

LATE TESTIMONY

January 10, 2013

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

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is to offer my support for your consideration to confirm Judicial Nominee Kevin A. Souza to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Kevin for about 5 years and consider him to be fair, honest, and intelligent. I believe Kevin possess the quality of character to make an excellent judge.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 597-5557.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Skorge", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joy Skorge
1568 Oili Loop
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

hee2 - Kathleen

From: Martin Bento [martin.bento@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:13 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Judicial Nomination of Kevin A. Souza

Honorable Clayton Hee and Committee Members,

I am sending this email in support of Kevin A. Souza's confirmation to become the next District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have been practicing law in Hawaii for the past twelve years primarily in the District, Family and Circuit Courts. As a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association who is asked to complete judicial evaluations regularly, it is my opinion, that if selected, Kevin A. Souza would be an excellent District Family Court Judge. I have known Mr. Souza as well as his family prior to attending law school and had the honor of working with him at the Public Defender's Office in Honolulu. Throughout his career, Mr. Souza has demonstrated the legal ability, experience and temperament essential to fulfill the duties and obligations of a District Family Court Judge.

At the Public Defender's Office, I often found myself along with many other attorneys discussing cases and legal issues in Mr. Souza's office. Mr. Souza's experience as a trial attorney, his understanding of the rules of evidence and procedural rules in combination with his approachability made him a natural leader in the office. Most importantly, Mr. Souza could be counted on to be diligent, honest, and fair in his evaluations and conclusions in all affairs related to the office both personally and professionally.

For as long as I have known Mr. Souza, his desire to serve as a State Court Judge has guided his decisions both professionally and personally. I have no doubt that Mr. Souza will continue to conduct himself in this manner and I have no doubt that Mr. Souza will be an excellent District Family Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration. For the reasons stated above, I believe Kevin A. Souza will make an excellent addition to the District Family Court Bench.

Very truly yours,

Martin H. Bento, Esq.

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Martin H. Bento, Esq.
The Law Offices of Martin H. Bento, LLLC
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Phone: (808)599-7525

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hee2 - Kathleen

From: Salina Althof [Salina_Althof@fd.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 3:49 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: 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.

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write this email in strong support of Kevin A. Souza to serve as a Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I know Kevin in both a professional and personal capacity.

I first met Kevin in 2004 at the Office of the Public Defender, when I was hired as a Deputy Public Defender. By that time, Kevin already had a reputation as a seasoned trial attorney. I was impressed not only by his professionalism and skills as an attorney, but by his dedication to public service, both inside and outside the courtroom. In my opinion, he has always been honest, straightforward, and committed to ensuring justice. Kevin's formidable skills as a trial attorney, his current experience as a Family Court Per Diem Judge, and his strong community involvement, would be an enormous asset to the Judiciary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salina Kanai Althof
Assistant Federal Defender
Office of the Federal Public Defender
District of Hawai'i

hee2 - Kathleen

From: Sen. Clayton Hee
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 3:12 PM
To: hee8 - Kathryn
Subject: FW: Appointment of Kevin Souza

From: Meki Pei [mekipei@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Sen. Clayton Hee
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 Maunaloa 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.

hee2 - Kathleen

From: Teresa Shepherd [teresa.shepherd@outrigger.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:33 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: JC1 - Testimony in Support of Kevin A. Souza's Nomination to District Family Court of the First Circuit

Importance: High

Dear Senator Hee:

It is with great honor that I submit my testimony in support for confirmation of Kevin A. Souza as District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. Although our acquaintance is not on a professional level, I can definitely attest to Kevin's strength of character, integrity, work ethic and dedication to his family, friends and community.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Kevin for almost 16 years. My first contact with him was at his mother's hula *hālau* (school) where I am currently a student. At over 6 feet tall, Kevin has a commanding presence in a room. As I've come to know Kevin over the years, I've discovered his heart to be just as large and generous as the man. No matter how busy he is with his private law practice, and more recently as a Family Court Per Diem Judge and legal counsel to the Grand Jury of the First Circuit Court, Kevin always manages to make time for his family and friends. He is a thoughtful son and brother, devoted and loving husband and father. To his friends he is always willing to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. For instance, three years ago, while my husband was away on a business trip, my apartment was burglarized. Without hesitation, Kevin helped to replace my broken doorknob and install an extra deadbolt. Despite the distress I felt in the situation, his act helped to ease my fears and allowed me to stay in the apartment. It's these small acts of kindness that typifies the kind of person Kevin is.

Kevin is very respectful of everyone he meets and instantly puts them at ease with his kindness. Most importantly, Kevin has a deep conviction for the legal system and is committed to doing what is right. Behind that gentle, soft-spoken demeanor is a solid character built on a foundation of strong morals, love for his family and friends, and sense of duty to his community. Kevin's intelligence, compassion, humility, patience, and fair-mindedness (I could go on) are qualities that will enable him to serve Hawaii well in the judiciary. For this, I wholeheartedly recommend Kevin A. Souza's nomination to the District Family Court of the First Circuit and humbly ask for his appointment as a district court judge.

Mahalo nui loa,

Teresa Z. Shepherd

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LATE TESTIMONY

**AGSALDA &
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January 10, 2013

To: Hawaii State Senate

RE: Letter in support of district court judge nominee **Kevin Souza**

Dear Senators,

I am writing in strong support of Kevin Souza ("Kevin"). I have known Kevin for over twelve years. Kevin and I worked as deputy public defenders together and we have continued to maintain our friendship. As a litigator, Kevin was well respected for his intelligence, compassion, and integrity. That respect continues in his role as per diem judge. I personally value Kevin's opinion and advice because I know that he does not offer such unless it is well thought, researched, and constructive. Moreover, Kevin's treatment of litigants with dignity and respect is effortless because this is simply how he treats everyone. In sum, I believe Kevin's demeanor, work ethic, and intellect will serve him well in the judiciary, and I strongly support his appointment to District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tracy S. Fukui

Tracy S. Fukui, Partner
Agsalda & Fukui, LLLC

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January 10, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of **Kevin A. Souza** for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit

Hearing Date: January 11, 2013 @ 11:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Clayton Hee and Committee Members,

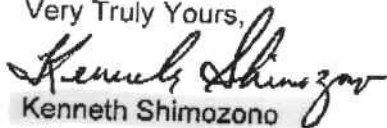
I am writing in support of **Kevin A. Souza** for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Souza for approximately 11 years. We worked together as Deputy Public Defenders and I have also known him on a personal basis as well. Mr. Souza serves on the board of a number of community organizations, such as the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) and Ho'okuaaina, a culturally-based nonprofit organization

On a professional level, Mr. Souza is very organized, hard-working, and diligent. I also believe that his experience as a per diem judge has been invaluable and has reinforced his commitment to serve the community from the bench.

On a personal level, I have found Mr. Souza to be a very thoughtful and considerate husband and father to his two children.

I am very confident that Mr. Souza would serve the Judiciary with distinction. If you have any questions, please contact me at 536-2900. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,


Kenneth Shimozone
Attorney at Law