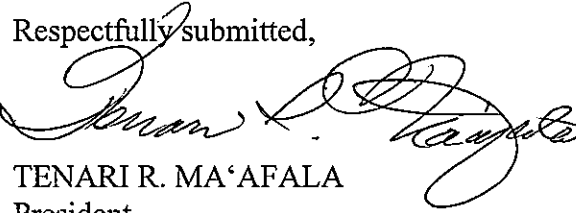
**Kaua'i Chapter Office**  
4264 Rice Street, Lihue  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1708  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
Ph: (808) 246-8911

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Re: Kevin Souza - Family Court Nomination  
January 8, 2013  
Page 2

Circuit Court. With his nomination, Judge Souza returns to public service on a full time basis having previously served in other high level state government positions. As police officers, we take great pride in seeing Judge Souza following in the public service footsteps of his late father, Ronald Souza, who was a highly respected and admired Assistant Chief with the Honolulu Police Department.

As police officers, we are called upon daily to testify in our Hawaii courts and based on our experiences we can tell you that Judge Souza clearly possesses the highest levels of judicial intelligence, integrity, diligence and work ethic that make him an excellent choice to serve as a Family Court judge. He displays an even handed approach to matters, possesses the required judicial temperament and exhibits compassion and understanding for those who come before his court who often find themselves in very difficult and trying circumstances. As police officers, we strive for the highest levels of integrity and ethics and take comfort in knowing that Judge Souza is of a like mind and practice. With his sense of fairness, humility, sharp legal mind, broad legal knowledge and even keeled judicial temperament, we believe Judge Souza is an excellent choice who will do an outstanding job as a Family Court judge.

We applaud Judge Souza's nomination and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination and sincerely hope Judge Souza will receive your committee's unanimous support.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
TENARI R. MA'AFALA  
President



## hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** Terry Thomason [TThomason@ahfi.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 08, 2013 6:24 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of Kevin Souza - as a Judge on the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members,

I have known Mr. Souza for approximately 12 years both professionally and personally. Based upon my many observations of his legal skills and his demeanor, I submit the following to support Senate confirmation of Kevin Souza to serve as a Judge on the Family Court of the First Circuit.


Mr. Souza is highly qualified to serve as a judge in our courts. He is a respected, skilled and experienced trial attorney. He knows the law and can quickly focus on the important issues of a case. Because of his intellect and analytical skills, he will be able to apply the law fairly and correctly without regard to the emotions that often accompany litigation.

More importantly, Mr. Souza has the temperament and the personal skills to ensure all of Hawai`i's citizens will be treated fairly in his court. He is unflinching kind and respectful to everyone, even in the most stressful and contentious circumstances. His courtesy and gentle nature are precisely the kind of dignified and respectful demeanor all of us have a right to expect from those appointed to resolve disputes in our society. As a judge, Mr. Souza will add immeasurably to the public's respect for our court system.

I urge the Committee to refer Mr. Souza's name to the full Senate for confirmation as a judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Respectfully,

Terry E, Thomason  
Attorney-at-Law  
Kaneohe, Hawai`i

HAWK SING IGNACIO  WATERS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. B-299  
Honolulu HI 96817  
T (808) 532-3800  
F (808) 532-3804

January 10, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC-1: Kevin A. Souza for District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judge  
– In Support

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing individually, and in my capacity as managing partner of Hawk Sing & Ignacio, to support the confirmation of Kevin A. Souza, Esq. for the vacant Family Court Judgeship.

We are a small law firm that has collectively practiced daily in the District, Family, and Circuit Courts for over 10 years. Individually, each of our attorneys has practiced in these same courts for over 16 years. We are familiar with the histories, procedures, and personalities of the Courts of the First Circuit.

Mr. Souza is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. He has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical “in the trenches” experience as a Public Defender. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Kevin Souza.

Outside of his professional life, Kevin is a loving caring husband and parent, who has always treated others with respect and fairness. He is levelheaded and compassionate. He possesses the best of the traits that we hope for ourselves, and for those in whom the community entrusts power. I trust him as a friend and colleague, and believe that our community needs and deserves him on the bench.

I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the position of Family Court Judge should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,



Richard H. S. Sing



## hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** Angela Correa-Pei [correapei@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:05 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** Appointment of Kevin Souza

Aloha Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, and Committee Members,

My name is Angela Correa-Pei and I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Kevin Souza to the Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known Kevin Souza personally and professionally for many years.

We both have had the wonderful opportunity to be raised in East Honolulu's Kuli'ou'ou valley. Kevin has always been well liked and respected by our fellow peers and community members as Kevin has unfailingly treated everyone he comes into contact with with kindness and respect. Kevin has lived his life honorably and with the sincere intention of serving others.

As the law clerk for Judge Michael Town from 2000-2001 I had the opportunity to observe Kevin in his early years as a Deputy Public Defender. He always represented his clients diligently and treated them with respect. He was courteous towards and appreciative of court staff.

I also had the opportunity to work with Kevin while he was the Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Duke Aiona. I serve as a board member for the non-profit organization Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center ("MFHC"), the mission of which is to preserve the last remaining fishponds in East Honolulu. The fishponds are located on state owned property and it was important for the community and the state to engage in open and constructive dialogue. Kevin understood the mission of MFHC and his ability to bring the various stakeholders together was instrumental in establishing a positive working relationship between the community and the state.

As an attorney practicing family law for the past 10 years I have had the opportunity to discuss family law issues with Kevin and have found that in addition to Kevin's extensive knowledge of the law, Kevin has a sincere concern for the families of Hawaii and an awareness of the difficulties they can experience in the family court process, whether it be a divorce case or a child protective services case. Kevin's ability to treat people with dignity, respect, compassion and fairness will serve the families of Hawaii well.

Kevin Souza's legal experience, conscientiousness, integrity, and his ability to treat others with a sincere sense of value render him the right person to serve the State of Hawaii in the capacity of Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Me Ke Aloha,  
Angela Correa-Pei, Esq.

--  
Angela Correa-Pei  
Attorney at Law  
PO Box 240582  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96824  
Ph: 808-394-1466  
Fax: 808-394-1469

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## hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** Jeff Hawk [jeffhawk@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2013 11:18 AM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Cc:** Kevin Souza  
**Subject:** letter of support for Kevin Souza - hearing 1/11/13 at 11: 30 a.m.

Dear Chair Clayton Hee and members of Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

I have known Kevin Souza since we entered UH Law School in 1994. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to work with him at the Office of the Public Defender and in private practice. I am writing to you in strong support of Mr. Souza's nomination to the Family Court of the First Circuit.

I think Mr. Souza is a great choice for a Judge of the Family Court. His legal knowledge spans criminal defense, civil work, the inner workings of the executive branch and the legislative process. He has worked in the Family Court both as a defense attorney and a per diem Judge.

Mr. Souza is uniquely qualified to be a Family Court Judge because of his demeanor. He has a certain gravitas about him, and yet, he is always kind, always courteous and always compassionate to everyone. This is something that cannot be taught in school. These qualities are instinctual to Mr. Souza and are exactly what is required to be a Family Court Judge.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Jeffrey A. Hawk  
Hawk Sing & Ignacio  
1130 N. Nimitz Highway, suite B-299  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
808-532-3800  
Fax: 808-532-3804  
[jeffhawk@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jeffhawk@hawaii.rr.com)

**Karl P. Espaldon, Esq.**  
**520 Lunalilo Home Road, Unit 6311**  
**Honolulu, HI 96825**  
**Tel: (808) 542-8222**

January 8, 2013

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Senate  
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

Re: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of **Kevin A. Souza** as  
Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit

This testimony is to offer my strong support for Mr. Kevin A. Souza to serve as a Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Souza since we attended law school together eighteen years ago. I also had the privilege of working with him from 2005 to 2010 at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Through my personal and professional relationship with Mr. Souza, I have observed first-hand the qualities that would make him an excellent judge for the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Souza clearly possesses the necessary qualifications and skills required of a member of the bench. In addition to being a talented attorney with valuable courtroom experience, including numerous jury trials, Mr. Souza is extremely organized, hard-working, conscientious, and always well-prepared. He is an excellent writer and an articulate speaker. Mr. Souza is also a natural leader. His demeanor, bearing, and dignity inspire trust, confidence, and respect. As a former practicing attorney myself, I know that he can command every aspect of a courtroom to ensure that it runs efficiently, smoothly, and most importantly, fairly, for all parties. I am confident that attorneys, litigants, and court staff will afford him true respect as a judge because he will have earned it through his preparation, his knowledge of the law, his cool-headedness and reasonable nature, and most importantly, his fairness.

On a personal level, Kevin Souza is one of the finest and quality human beings I have ever met. He is warm-hearted, caring, and sincere. He is courteous and polite, and treats others with respect. He is a devoted father and husband, and he lives his personal life according to principles rooted in honesty, integrity, and the spirit of aloha, traits that will serve him and the people of Hawaii well as a family court judge.

In closing, in my twenty-five year career, I have worked with and for public officials in high office, including a United States congressman, a state Supreme Court justice, a lieutenant governor, and local legislators. Through this experience, I know how important it is to attract and select the "best and brightest" to fill our society's highest positions of responsibility and leadership. Kevin Souza, in my opinion, falls within this category for the State of Hawaii. He is the type of talented, homegrown, intelligent, caring, and hardworking individual that will make an excellent jurist and will raise the bar for the legal profession in Hawaii.

I support Kevin Souza's nomination enthusiastically and ask that the Senate confirm him as a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on Mr. Souza's behalf.

TESTIMONY BY ROBERT N.E. PIPER, ESQ., MBA  
TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON  
JUDICIARY COMMUNICATIONS NO. 1

Conference Room 225, State Capitol

11:30 a.m.

January 11, 2013

Chairperson Hee, Vice-Chairperson Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha mai kākou. My name is Robert N.E. Piper and I thank you for the opportunity and honor to submit this testimony in strong support of Judiciary Communications No. 1 nominating Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

We don't often take the opportunity to thank our civic leaders for their dedication and leadership – so I will start off by extending my fond mahalo nui to you for your continued service to Hawaii.

I am currently the Executive Director of the Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. (“HCAP”), a private non-profit human services agency whose mission is to alleviate poverty throughout Honolulu. Prior to this, I was the Deputy Director of the State of Hawaii’s Department of Budget & Finance, and was previously the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. I have been a business banker, and a business attorney, and am still a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association. I submit this testimony before you today in both my personal and professional capacities.

I have had numerous occasions to work with Mr. Souza on many issues spanning governance of my non-profit agency and its mission, the causes and remedies of the many social ills affecting the families and communities in Honolulu and the broader State, general budget & finance issues, countless State of Hawaii Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary Branch issues, education issues, and Native Hawaiian issues over these many years and my experience in all of these dealings with Mr. Souza has been nothing short of exemplary.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Souza personally for more than eighteen (18) years. In all of that time, he has presented himself humbly with a demeanor that is both compassionate yet direct, ethically with a personal and professional reputation beyond reproach, and with a strong sense of aloha and responsibility toward family, friends, and colleagues, and to the community at large.

I have worked with Mr. Souza from our days in student government at the William S. Richardson School of Law - through our time together as senior staff at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor - until today as he currently serves as the representative of the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce on the Board of Directors of HCAP. I note that Mr. Souza has served in the past as the Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of HCAP.

In this time, I have come to appreciate Mr. Souza's ability to work with all parties, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. I can attest to the fact that Mr. Souza is highly regarded in all halls of our legislature – and is thought of as a true “son of Hawaii.” This relationship with our legislature extends to his service of HCAP's Board of Directors where he works with, amongst others, the following board members and/or their alternates: Speaker Calvin Say, Representative Marcus Oshiro, Representative Isaac Choy, Senator Brian Taniguchi, and Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland.

In all of these endeavors, I have witnessed Mr. Souza's strong leadership, common sense approach coupled with his legal and analytic approach, and, most importantly, his compassion for those that we serve.

Aside from my positions within HCAP and the Lingle/Aiona Administration as described above, I was also a practicing attorney in private practice for over 6 years as well as a past president and board member of the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. In my humble opinion, Mr. Souza has balanced a strong commitment to quality of service and legal integrity and propriety with a deep sense of aloha and respect for others no matter what their position in life or political leaning. Through this personal example of professionalism and dedication to the mission of serving the people of Hawaii, Mr. Souza helped set the tone for not only the staff of his prior Administrative office but for other members of the Lingle/Aiona Administration as well.

In my dealings with Mr. Souza over these past years, he has always displayed a strong independence of judgment, integrity and honesty, an acute legal analytical skill, a deep awareness of issues, and compassion – all attributes that a judge should have. He has an uncanny ability and skill in dealing with the many important issues that confront us. He is a quick study, a strong communicator, and his experience in both the public and private sectors serves us all well.

For the reasons stated above, I humbly and strongly support the nomination of Kevin A. Souza, Esq. to the Family Court of the State of Hawaii. Mahalo piha.

hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** hanohanom003@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2013 8:59 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** SUPPORT OF MR. KEVIN SOUZA FOR FAMILY COURT JUDGE OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Aloha,

I am Mark Moki "Dutch" Hanohano. I have served the people of Hawaii, as a lawman, for 27 years at different government levels for various agencies. I started as a Campus Walker for the Department of Education-State of Hawaii, worked my way up to being appointed United States Marshal for the District of Hawaii and am currently serving Hawaii's people as the Chief of the Harbor Police and Facility Security Operations for the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation-Harbors Division.

In my journey, I was privileged to have met and worked with many in the justice profession and am thankful for the opportunity. For those I have had the honor to meet a few standouts and one of those individuals is Kevin Souza. I have known Mr. Souza professionally and personally for decades and a finer and fairer person- there is none. Mr. Souza is passionate in ensuring justice serves the rights of all with humility, equality and that all deserve the opportunity to be heard in the confines of Hawaii's courts. Kevin is a family man and knows that knowledge and, more importantly, wisdom starts at home- whatever and wherever home may be. Kevin understands, knows the importance of and profoundly practices the extremely important, but sometimes missing, job of being a brother, son, husband, father- A DADDY! And, Kevin does it very well!

I was humbled to have been asked and am honored to submit testimony IN SUPPORT of Kevin Souza, who has been nominated by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald to serve the people of Hawaii as a Judge on the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Submitted With Heartfelt Aloha,  
Mark M. "Dutch" Hanohano (U.S. Marshal-retired)

Catherine Souza  
c/o Office of the Public Defender  
1130 North.Nimitz Hwy. Ste. A-254  
Honolulu , Hawaii 96817

January 10, 2013

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

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of my husband, Kevin Souza, and his confirmation to the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Kevin will serve the judiciary with integrity and professionalism. As an attorney, I have worked before numerous judges and have seen what qualities exceptional judges possess. Kevin has all of these qualities. He is intelligent, hard working, organized, honest, humble, and respectful. Kevin also takes great pride in doing things to the best of his ability.

Furthermore, he enjoys working with people and he has the ability to facilitate consensus. This talent is carried on a personal and professional level, including his service at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office of the Public Defender, Medical Claims Conciliation Panels, Honolulu Community Action Program, and as a private attorney. He has great aloha for people and it is evident in all of his interactions.

Most importantly, Kevin is a great husband and father. He pours a great deal of time and energy into his family, friends, and obligations. Our family firmly supports Kevin and his aspiration to be a family court judge.

I strongly support Kevin Souza's judicial confirmation. I am very confident that he will be an outstanding judge and be an asset to the judiciary. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Catherine Souza



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY BY ALIKA L. PIPER, ESQ.  
TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON  
JUDICIARY COMMUNICATIONS NO. 1

Conference Room 225, State Capitol  
11:30 a.m.  
January 11, 2013

Chairperson Hee, Vice-Chairperson Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha. My name is Alika L. Piper and I thank you for the opportunity and honor to submit this testimony in strong support of Judiciary Communications No. 1 nominating Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am currently a founding partner of the law firm Klevansky Piper LLP. I am also a board member of and the Treasurer of the Hawaii State Bar Association. I have been practicing law for over fifteen (15) years. I have known Mr. Souza for over eighteen (18) years. I submit this testimony before you today in my personal capacity.

In the time that I have known Mr. Souza, he has presented himself humbly with a demeanor that is both compassionate yet direct, fair and balanced with a personal and professional reputation beyond reproach, and with a strong sense of aloha and kuleana.

Through personal interaction as well as reports from others with direct experience, I have come to appreciate Mr. Souza's ability to work with all parties, regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. Additionally, I have witnessed Mr. Souza's strong leadership, common sense approach coupled with his legal and analytic approach, and, most importantly, his compassion for those that we serve.

Mr. Souza has always displayed a strong independence of judgment, integrity and honesty, an acute legal analytical skill, a deep awareness of issues, and compassion – all attributes that a judge should have. He has an uncanny ability and skill in dealing with the many important issues that confront us. He is a quick study, a strong communicator, and his experience in both the public and private sectors serves us all well.

For the reasons stated above, I humbly and strongly support the nomination of Kevin A. Souza, Esq. to the Family Court of the State of Hawaii. Mahalo.

## hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** Janel Yoshimoto [jyoshimoto@chunyoshimoto.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2013 10:02 PM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Judicial Nomination of Kevin Souza

Dear Honorable Senators of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am writing in whole-hearted support of Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination of Kevin Souza to the Family Court of the First Circuit. I have had the honor of knowing Mr. Souza for the past fourteen years, first as a colleague at the law firm of McCorriston Miho Miller Mukai and then recently as his client for a discrete matter. Having worked in the same law firm for a year as litigators, I recognized and appreciated his even-keel temperament and ability to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and respect for people from a variety of backgrounds, no matter their level of education, economic, cultural and religious backgrounds, and their behavior towards him. Even though we moved on to different career paths in the law, my strong sense of his integrity and respect for others has never wavered as we encountered each other from time to time.

It has been recently, however, that I've come to observe and admire Mr. Souza's growth into a highly-skilled, knowledgeable and pragmatic criminal defense lawyer. As a law-abiding citizen all of my life, I cannot tell you how terrifying it was to have been involved in a criminal investigation. Fortunately, my frightening experience was short-lived, though I truly believe it was because of Mr. Souza's representation of me that my distressing experience did not drag on needlessly. His analysis of my legal situation and his patience and ability to explain the criminal process to me gave me the reassurance and strength I needed during that scary time. I am so thankful that lawyers like Mr. Souza exist in our bar.

I am convinced that Mr. Souza will bring such strengths of character and legal acumen to the Family Courts, if you confirm his nomination. Please confirm his nomination for the benefit of Hawaii's families, our children and our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Janel Yoshimoto

**THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**  
**Twenty-Sixth State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2013**  
**State of Hawai`i**

January 10, 2013

**RE: JC1, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, Kevin A. Souza, for a term of six years.**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I submit the following testimony in support of JC1, the appointment of Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, for a term of six years.

I believe Mr. Kevin Souza will serve as an excellent judge because he is compassionate, intelligent, and professional.

From 2009 to 2010, I got to work with Mr. Souza when I was serving as a Hawaii State Representative in my leadership role as House Judiciary Committee Chairman. He was serving as an adviser to former Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona and had come to visit my office to go over their legislative bills that were before my committee. I was extremely impressed with Mr. Souza's compassionate demeanor and knowledge of the issues. Although we were on different political parties, he was sincerely looking out for the best interest of the people of Hawaii.

From 2011 to 2012, I got to work with Mr. Souza again while he was working as a criminal defense attorney and I was serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the District Courts of the First Circuit. Like my prior experiences with him, Mr. Souza was very courteous, respectful, and knowledgeable on the issues.

It is for these reasons that I support Mr. Kevin Souza District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity testify on this matter.

With Warmest Aloha,  
Jon Riki Karamatsu

98-522 Kilipohē Street  
Aiea, HI 96701

January 9, 2013

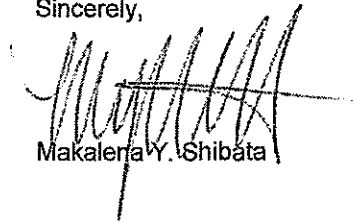
Senator Clayton Hee  
Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Senator Hee:

I was extremely pleased a few weeks ago to hear Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald appointed Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit (Oahu). As such, I am providing to you my letter of support for your consideration to confirm Judicial Nominee Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii for a term of 6 years.

I have known Kevin and his family since 1996 and find his unwavering values and leadership of character the qualities that best serves the public and our community. I am an active duty U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel serving with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks; so unfortunately, my schedule does not allow me to appear in person. I look forward to your confirmation of Kevin and if you require any additional information regarding my support, please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell at (808) 782-3410 or via email at [gihula@gmail.com](mailto:gihula@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Makalea Y. Shibata

## hee2 - Kathleen

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**From:** Marty Martinson Lui-Kwan [minya808@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2013 6:52 AM  
**To:** JDLTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Kevin Souza, Family Court

Dear Chair Clayton Hee:

I am writing to ask for your kind consideration in support of confirmation of Kevin Souza's appointment to the Family Court.

Based on my experience and knowledge, Kevin has always been well regarded and respected, both professionally and personally.

He is an outstanding individual whose judgement and strength of character we can count on when making important decisions on sensitive issues facing our community.

Kevin Souza is a native son from a solid kama'aina family.

I know his family well and can assure you his family's values, integrity and strong sense of pono will prevail in all that he does.

As a Kamehameha graduate myself, it's an honor and privilege to see another Native Hawaiian son added to the bench.

Mahalo nui loa.

Aloha,  
Marty Martinson Lui-Kwan

January 10, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: JC1 – Kevin A. Souza for District Court of the First Circuit, Judge  
In Support

Dear Senators:

I am writing this letter in support of Kevin A. Souza to serve as a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Souza for approximately 18 years, both personally and professionally. I first met Mr. Souza as law students at William S. Richardson School of Law and eventually worked together at the Public Defender's Office.

As an attorney, Mr. Souza was known for his advocacy and trial skills as well as his professionalism. He places great pride in each position he has held. In every task he has dedicated the time and effort to produce detailed and quality work. His work product has achieved the highest respect and regard from both his colleagues and opponents. Furthermore, as a per diem judge, Mr. Souza demonstrated that he is fully capable of meeting the high demands of full-time District Court Judge.

Outside of work, Mr. Souza places high value on his family and his community. I am confident that Mr. Souza's experience as a litigator, and his strong family and community involvement, would be a great asset to our Judiciary.

In conclusion, I strongly support Mr. Souza's appointment as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Very truly yours,

Michelle L.A. Sagaysay  
m\_sagaysay@yahoo.com

**hee2 - Kathleen**

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**From:** Katherine Thomason [kathi.thomason@ims-hawaii.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 08, 2013 5:56 PM  
**To:** JDLEstimony  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of Kevin Souza as Judge on the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members,

I strongly recommend the Committee refer Mr. Souza's name to the full Senate for confirmation as a judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Souza for about 10 years. Based upon my professional work relationship with Mr. Souza and my perception of his professional performance, I support Senate confirmation of Kevin Souza to serve as a Judge on the Family Court of the First Circuit.

During the period of time I worked with Mr. Souza, his temperament and personal skills were a welcome relief in stressful situations. His consideration and knowledge of the law was impressive and, at the same time, he always remained calm and maintained a respectful demeanor.

Mr. Souza is a kind man and is always respectful and courteous, regardless of the circumstance. As a judge, Mr Souza will exhibit these same qualities, ensuring that Hawai'i's families will be treated fairly in his court.

Respectfully,

Katherine H. Thomason  
Accountant  
Kaneohe, Hawai'i

IMS, LLC  
46-005 Kawa Street, Suite 308  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Office (808) 247-0676  
Fax (808) 247-0710  
[kathi.thomason@ims-hawaii.com](mailto:kathi.thomason@ims-hawaii.com)

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Thank you, (Mahalo & Aloha).

\*\*\*\*\*



**RONALD BOYER**

178/942 Moo 7 Soi 4 • Chiangmai-Handong Road  
T. NongKwai A. Handong Thailand 50230

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Interim of 2012

Friday, January 11, 2013  
11:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE NO. 1 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII, JUDICIAL NOMINEE KEVIN A. SOUZA, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.**

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR; MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR;  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ron Boyer and I am a former Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I strongly urge you to appoint Mr. Kevin Souza as a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Souza is qualified to serve on the bench as he has been serving with distinction as a Family Court per diem judge for a year at the appointment of the Chief Justice. In that capacity, he has "sat" on various court calendars about once or twice per week. Because of the volume in Family Court, he has presided over a hundred cases to date.

I have been acquainted with Kevin for a number of years but really came to know him on a personal basis in 2007 when I was appointed Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

As you are aware, the Department from time to time receives inquiries from both the legislative and executive branches. Sometimes these inquiries are prompted by individuals or

businesses who contact elected officials with whom they have some sort of personal or political connection. Whether these individuals or businesses expect special consideration due to their connections I do not know. But I do know that on every occasion that I had cause to speak with him about a matter or inquiry referred to the Department by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Kevin without exception made it absolutely clear that neither he nor the Lieutenant Governor expected nor wanted any favors or special treatment to be given or shown with regard to such referrals. As Deputy and later as Director of DCCA, I very much appreciated his ethics. Kevin Souza is undeniably a man of great integrity.

It would not be an overstatement to say that the State of Hawaii has faced challenging, if not difficult, times in recent years. It is such times that test the mettle of leaders. Working with Kevin on various issues over the years, I have observed not only an excellent work ethic, but an intelligent and analytical approach to complex and dynamic issues, often under extreme time constraints and competing demands. He is goal-focused and works well as both a team member and team leader. His abilities are complemented by an engaging and animated personality. Kevin is even-tempered and consistent; a man of good character and humility. I know him to be a most trustworthy individual. With Kevin his word is his bond.

These qualities will serve the people of the State of Hawaii well should Kevin Souza be given the opportunity to serve as a member of the bench.

It is my honor to recommend Kevin Souza to you as a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I am confident he will exceed all expectations. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss Kevin's qualifications, temperament, and talents.

Taryn Tomasa  
1130 N. Nimitz Highway  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 586-2010

January 9, 2013

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Conference Room 225  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
via facsimile (808) 586-7334

Re: Hearing on JC 1: 11:30 AM Friday, January 11, 2013  
Consideration and Confirmation of  
Judicial Nominee Kevin A. Souza

Senator Hee and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of KEVIN A. SOUZA to the family or district court bench. I have known Mr. Souza for twenty-seven years, both professionally and personally. It is without hesitation that I submit this letter in support of his nomination. I believe that Mr. Souza possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this significant judicial position demands.

In the years that I worked with Mr. Souza at the Office of the Public Defender, he was a dedicated and diligent advocate for his clients. Mr. Souza was always prepared with a thorough understanding of the applicable law and authority, including for matters involving complex legal issues. More significantly, he has a charismatic character that is rare in individuals and coveted in the legal profession. Mr. Souza was always able to mediate difficult matters to the benefit of all parties. I also noted that in my professional dealings with Mr. Souza, while he worked in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, he constantly conducted himself in a professional manner, displaying the highest level of ethical conduct, all the while dealing with contentious and sensitive matters.

I am also familiar with Mr. Souza and his family. Mr. Souza has always embraced strong family morals, practiced humility, kindness, and respect. While distinguishing himself professionally, he has also remained dedicated to his family, especially his children. He is very active in their lives and takes a primary role in every aspect of their growth; morally, emotionally, and intellectually. The fact that the Souza family is kind, generous, and successful, is a testament to Mr. Souza and his wife, Catherine's, ability to lead by example.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Souza's character, intellect, and values make him a leading candidate for a position as a family or district court judge. I have practiced substantially in both courts, both in private practice and public service. Thus, I am familiar with both courts and recognize that a successful judicial applicant must possess the legal aptitude, charisma, and judicial demeanor to handle a variety of legal issues, a high volume of cases, and the various members of the public and the bar that appear in the courts on a daily basis. Beyond Mr. Souza's legal qualifications, which alone highly qualify him for this position, his rare and incomparable character and personality truly set him apart from other judicial nominees. Based on my knowledge and experience with Mr. Souza, it is apparent that he has the ability, character, and dedication to be an invaluable asset to the State of Hawaii as a judge.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Taryn Tomasa