



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CHAMBERS OF  
J. MICHAEL SEABRIGHT  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

DISTRICT OF HAWAII  
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, C-409  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850-0461

TELEPHONE  
(808) 541-1804  
FACSIMILE  
(808) 541-1851

February 17, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chairperson, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 221  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM507, Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m. (Todd Eddins)

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran:

I write in support of Todd Eddins' nomination to serve as a State of Hawaii Circuit Court judge. I have known Todd for many years, and have always found him to represent fairly, but zealously, the best interests of his clients. And there is simply no doubt that Todd possesses the intelligence, experience, common sense, and ethical standards we demand in our judges.

Todd appeared as counsel in many difficult cases in my court, always showing the highest degree of professionalism. And I am equally confident that Todd possesses the temperament that we seek in our judges. He always treats others with respect, whether the court or opposing counsel. In short, I am confident that Todd would make an excellent addition to our judiciary.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Michael Seabright".

J. Michael Seabright  
Chief United States District Judge

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RUSSELL A. SUZUKI  
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
425 QUEEN STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
(808) 586 -1282

February 21, 2017

Attn: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 221  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM507 Todd Eddins Nomination for Circuit Court

Aloha, Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Department supports Governor Ige's nomination of Todd Eddins to serve as a circuit court judge in the first circuit.

Todd Eddins has substantial, significant experience as a deputy public defender and attorney in private practice. I had the pleasure of working across the courtroom from Mr. Eddins when he was a criminal defense attorney. Mr. Eddins was always prepared, professional, compassionate and sharp. I respect his knowledge of and passion for the constitutional rights of individuals. He will serve the State of Hawai'i well in this new capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DSU".

Doug Chin

# OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

## District of Hawaii

Peter C. Wolff, Jr.  
Federal Public Defender  
peter\_wolff@fd.org



300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 7-104  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-5269

Phone (808) 541-2521 ♦ Toll free (877) 541-2521 ♦ Facsimile (808) 541-3545

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February 21, 2017

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

*VIA EMAIL ATTACHMENT*

Re: Todd W. Eddins, Circuit Court of the First Circuit  
GM507 – Hearing Date: February 23, 2017

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

I write to express my view that Todd Eddins would make an excellent circuit court judge. His professional experience is broad; including both civil and criminal cases. This experience would be very valuable given the variety of litigation that is within the jurisdiction of the circuit court.

Mr. Eddins's service as a deputy public defender and as a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel of the federal district court shows his commitment to public service and justice for the indigent. In 2006, Mr. Eddins was given the "Extra Mile Award" which my office presents annually to the criminal defense attorney who, through his or her actions, demonstrates dedication and commitment to go the 'extra mile' in representing a client in federal court.

Mr. Eddins is highly intelligent; he has excellent legal reasoning and trial skills. He has many years of experience in which he has demonstrated good judgment and an even temperament. His many excellent personal qualities indicate that he would be a fine circuit judge court if confirmed by the Senate to the position.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Very truly yours,

PETER C. WOLFF, JR.  
Federal Public Defender  
District of Hawaii

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,  
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
and Labor**

February 23, 2017

GM 507: Nomination of Todd W. Eddins to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

It is a privilege for me to support Todd W. Eddins' nomination to be a judge of the First Circuit Court. Todd is an eminently qualified nominee who began his legal career as a law clerk for the Hawaii Supreme Court. He is a very gifted writer who developed his trial skills as a Deputy Public Defender. As a Deputy Public Defender, he rose through the various office divisions to handle the most difficult and complex cases in the office.

He further developed his courtroom skills in private practice where he continued to handle criminal cases as well as civil matters. Todd has very good temperament for the bench. He has a very calm demeanor and tremendous sense of humor. He will be able to make fair decisions in a manner that is always respectful of all parties. He is honest, trustworthy and is held in the highest regard by all of his colleagues.

I support the nomination of Todd W. Eddins to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

The Court of Appeals  
of the  
State of Washington

LINDA CJ LEE, JUDGE  
DIVISION II

950 BROADWAY, SUITE 300  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402

(253) 593-5447



February 21, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State of Hawaii

Re: Measure GM507 – Todd Eddins

Dear Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Greetings! I am unable to present in-person testimony, but respectfully request that the Committee accept my written testimony on behalf of Todd Eddins regarding his confirmation as Judge on Hawaii's First Circuit Court.

Todd and I graduated from W.S. Richardson School of Law together in 1991, so I have known him for over a quarter of a century. Although I moved to Washington after graduation, I have kept up with Todd's career, and he has not surprised me with his success. I write today in hopes of providing you with some insight into who Todd was and continues to be, and how that might all translate into Todd being a judge Hawaii can be confident will be fair, compassionate, and hard-working.

In law school, I recall that Todd studied hard, was smart and had a strong sense of justice. I personally witnessed his dealing with professional setbacks, and given the comparative lack of professional maturity we were all stricken with 26 years ago, he handled the setbacks with a determination to still succeed. Most importantly, through all adversity, Todd maintained grace and integrity.

Through the years, I have kept up with Todd's professional career, first as a public defender and later in private practice. What I've observed is that Todd's strong sense of justice remained intact. I also noticed that Todd was very much in touch with what was happening in the courtroom with the various participants of a trial, including the judge, opposing counsel, his client, witnesses, and the jury. Having been a superior court judge (the Washington equivalent of Hawaii's circuit court judge) for 10 years before coming to Court of Appeals, I know that having the ability to be aware of and in tune with all that is going on during a trial is a rare and necessary skill for a trial court judge. Todd has this skill.

While I have not tried a case with or against Todd and have had less frequent personal contact with Todd than others in Hawaii, I do know that through the years, he has retained the core values that I believe will serve him well as a circuit court judge. I am sure my voice will be echoed by others who have had the opportunity of having more professional and frequent personal interactions with Todd. He is not tiger that has changed his stripes.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of sharing my impressions of Todd Eddins. If you have any questions of me, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda CJ Lee', written in a cursive style.

Linda CJ Lee

Cc: Todd Eddins

**From:** [Victoria Marks](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 507 - Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Todd Eddins  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:08:38 AM

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Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I write in strong support for the confirmation of Todd Eddins as a Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Eddins has a wealth of experience, in both civil and criminal law. Early in his career, he was a Public Defender and he has been in private practice engaging in both civil and criminal law.

Mr. Eddins appeared before me when I was on the bench on numerous matters. Mr. Eddins has been and is an exemplary lawyer. Without exception he was thoroughly prepared and professional. He was always thoughtful and respectful to all. In addition, he doesn't take himself too seriously and has a great sense of humor.

He will contribute well to the judiciary, and to the lives of the people he will touch as a judge, if confirmed.

I respectfully request that Mr. Eddin's nomination be reported out of committee to the full Senate for confirmation.

I am traveling, and will unfortunately not be able to testify in person.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Marks

*Judge Victoria S. Marks (Ret.)*  
VSM, LLC  
Mediator/Arbitrator/Neutral  
c/o Dispute Prevention and Resolution

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:29:25 AM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/16/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| De MONT R. D.<br>CONNER | Ho'omana Pono, LLC. | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT the Governor's nomination of Defense Attorney Todd Eddins for a Judgeship. Mr. Eddins is one of the best criminal defense attorneys that this State has ever had, his success at some of the most notorious and/or controversial trials speaks to his superior skills in providing defendants with the best possible defense. Mr. Eddins competency & ethics is unquestionable. As a native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation, that operates out of the Wai`anae Coast we reflect upon the highly controversial case of Tayshea Aiwohi. Because of his commitment & support of Ms. Tayshea Aiwohi opened the door for Ms. Aiwohi to turn her life around & pursue higher education. We humbly seek this body to honor Mr. Eddins with your CONSENT. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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# WAIAHOLE WAIKANE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

48-161 Waiahole Valley Road • Waiahole • Hawaii • 96744 • 239-9611

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

From: Waiahole-Waikane Community Association  
(WWCA)  
President: Elizabeth P. Royos  
48-161 Waiahole Valley Road  
Waiahole, Hawaii 96744

Re: Nomination of Todd Eddins to First Circuit Court Judge  
To: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor 2/23/17

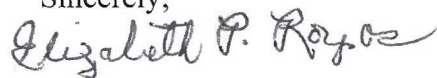
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of Todd Eddins' nomination to serve as Judge to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. Todd Eddins is an important part of the Waiahole-Waikane battles. Todd represented the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association under the leadership of the late Mr. David Chinen (former President of the WWCA), when the State Housing Department tried to kick us off our land for manini lease violations that were not even true. The State also secretly signed an agreement to transfer the valleys to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. This was about families losing their homes, fear, anger, control of the lands and Waiahole Ditch water.

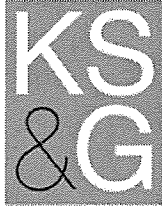
The WWCA did the activism. Todd Eddins did the lawyering. Todd showed the State legally why they could not evict families. They backed off. No one lost their homes. He showed them legally why they could not make DHHL our landlord and controller of the water and natural resources. We talked to the legislators and protested at the board meetings. The Legislature unanimously passed a resolution to stop the transfer of the valleys to DHHL. The State Housing then tore up their agreement with DHHL at their meeting. I cannot imagine today if the DHHL controlled the Waiahole and Waikane Valleys.

Todd is not the kind of guy you would think was such a great lawyer because he's down to earth. He was always calm. He explained things to meetings with a couple hundred people. Everyone liked him. I am glad he is going to be a judge and I know a lot of other people are to. As the current President of the WWCA, I am proud to support Todd who will be a fine and fair judge in my view.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth P. Royos  
WWCA President



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP  
Attorneys at Law

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.\*  
Alan M. Goda\*

John R. Aube\*  
Wendell H. Fuji\*  
Charles W. Gall\*  
Neal T. Gota  
Clifford K. Higa\*  
Robert K. Ichikawa\*  
Christopher T. Kobayashi\*  
Jan M. L. Y. Kutsunai\*

David M. Louie\*  
Jonathan S. Moore  
Bruce A. Nakamura\*  
Kenneth M. Nakasone\*  
Gregory M. Sato\*  
Jesse W. Schiel\*  
Craig K. Shikuma\*  
Lex R. Smith\*  
Joseph A. Stewart\*  
David B. Tongg\*

\*A Law Corporation

Yuko Funaki  
Caycie K. Gusman  
Charles D. Hunter  
Nicholas R. Monlux  
Aaron Mun  
Gabriele V. Provenza  
Anthony Suetsugu  
Brian D. Tongg  
Maria Y.Y. Wang

Of Counsel:  
Kenneth Y. Sugita\*  
Burt T. Lau\*  
John F. Lezak\*  
Larry L. Myers\*

February 16, 2017

Email: [JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Senate Committee on Ratification

Re: Recommend Confirmation of appointment of Todd Eddins  
Confirmation Hearing: Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m.  
GM507

Senators:

I was pleased to see Mr. Eddins nominated to the Circuit Court bench by Governor Ige. I would like to add my strong recommendations to those of others asking that the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Eddins as a Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Eddins is a native son and a graduate of the Hawaii Baptist Academy, the College of William & Mary and the William Richardson School of Law. The Circuit Court needs to have Judges with trial experience and Mr. Eddins more than fills the bill in that regard. He has tried to a verdict more than 100 jury cases and another 200 non-jury cases. Such experience is the exception and not the rule in terms of legal practice and judicial background and the community would be well served to take advantage of that experience. Moreover, Mr. Eddins also has the necessary demeanor, temperament and community background to make a fine Judge. My recommendation is with reservation. Thanks for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bert Kobayashi, Jr.'.

BERT KOBAYASHI, JR.  
for  
KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA

**BERVAR & JONES**

Attorneys at Law • A Law Partnership

ALAKEA CORPORATE TOWER  
1100 ALAKEA STREET, 20<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

BIRNEY B. BERVAR  
WARD D. JONES  
A Law Corporation

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Thuan D. Costa  
Andrea Low  
Josephine M. Matsubara  
Anna K.B. Tsang

Of Counsel  
Jacqueline E. Thurston

February 17, 2017

*Via Facsimile: (808) 586-7344 and (808) 586-7348*

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM507  
Todd Eddins  
First Circuit Court Judge Nominee

Dear Committee Members:

I highly recommend Todd Eddins for First Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Eddins' intelligence, character and experience would make him an excellent judge.

I first had an opportunity to work closely with Todd several years ago when we were co-counsel for co-defendants in a complex federal racketeering case. I was extremely impressed with Todd's diligence, demeanor, legal knowledge and ability. Ever since, whenever I have needed to find co-counsel to work with on a case, I have recommended Todd. We have worked on four other cases together in the last few years, and Todd's legal skills continue to impress me.

Todd would make a superb trial judge. He is hard working, compassionate and fair. Todd has an excellent reputation in the legal community and the community in general.

I strongly recommend Todd Eddins for the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



BIRNEY B. BERVAR

January 24, 2017

Re: Letter in support of the nomination of Todd W. Eddins  
as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (Measure GM507)

Dear Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee:

This letter is being submitted in support of TODD W. EDDINS' confirmation as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I submit this letter in strong support of his appointment. Mr. Eddins possesses the character, intellect, and professional experience to excel as a Circuit Court Judge.


Mr. Eddins is a formidable trial attorney with not only years of trial experience, but also the strong intellectual prowess. I met Mr. Eddins while working at the Public Defender's Office and known as a very knowledgeable and experienced trial attorney. Due to his experience and aptitude, very difficult cases were assigned to him. Some cases he managed were fact intensive and voluminous and others were simply emotionally and mentally difficult. Nonetheless, he always worked hard and performed his best in each and all of his cases. He has also had his share of high publicity cases, which highlight his talents and proficiency.

Mr. Eddins has not only extensive criminal law experience, but also has civil litigation experience. Circuit Court is not exclusive to criminal law and the judiciary would benefit tremendously with an attorney like Mr. Eddins who is adept in both criminal and civil law. His reputation is well established in the legal field and he is respected amongst his peers.

He is not only a very good lawyer, but also a contributing member of our community. He is a proud parent of four very bright children who share his love of sports. He volunteers his time with the Kailua community leagues and coaches youth basketball teams. The Judiciary needs more people like him who are willing to be involved and understand the needs of his community.

I am confident that with Mr. Eddins' legal experience coupled with his intellect, he will excel in the Judiciary and will be a great addition. I recommend him to you enthusiastically and without reservation. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,



Catherine Gutierrez

**From:** [Charles Price](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 Appointment of Todd Eddins  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:56:34 AM

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Dear Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor confirming Todd Eddins' appointment to serve as a judge to the First Circuit Court. I have known Todd for approximately 22 years. Our interaction has been primarily through lawyer's league sports – basketball and softball. I have also called Todd on occasion over the years when needing some quick free advice regarding criminal defense issues. Todd is knowledgeable, experienced, responsive, friendly, and even-keeled. He has the perfect temperament to be a judge. He'd be open and willing to listen to all sides on an issue while also being no-nonsense and decisive. He has extensive trial experience and has done both civil and criminal work, giving him the necessary *gravitas* to deal with many different types of lawyers, parties, and cases. He has a reputation of being a smart, ethical, honest lawyer who cares about his clients, is civil with opposing counsel, and does good work. For these reasons, he will make an excellent judge and the Committee is respectfully urged to confirm his appointment.

Charlie Price

Charles A. Price, Esq.  
Koshiba Price Gruebner & Mau

**From:** [Curtis Tabata](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 - Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:18:21 PM

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To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting this written testimony in support of Todd Eddins.

I have known Todd for almost 30 years since we were classmates in law school.

During those years Todd has demonstrated all of the qualities one could hope for in a judge including intellect, compassion, honesty, integrity and wisdom. As a person, Todd is top shelf and you won't find anyone better to serve our judiciary.

And although I will no longer be able to refer people to whom I consider to be the best criminal defense attorney, I am heartened by the judiciary's gain and respectfully requests that this honorable committee consider this written testimony.

Very truly yours,  
Curtis T. Tabata

Curtis T. Tabata  
Matsubara, Kotake & Tabata  
A Law Corporation

Daniel T. Pagliarini, Esq.  
700 Bishop Street, Ste. 2100  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 21, 2017

Senate Committee on  
Judiciary and Labor  
**Transmitted Via Email**  
**(JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

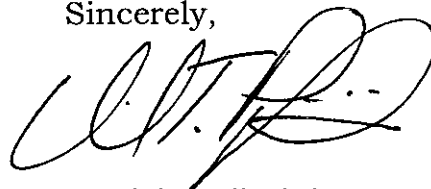
Re: Measure GM507; Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to give my highest recommendation for Mr. Todd Eddins, a judicial nominee for the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I have known Todd as a friend, and colleague for more than 25 years. I have observed his demeanor in the courtroom as well as with his co-workers, clients, opposing counsel and other attorneys. I have watched him develop from a young budding State Deputy Public Defender to a skilled, experienced, and well respected trial attorney.

Todd stands heads and shoulders above his peers and is known for his intelligence, work ethic, congenial demeanor, patience, integrity and wisdom. He is a great communicator and listener and has demonstrated to me great respect for the rule of law. He is exactly the type of person the Judiciary needs to serve the people of Hawaii. It is for all these reasons that I strongly recommend, without any hesitation, Mr. Todd Eddins for the position of Judge for the First Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pagliarini', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Pagliarini

**From:** [David Andrew](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Todd Eddins -- Support for Confirmation  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:28:06 AM

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Please accept this message as enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Todd Eddins as a Circuit Court judge.

I have known Todd for more than 30 years, since high school, through our years as classmates at Richardson Law School and to today. What strikes me most about Todd is his intelligence and integrity. He would be a very fair and impartial judge. Further, one of the many things that has impressed me about Todd's career in private practice has been the breadth of his litigation experience. His experience handling complex criminal and civil litigation should provide him with a good foundation for handling the caseload of a trial judge. As such, I would anticipate that his learning curve as a judge will be quite low.

I believe Hawaii would be fortunate to have someone of Todd's intellect and character as a Circuit Court judge.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to give my support for Todd's confirmation.

Sincerely,

David F. Andrew

David F. Andrew  
Schneider Tanaka Radovich Andrew & Tanaka  
A Limited Liability Law Company

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:13:10 PM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b>                 | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| dennis w. potts,<br>attorney at law | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I have known Todd Eddins for more than 30 years, and have both observed his work as an attorney, and worked with him on several cases during his legal career. Most of us who are part of the legal community are aware of Todd's success and superb abilities as an attorney, but I have been fortunate enough to work closely with him and thereby gain an appreciation of those personal qualities, including hard work, compassion, honesty and the highest level of ethical standards, which have made him so successful. As an attorney who has practiced law in our state and federal courts for over 45 years, I highly recommend Mr. Eddins for this position. Dennis W. Potts

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**GM507 Confirmation Hearing for Todd Eddins to Serve  
as a Judge to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii**

**Hearing Date: February 24, 2017**

**Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.**

Good Morning, my name is Donald L. Wilkerson. I am an attorney licensed to practice in all courts in the state of Hawaii, all federal courts in the state of Hawaii, and the United States Court for the Ninth Circuit.

I want to thank Chairman Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairman Karl Rhodes, and fellow members of the Senate Committee on judiciary and Labor for the opportunity to speak to you today about GM507, the confirmation hearing for Todd Eddins to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I whole heartedly endorse Governor Ige's decision to appoint Mr. Eddins to serve as a First Circuit Court judge and urge you to confirm the appointment. We need intelligent, knowledgeable, even tempered people like Mr. Eddins on the bench. Mr. Eddins consistently demonstrates exceptional legal knowledge, intelligence, a quick wit, and a commitment to excellence in everything he does.

Many times I have seen knowledgeable, experienced judges seek out Mr. Eddins' legal opinion. Even the "old timers" such as the late (great) Honorable Wilfred Watanabe were impressed with Todd's legal knowledge and acumen, and I heard them say so. Mr. Eddins' long list of accomplishments demonstrates his commitment to excellence. Whether he is raising his family, playing basketball, preparing closing argument, or writing an appeal to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Mr. Eddins always commits to excellence. Mr. Eddins will be an excellent circuit court judge.

I urge you to confirm Governor Ige's decision to appoint Mr. Eddins to serve as a First Circuit Court judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Wilkerson

Donald L. Wilkerson

Attorney at Law

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:42:33 PM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/16/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eden Hifo           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Please accept this testimony in favor of Senate confirmation of the appointment of Todd Eddins as judge of the First Circuit Court. He is well qualified by criminal trial experience, first as a Pubic Defender and recently in private practice, to preside over any trial. His practical knowledge of the evidence rules likely ensure that verdicts will not be overturned for errors, and his keen ability to interact with prospective jurors will likely translate to efficient and fair jury selections. I have known Todd and his family for many years as we live in the same area. He is a proud and engaged father who spent many hours on the local basketball courts with his children. I believe his devotion to the law, actual trial experience and respect for the Judiciary form a solid basis for your confirmation of his nomination to the court. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Eden Elizabeth Hifo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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*Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC*

*Alahea Corporate Center  
1100 Alahea Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

February 23, 2017  
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

From: Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara, Senior Partner  
Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC

**Re: GM507—In Strong Support of Appointment of Todd Eddins to Serve as a Judge to the First Circuit Court**

**Our law firm strongly supports Todd Eddins' appointment to serve as a judge to the First Circuit.** From my experience as a law clerk to Judge Walter Heen at the Intermediate Court of Appeals and then as a civil rights and employment lawyer since 1986, litigating in front of numerous judges, both federal and state, it is clear to me that Todd would be a terrific judge.

I first knew Todd as a budding law student. Todd was so very impressive, from his scholarship shown on law review to his commitment to public service, wherein he initiated the Law Student Public Service graduation requirement. The *Pro Bono* Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law was one of the first law school *pro bono* programs in the nation. It is believed to be the first student-initiated mandatory program in the nation. The program fosters a lifelong commitment in law school students to address the unmet legal needs in the community through public legal service. Todd has continued to model this throughout his legal career.

Todd was also one of the students who invigorated the Advocates for Public Interest Law, which led him to provide legal advocacy services to mentally and developmentally disabled individuals, focusing on disabled residents of the Waimano Training School and Hospital. Such commitment certainly led to the Civil Rights American Jurisprudence Award.

Todd was also outstanding in criminal procedure, receiving yet another American Jurisprudence Award.

All of this was fortuitous to his legal career. Todd has been and is an outstanding criminal defense attorney as well as a hard fought civil attorney. I have watched him operate in both capacities. He is known as a very intelligent, committed, honest attorney, who fights for what is right. Since he has been true to the person I first got to know over 28 years ago, it is clear that he will be an outstanding judge and a continued blessing to our Hawai'i community.

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**JEFFREY A. HAWK, AAL**

*1130 N. NIMITZ HWY., STE. B-299  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817*

*TELEPHONE: (808) 532-3800  
FACSIMILE: (808) 532-3804  
E-MAIL: JEFFHAWK@HAWAII.RR.COM*

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February 19, 2017

Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM507: Todd Eddins for  
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to give my highest recommendation for confirmation of Todd Eddins to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known him since 1998 when I started working for the Office of the Public Defender. Since that time, I have worked with him as an attorney and become close to his family.

Mr. Eddins has handled some of the most high profile criminal defense cases in Hawaii in recent memory. He has also spent a great deal of his legal career. His legal abilities and trial preparation are somewhat of a legend with the local defense bar. He is a formidable attorney who has the respect of all trial attorneys.

In addition to being a well-respected attorney, Mr. Eddins is a family man and spends his free time raising his children with his wife Rowena. He is also a friendly and approachable person. These attributes make him well-rounded and the Judiciary would be lucky to have him as a Judge. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office, 532-3800.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ JEFFREY A. HAWK  
Jeffrey A. Hawk  
Attorney at Law

Jeffrey Ng

February 22, 2017

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

**Re: Letter in Strong Support of Todd W. Eddins to Serve as  
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit**

**GM507- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit  
Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee  
Todd W. Eddins, for a term to expire in 10 years.**

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran, Senator Rhoads, and Members of the Senate  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of Todd W. Eddins to serve as  
a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Todd for approximately  
fifteen years. While working together at the Office of the Public Defender, I had  
the opportunity to observe him in trial and gain insight from the advice and  
guidance he provided to younger deputies such as myself. He was a great  
influence and role model for many of the less experienced attorneys at the office.

Over the years, I have also gotten to know Todd outside the work environment.  
He is a committed, dedicated family man and a fellow fan of the Washington  
Redskins.

As a deputy public defender for the past fifteen years in Honolulu and now in  
Hilo, I have appeared before many district and circuit court judges. Based upon  
this experience, I strongly believe that Todd possesses the knowledge,  
demeanor, and other necessary qualifications to excel as a circuit court judge.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey Ng

JEFFREY H. K. SIA, ESQ.  
4580 ANALII STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821  
(808)537-6119 (Office)  
Jeffrey.sia@hawadvocate.com

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
The Senate, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 98613

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee Todd Eddins for the First Circuit Court, State  
of Hawaii

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Dear Senators Keith-Agaran and Rhoads:

I respectfully submit this letter in support of Todd Eddins, Esq., Gubernatorial Nominee to serve as a judge for the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I have known Todd for many, many years both professionally and personally.

With respect to my background, I am a practicing civil trial attorney with 35 years of experience and the managing partner with Chong, Nishimoto, Sia, Nakamura & Goya, LLLP; a former president of the Hawaii State Bar Association (2008); former president and current board member of the Hawaii State Bar Foundation; former Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference for the District of Hawaii (2009-2011); and former member of the Federal Judicial Selection Commission to assist U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka in the selection of two Article III U.S. District Court Judges (2009-2013).

Initially, as the President-Elect and then, as President of the HSBA, I was involved in the HSBA's review and consideration of at least six judicial nominees to the State's District, Circuit, Intermediate Court of Appeals, and Hawaii Supreme Court. That experience included interviewing the nominee as part of the HSBA's review process and participating in and presiding over the HSBA's consideration of the nominees to provide the State Senate's Judiciary Committee with the Bar Association's assessment. I also had the privilege of testifying several times before the Committee to present the HSBA's assessment and determination as to the nominee's qualifications.

As a member of the Federal Judicial Selection Commission, I was involved in a very vigorous review process of applicants for two Article III judgeships with our federal court in Hawaii. Having participated in the process for the federal court and the HSBA's process for state court, I am aware of and sensitive to the various qualities and level of legal experience and ability needed for the bench.

Based on the type of criteria followed and considered by the HSBA and the Federal Judicial Selection Commission during the time I was on it, Todd Eddins will be an excellent trial judge for the

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
February 15, 2017  
Page 2

First Circuit Court. He has the legal acumen, experience, temperament, and ethics required for the position.

Todd is an excellent trial attorney with over twenty years of experience. He not only has my respect for his professional abilities, but I believe the respect of our colleagues and the courts in which he has appeared. I know him for the excellence in his legal abilities and ethical conduct. There is no doubt that Todd is qualified, capable, and has the requisite temperament to be an excellent judge.

In addition, I have known Todd outside of the formal legal setting through the “Lawyers’ Basketball League,” which is a league for attorneys, law students, and law school graduates. It is said that one can fairly and accurately gauge the true character of a person through sports, and in any of the lawyers’ leagues that I have participated in, I find it very often to be true. Todd is a competitor, but very importantly, exhibits good sportsmanship and an even temperament, and is a “team player.” For years, he competed against me when he was on another team; however, for the past several years, he has played on my team in the Lawyers’ Basketball League, which enabled me (as the team captain) to “coach” (I use that term loosely) Todd with the other “regulars” on our team. Todd fit in and as anticipated, exhibited those qualities mentioned above. I truly believe those qualities are honest, true, and indicative of the character of the person that can and will carry over if he is afforded an opportunity to serve on the bench.

Finally, I believe it is important to consider a balance of judicial perspectives and experience for the Circuit Court, and with respect to Todd, I refer to his legal background and experience as a practicing civil and criminal law attorney. Todd has been a litigator in both areas of the law; in short, he has been “in the trenches” and is an actual litigator with extensive courtroom and specifically, trial experience. That he has been engaged in criminal defense work in particular also is significant as it provides an important “balance” in judicial perspective for the Circuit Court.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for Todd. Thank you for your consideration of him, and please contact me if there are any questions.

Very truly yours,

JEFFREY H. K. SIA



**From:** [Jerry Hiatt](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Mahi Hiatt](#)  
**Subject:** Submission of testimony regarding GM507--appointment of Todd Eddins to First Circuit court  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2017 2:23:13 PM

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Dear Members of the Committee,

I understand that you have sought input regarding Todd Eddins whom Governor Ige has nominated for appointment to a vacant Circuit Court judge position on Oahu. I ask that you please accept this as a strong endorsement and recommendation of Todd Eddins for that position.

I am a graduate of Harvard College and the Richardson law school, class of 1977. I have been practicing law in Hawaii as a litigator since 1977--i.e for the past 40 years. I have tried 19 civil cases to a verdict on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island and am listed in Best Lawyers in 8 areas. I have appeared before most of the state's sitting judges and in many appeals in state and federal courts. I believe this gives me some familiarity with good (and less good) judges and what is appropriate in a candidate as to background and demeanor in order to make a good judge.

I have know Mr. Eddins for more than 20 years. I have worked with him on criminal cases. I have referred clients to him. I have personally observed his performance in major trials. In my opinion Mr. Eddins is the foremost criminal attorney in Hawaii at the current time and he is overwhelmingly well qualified for this Circuit Court vacancy.

I know that Todd could make many times the salary paid a judge if he were to remain in private practice. He is to be commended for being willing to enter public service. We need good, reliable, highly intelligent and committed judges, who have no agenda other than public service and who have exhibited their own strong integrity.

Todd meets these tests. He is patient, intelligent, polite, slow to anger, thoughtful, deliberate and highly highly experienced. He would be an excellent choice for the position and he has my very highest recommendation.

Please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of further assistance. Thank you for your own service to our state and assistance in the process of finding highly qualified judges.

Aloha,

Jerry Hiatt

February 21, 2017

TO: Chair Keith-Agaran  
Vice Chair Rhoads  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jill L. Nunokawa

RE: Consent and Approval of Todd W. Eddins as Circuit Court Judge

Aloha Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am submitting strong written testimony in favor of your consent and approval of GM 507 the appointment of Todd W. Eddins to serve as Judge of the State of Hawaii First Circuit Court for a term of ten years.

I have known Mr. Eddins for over 20 years, as we both worked as deputy public defenders in the early years of our legal careers. I would describe Mr. Eddins as thorough, insightful, even keel, bright, honest, fair, just, and a man of integrity. His career has spanned various aspects of the law although he is recognized as one of the premier defense attorneys in Hawaii.

Additionally, Mr. Eddins is a devoted family man and contributes in our community through youth sports, high school mock trial coaching, and was among a vital group of student advocates who ensured that Hawaii's law school develop and adopt a Pro Bono graduation requirement. This provides a critical link to our community while providing students mentoring opportunities as they embark upon their legal careers. I have personally mentored female law students as part of this pro bono graduation requirement, which proves to be a crucial step in their career decisions.

Lastly, I am a former president of the William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association and have had the good fortune to engage and interact with hundreds of alumni and I would state that Mr. Eddins is a shining example of the great education and reverent responsibility instilled in its graduates. I am extremely confident that Mr. Eddins will perform the duties and responsibilities of a state Circuit Court Judge with the highest ethical standards and with great honor and humility. It is for this and many other reasons I submit my testimony in strong support of Todd W. Eddins.

February 20, 2017

Via email – [JDLEstimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLEstimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM507 – Todd Eddins for First Circuit Court Judge  
Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to serve as my highly positive recommendation for the confirmation of Todd Eddins to the Circuit Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I came to know Todd about twenty years ago. At that time, one of my relatives was in need of a top-notch criminal lawyer. In researching potential criminal attorneys, Todd's name came to the top of the list. During his representation, I was able to observe his capabilities. He is very intelligent and is able to explain, to lay people, the law and its potential ramifications. In court, he was able to clearly articulate our position and provide cogent responses to the arguments raised by the prosecutor. Finally, he was very understanding and compassionate with my relative.

I share these observations with you as I believe that these characteristics are important for judges to have. I have no question, that if confirmed, Todd will have the necessary intellect to critically analyze legal issues; arrive at a well-reasoned decision; and clearly explain the basis for his decision. On occasion, he will be faced with questions which are not clear cut. As part of his analysis, I feel comfortable that he will incorporate his compassion and arrive at a wise decision.

Thank you for allowing me to share my support for the confirmation of Todd Eddins to the First Circuit Court.

Very truly yours,



John T. Komeiji  
Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel

**From:** [John Nishimoto](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Todd W. Eddins  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:59:56 AM

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To the Chairperson and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is John S. Nishimoto. I am a partner in the law firm of Chong Nishimoto Sia Nakamura & Goya.

I am writing to you in support of the nomination and appointment of Todd W. Eddins to the position of Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Eddins, both personally and as a fellow member of the Hawaii State Bar. He has always exhibited those qualities which, in my opinion, are important in serving our community in a judicial capacity.

Mr. Eddins' character for honesty and integrity are beyond question and he has demonstrated a level of fairness and compassion in his professional endeavors which are necessary requirements for serving as a judicial officer. I have had the opportunity to appreciate these character traits in Mr. Eddins in his handling of litigation matters. Mr. Eddins has consistently demonstrated his capacity for honesty and fairness as well as his commitment to the concept of civility in the handling of matters that can at times become quite contentious.

I firmly believe that prior experience in the field of litigation is always an asset for a sitting judge. Significantly, Mr. Eddins has had a wide range of litigation experience. I know that his litigation experience has included the representation of parties in both civil and criminal matters and has provided him with a better understanding of and appreciation for the needs of all parties to such proceedings. His litigation experience will not only make his transition to the court that much easier and smoother but will clearly assist him in the handling of matters that will be presented to him as a sitting judge. Over the years that I have known Mr. Eddins, he has shown a willingness to work tirelessly when the situation required it in order to accomplish his goals and objectives in the representation of his clients

His commitment to the Judiciary and our justice system is reflected in his participation in Bench Bar matters as well as his willingness to participate in educating the younger members of the Bar in litigation skills.

I wholeheartedly support the appointment of Todd W. Eddins to the position of Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit without reservation and ask that you act favorably in your consideration of his nomination.

The information contained in this electronic message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately and return the original message to us at

Thank you.

**From:** [Joseph A. Stewart](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of the nomination of Todd W. Eddins - GM507 - 2/23/17 9:30 a.m.  
**Date:** Monday, February 20, 2017 5:52:19 PM

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I would like to submit testimony in support of Todd W. Eddins as nominee for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Eddins both personally and professionally for more than 15 years and believe that he demonstrates the qualities that we should expect from our judges. He has both a keen understanding of the law, as well as a sense of fairness. He is diligent and deliberative and has a broad base of experience in the practice of law to allow him to address the many disparate issues he will face as a judge.

I highly recommend that the Senate confirm Mr. Eddins' nomination.

Joseph A. Stewart | A Law Corporation  
KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA LLP

This communication (and any attachments) are confidential and are intended only for the individual(s) or entity named above and others who have been specifically authorized to receive it. This communication and the information herein are protected by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. sections 2510-2521 and may be subject to legal, professional, work product and/or other legal protection. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not read, copy, use or disclose the contents of this communication to others. Please notify the sender that you have received this email in error by replying to the email or by telephoning 808-535-5700, and delete this email and any attachments from all computers without reading or saving the same in any manner whatsoever. Thank you.

February 22, 2017

JDLTestimony@capital.hawaii.gov

Measure: GM507

Date and Time of Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I have had the honor of knowing Todd Eddins personally for over 35 years, which during this time he has played many roles in my life and the lives of others. He is my classmate and loyal friend, who was also my husband's best friend and confidante until he passed on. He is, "Uncle Todd," to my three daughters and I am pleased that he continues to be a positive presence in their lives. I have also asked Todd to serve as Trustee of my Trust should I pass on before my three children reach adult status; he obliged without hesitation. Todd is a loving and devoted husband to Rowena; they continue to care for and nurture their beautiful four children. We have continued to maintain our friendship since our high school days at Hawai'i Baptist Academy and have spent time together during all phases of our lives (college, first jobs, marriage, travel, joys, births of our children, and heartbreaks) as we pursued our dreams.

Todd is a passionate man who genuinely cares about others and the greater, common good. I believe that this core value is a driving force that has propelled him to where he will transition today. Laws must be applied equally to all people regardless of their position or wealth in life. Todd Eddins has applied this principle of equality to his relationships with others. He does not let his social interactions be influenced by people's position in life, nor by their wealth. He loves Hawai'i and has respect for its culturally-diverse communities and the people who call our island state home. It is without reservation that I submit this testimony in favor of confirming Todd Eddins to serve as a judge to the First Circuit Court.

Very Truly Yours,

Mrs. Karen A. Stoupe

**From:** [keith shigetomi](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:33:18 PM

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I strongly urge the confirmation of Todd Eddins as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Todd since he was a young attorney in the Office of the Public Defender. Even then you could see that Todd had great promise. He was intelligent and motivated to be the best attorney that he could be. He worked hard and achieved much success.

I saw Todd go into private practice, both on his own and with a firm. He transitioned seamlessly and continued to enjoy success.

I have no doubt that Todd will again transition seamlessly to become a respected judge. He has the requisite qualifications but more importantly he has the determination to flourish as a judge. Todd is a special attorney and will be special judge. I support his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Shigetomi  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ken Cheung](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507, Eddins  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:20:44 AM

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Aloha,

I wanted to submit testimony in strong support of Todd Eddins' appointment as judge to the First Circuit Court. I have known Todd for many years, primarily through youth basketball. I have coached Todd's son and coached along with Todd on several occasions. I believe that you can tell much about someone's character by how they conduct themselves outside of public scrutiny, when no one is watching. I have found that Todd upholds the highest standards of fair play and sportsmanship, in the midst of intense competition. He gives his limited time willingly for the benefit of the children and the community. I believe that there is no finer candidate to consider for this important position, and I strongly support his appointment.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ .

Mahalo,

Ken Cheung, PhD, PE  
Science & Technology Director  
Oceanit



February 16, 2016

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 16  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Judicial Confirmation Hearing for Todd Eddins  
Measure: GM507  
Date: February 23, 2017  
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senate Committee:

This statement pertains to the confirmation hearing on measure GM507, which is taking place on February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. with regards to the appointment of Todd Eddins to serve as Judge of the First Circuit Court. This statement is written in strong support of Mr. Eddins' appointment.

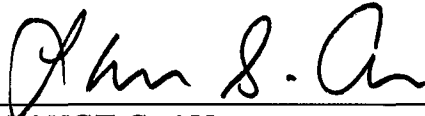
I have known Mr. Eddins for nearly 40 years. During this period of time, I have participated in sports against him, and I have engaged in civil litigation against him. Through these activities, I have gotten to know Mr. Eddins. I believe that Mr. Eddins has a strong set of morals and principles. Simply stated, Mr. Eddins plays fair and is genuine. His word is his bond. He has a level temperament, and a strong sense of humility, compassion, and civility. With respect to his understanding of the law, Mr. Eddins has shown true intellect, he possess an in depth understanding of the statutory and black letter law, and has extensive litigation experience in the court room. In my humble opinion, I believe that should Mr. Eddins be confirmed to be a First Circuit Court Judge, he will be a great asset to both the community and the Judiciary. I wholeheartedly support his appointment.

With respect to my opinion, I have practiced law since 1994, and I have been in civil litigation for nearly 22 years. I have trial court experience in the District Court, Circuit Court, and appellate court levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Eddins' appointment.

Very Truly Yours,

SUMIDA AU & WONG, LLC

By:   
LANCE S. AU

**From:** [Larry Tong](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 -- Nomination of Todd Eddins  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:59:44 PM

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To the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I urge you to confirm Todd Eddins as a judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I am an attorney, and have been Mr. Eddins' adversary in numerous criminal matters. The matters typically involved considerable amounts of testimony and documentary evidence. Mr. Eddins thoroughly reviewed all of the information, and discussed it carefully with his clients. He has the ability to identify the critical issues in any dispute, and weigh the competing evidence. He speaks plainly and clearly, and reduces complicated issues to understandable concepts. He also has the ability to make legal arguments without attacking the individuals involved.

In my opinion, Mr. Eddins will have little difficulty transitioning from litigator to judge. He is experienced and quick, and relates well to others. I believe he will treat parties and their attorneys with respect and courtesy. He will be firm yet compassionate. I believe all litigants will ultimately feel that he gave them their day in court.

I urge that you confirm Mr. Eddins. I am required to note that these are my personal opinions, and not those of my employer, which does not endorse or oppose nominations.

Larry Tong

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 6:00:18 PM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/16/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lea Hong            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee Members: I strongly support the nomination of Todd Eddins to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Todd for more than 25 years. Todd is a classmate and fellow graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law class of 1991. Todd was one of the smartest students in our class, and has always been very public interest minded. He was one of the founders/early supporters of the mandatory pro bono requirement for law students. Thanks to Todd (and others such as Rep. Scott Saiki), our school was one of the first law schools to require students to complete mandatory pro bono hours as a condition of graduation. Most law schools followed our school's example, and it is now a standard requirement among almost all law schools throughout the nation. After law school, Todd continued his commitment to public service at the Public Defender's office, where he developed sharp trial skills that will serve him well at the circuit court. The Public Defender's office entrusted Todd with some of the most difficult and high-profile cases. After a successful career at the Public Defender's office, Todd formed his own law firm, and has been successfully representing clients in both civil and criminal matters. He is a formidable trial attorney. Todd has my highest recommendation. I believe he will be a smart, fair, and hard-working judge. Please confirm him. Mahalo - Lea Hong

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



William N. Ota | wota@ota-hara.com  
Leighton M. Hara | lhara@ota-hara.com

841 Bishop Street, Suite 1620 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 532-1728 | Fax: (808) 532-1729 | ota-hara.com

February 21, 2017

**Via E-Mail (JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: GM 507 – Testimony in SUPPORT of Todd W. Eddins**  
**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017**  
**Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Please consider this letter my testimony in support of GM 507 - Todd W. Eddins' confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have been a licensed attorney since 2002 and worked in private practice as an attorney specializing in litigation. Since 2009, my practice has focused almost exclusively on employment litigation with the Marr Jones & Wang law firm where I was a partner. Since 2015, I have been involved in general litigation as a founding partner of Ota & Hara, LLLC.

During my years of practice, I have had the pleasure of working with and against Todd in a matter that encompassed both civil and criminal law. At the time, Todd was a seasoned criminal trial attorney who represented an individual who was adverse to my corporate client. In addition to severe criminal penalties, Mr. Eddins client faced significant civil exposure. Although we were adversaries --our respective clients were on opposite sides of the fence-- Todd represented his client zealously while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and professional courtesy. Rather than bulldoze his way through the litigation, Todd took a holistic approach to resolving the issues with his client. His intellect, coupled with his friendly demeanor, immediately made a positive impression.

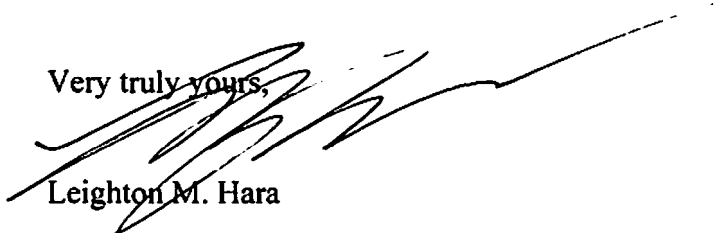
Todd has always been hard working, fair, civic minded, and compassionate. As longtime public servant, Todd spent a considerable amount of his career assisting the public. He has also tried numerous jury trials to verdict and has successfully argued before Hawaii's courts in both the civil and criminal arenas. Todd's

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
February 21, 2017  
Page 2

experience, personality, and demeanor will serve the public well and are qualities, which will make for an excellent Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in support of Todd W. Eddins. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leighton M. Hara", written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and extends to the right.

Leighton M. Hara

**From:** [Loretta Sheehan](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Loretta Sheehan](#)  
**Subject:** EDDINS, TODD: Nomination to the Position of Circuit Court Judge  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2017 10:07:50 AM

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To the Committee:

Please accept my testimony recommending the confirmation of Todd Eddins to the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have had the privilege of knowing Todd for about 20 years. I came to know him when I was a prosecutor and he was a defense attorney. Todd was always ethical, prepared, and extremely reasonable. He was a lawyer who understood the rules of procedure, the caselaw, and, more importantly, the policy reasons behind each. He was effective in his representation.

I later got to know Todd as he went out on his own and broadened his practice to include civil work. Again, I found Todd to be hard-working, ethical and reasonable. He consistently did what was right.

Our Judiciary will gain from the addition of Todd. He has the benefit of both civil and criminal experience, and is familiar with both state and federal court. He will be able to bring his breadth of experience and knowledge to the job of state court judge. I believe that, given his experience, his knowledge, and his reputation, Todd will be able to resolve both civil and criminal cases, whether through trial or settlement conferences in a fair and effective way.

You couldn't ask for a better, or more talented nominee than Todd Eddins. I urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sheehan

**From:** [Lowell Kurashige](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507/Hearing Date: Feb. 23, 2017  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:26:32 PM

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Date: February 21, 2017

To: Judiciary and Labor Committee Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Re: GM507 (Hearing Date: February 23, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.)

Senator Keith-Agaran:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Todd W. Eddins to the First Circuit Court.

I have known Mr. Eddins for over 25 years (since 1991) when we were both employed at the Office of the State Public Defender.

Over the years, I have observed that Mr. Eddins possesses superior skills with respect to client relations, trial practice, legal knowledge, and court procedure. From my perspective, Mr. Eddins has always conducted himself in a very professional and ethical manner. Most important (with respect to serving as a Circuit Court Judge) is Mr. Eddins' ability to maintain a calm, professional, and respectful demeanor.

I believe that he would be an asset to the Judiciary and the public that it serves.

Thank you very much,

Lowell H. Kurashige  
Attorney at Law



HIATT & HIATT  
46-3976 Pu'aono Road  
Honoka'a, Hawai'i 96727  
Tel: (808) 885-3400 - Fax: (877) 775-1373

Jerry M. Hiatt  
jh@hiattlaw.com

Mahilani E.K. Hiatt  
meh@hiattlaw.com

February 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, State of Hawai'i

*Via Online Testimony Website*

***Re: Matter GM507: Confirmation Hearing of Todd Eddins for Appointment As Judge to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i (February 23, 2017 a 9:30 a.m., Room 016)***

Dear Committee Members:

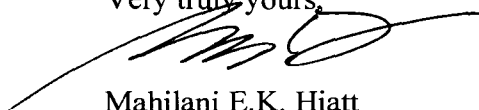
I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Todd Eddins to serve as a judge to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i. I would have personally appeared at his confirmation hearing to give this testimony but I reside on Hawai'i Island.

I was born and raised on O'ahu. I graduated from the Kamehameha Schools Kapalama (1980), Colorado College (1984) and the William S. Richardson School of Law (1993). I have been practicing commercial litigation in Hawai'i since 1993. I first met Todd in law school, at which time I found him to be extremely intelligent, committed to public service and passionate about the law. Through the years, I have regularly referred clients and friends to Todd, and they have always been extremely satisfied with his representation. Around five years ago, I retained Todd to represent my mother regarding a motor vehicle accident. Todd managed that case in a competent, sensitive, and compassionate way — and both the Court and my family greatly appreciated his counsel. I have also had the opportunity to observe Todd appearing in the courtroom — including the recent case where he successfully represented former Mayor Billy Kenoi — and his competency, experience and presence has always impressed me. Finally, I have always found Todd to be thoughtful and humorous — two qualities that I believe would serve him well as a judge.

I believe that my observations and interactions with Todd for over twenty-five years allow me to confidently submit that he has the integrity, experience, intelligence, competency and diligence to serve as a judge and that his appointment would greatly benefit the judiciary and the State of Hawai'i.

I would be happy to answer any questions this Committee may have regarding my support for the nomination of Todd Eddins as judge to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Mahilani E.K. Hiatt

# STARN • O'TOOLE • MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

February 17, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Vice-Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: February 23, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street

Re: GM507 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee TODD W. EDDINS, for a term to expire in 10 years.

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit this testimony in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Todd Eddins to be a Circuit Court judge. I regret that because of a previously scheduled mediation, I will not be able to testify in person.

I have known Mr. Eddins for many years and believe him to be one of the most skilled criminal law practitioners in the State. And, it is my understanding that Mr. Eddins has significant civil law experience as well. I also believe Mr. Eddins's honesty and integrity to be of the highest possible caliber.

I believe Mr. Eddins would make an excellent Circuit Court judge, and I, therefore, respectfully ask that you recommend that the Senate consent to Mr. Eddins's nomination to be a Judge of the Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours

  
Mark J. Bennett

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

GM 507        Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee TODD W. EDDINS, for a term to expire in 10 years.

Hearing Date: February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY OF MARK S. DAVIS IN SUPPORT OF GM 507**

I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii for over 40 years. I write on my own behalf and on behalf of the attorneys at Davis Levin Livingston. We energetically support Mr. Todd Eddins' nomination to the circuit court bench of the First Circuit of Hawaii. Mr. Eddins has an extraordinary reputation as a man of distinguished character and a temperament that would serve him well as a judge before the court. Unlike many nominees for the bench, Mr. Eddins has extensive experience, both as a civil attorney and in the criminal area as well. I have every reason to believe that he will be a judge that understands the importance of intensive scholarship and research. He has also demonstrated great commitment to our community in his volunteering as an attorney on many public interest cases. We firmly support the nomination of Todd Eddins for judge. He is a man of the highest character and professionalism and he is a person who will certainly garner the respect of other members of the judiciary and attorneys who practice before him.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Davis  
[mdavis@davislevin.com](mailto:mdavis@davislevin.com)  
808 524-7500

DAVIS · LEVIN  
LIVINGSTON

ATTORNEYS

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TELEPHONE: (808) 524-7500

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MATTHEW C. WINTER  
mwinter@DavisLevin.com

February 17, 2017

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS  
Maui: 877-7500  
Hawai'i: 326-3200  
Kaua'i: 245-6100

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature  
29th Legislature, 2017  
Testimony Submitted Online

Re: GM 507 - Testimony in Support of Circuit Court Candidate Todd W. Eddins

Dear Committee Members,

I write to provide testimony in support of Todd Eddins' nomination to the Circuit Court for the First Circuit of Hawaii. I have known Todd since I moved to Hawaii in 2005 to work as a Federal Public Defender. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work alongside some very gifted attorneys – Todd is one of the best I have seen.

Todd is the rare attorney who excels in both criminal and civil practice. But in addition, Todd has an outstanding connection to the legal community and the community as a whole. Todd has taught trial skills to numerous attorneys, and repeatedly volunteered his skills to assist public interest causes. To me, it is this work that is the most important indication of his ability to be a great judge. He will be a judge who respects all who appear before him, and because of this, be a judge who will advance our judiciary.

On top of this, Todd possesses a great personality. Those who have met him will attest to his good character, humility, and professionalism. These are all traits that will garner him the respect of the Hawaii Bar – and more importantly the public – who appear before him.

I hope that you proudly confirm Todd Eddins to be a Circuit Court Judge. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON



Matthew C. Winter

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 17, 2017 11:04:13 PM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/17/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Pavlicek    | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments: Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am testifying in support of the nomination of Todd Eddins to serve as a circuit court judge. Todd has the leadership, legal acumen and community service dedication to serve as an exemplary member of the judiciary. Please confirm his nomination.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

# DAVIS · LEVIN LIVINGSTON

ATTORNEYS

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MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON  
[mlivingston@DavisLevin.com](mailto:mlivingston@DavisLevin.com)

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

Maui: 877-7500

Hawai'i: 326-3200

Kaua'i: 245-6100

February 21, 2017

[JDL.testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDL.testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

GM507: Concerning the appointment of Todd Eddins to be a Judge of the First Circuit.

Hearing Date: February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

## TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON OPPOSING S.B. NO. 328 AND S.B. NO. 673

I submit this testimony in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Todd S. Eddins to be a Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit. I am a practicing trial attorney, licensed to practice in the Courts of Hawaii, and I have had both personal and professional interactions with Mr. Eddins over the years.

Mr. Eddins is extremely well qualified to serve in the important and demanding position of a Circuit Court Judge. He is extremely smart, incredibly hard working, and completely fair-minded. His ethics are impeccable. He is one of the few trial attorneys in Hawaii who handles both civil and criminal cases, and is thus well familiar with both civil procedure and criminal procedure. He is highly respected in the legal community, and has an ideal judicial temperament. In addition to all of these attributes, Mr. Eddins has a deep commitment to public service and a compassionate heart.

I believe Mr. Eddins would be a wonderful addition to the Circuit Court Bench, and recommend him for confirmation without reservation.

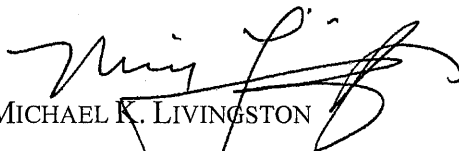
DAVIS · LEVIN  
LIVINGSTON

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
February 21, 2017  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON**

  
MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON

# CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

ANN H. ARATANI  
SAMANTHA M.Y. CHAN  
ROBERT A. CHONG  
ELAINE T. CHOW  
STEPHEN G. DYER  
PATRICIA T. FUJII  
STEVEN L. GOTO  
KENNETH T. GOYA  
RYAN I. INOUE  
GAIL M. KANG  
RONALD T. MICHIOKA  
GARY S. MIYAMOTO

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

1003 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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E-mail: [michael.vandyke@hawadvocate.com](mailto:michael.vandyke@hawadvocate.com)

RICHARD F. NAKAMURA  
JOHN S. NISHIMOTO  
ZALE T. OKAZAKI  
RONALD M. SHIGEKANE  
JEFFREY H. K. SIA  
PHILIP S. UESATO  
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE  
J. THOMAS WEBER  
DIANE W. WONG

RODNEY S. NISHIDA  
(1949 – 2004)

February 22, 2017

## Via Electronic Mail

Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Senate District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
fax: 808-586-7348  
[senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Circuit Court of the First Circuit,  
State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee Todd W. Eddins

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for Todd Eddins' candidacy as Circuit Court Judge. I have known Mr. Eddins personally and professionally for several years and have been consistently impressed with his skills and abilities as a lawyer. I have repeatedly entrusted friends and clients to him when the need arose. There can be no greater vote of confidence above that.

While Mr. Eddins' practice has focused heavily on criminal defense, I have had the privilege to work with him on civil matters over the years. While I know he has represented claimants, I have had the opportunity to witness his skills while defending mutual clients. In my experience, Mr. Eddins consistently demonstrated effective and compassionate legal counseling to mutual clients. Mr. Eddins has a solid rapport with the civil defense bar, and he is a highly-respected lawyer.

I am confident that Mr. Eddins will prove to be a respected jurist. His demeanor is respectful, patient, fair-minded and conscientious. His qualities will give him the sort of positive judicial temperament that will greatly benefit our State's Judiciary and Bar.



Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
February 22, 2017  
Page 2

I wholeheartedly support the appointment of Todd W. Eddins to the position of Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit without reservation and ask that your committee act favorably in your consideration of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Van Dyke", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE

Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu

February 21, 2017

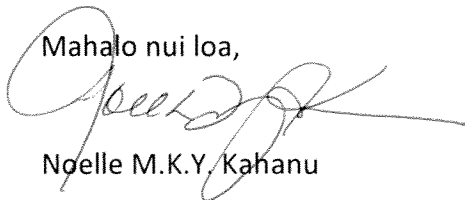
Re: Nomination of Todd W. Eddins as Circuit Court Judge

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha mai kakou. I am respectfully writing in strong support of Todd W. Eddins' nomination as a Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit. I have known Todd since 1988 when we entered the William S. Richardson School of Law together. During our years there, we shared a keen interest in public interest law and became active in APIL -- Advocates for Public Interest Law. While Todd excelled academically and could have had his pick of summer jobs, he chose an APIL internship and worked for the State Public Defenders. His commitment was key to APIL successfully implementing a mandatory pro bono program program at the law school -- one of the first student-led initiatives in the nation.

Todd's love of public interest law did not fade with time, but rather became more ingrained after graduating from law school as he took up a successful career at the State Public Defenders office, and later continued into his private practice. Over the last nearly 30 years, that I have known Todd, I have seen his dedication and commitment to the legal system only grow, along with his desire to ensure that all are treated fairly under the law. This commitment is equally matched by a brilliant mind, quick wit, and keen sense of humor. I truly believe that Todd would make an outstanding Circuit Court judge.

Mahalo nui loa,



Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM507 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:15:10 AM

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**GM507**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patrick Wong        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: My name is Patrick Wong. I am the Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. I am unable to attend the confirmation hearing for Mr. Eddins and wanted to express my strong support for his confirmation. I write as an individual. I have known Mr. Eddins for over 25 years and have found Mr. Eddins well qualified for the judicial appointment as he has the skills, judicial temperament, and capacity necessary for the position. Therefore, I strongly support his confirmation. Mahalo, Pat Wong

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:**  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** re: Todd EDDINS  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:34:22 AM

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This testimony is in regards to Governor's Message, GM507, regarding Todd W. Eddins' nomination as a Circuit Court of the First Circuit judge.

I have known Mr. Eddins since 2000. We were colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender for a few years before he transitioned to private practice. I have had numerous opportunities to witness Mr. Eddins both in court and in the office. I am sure the committee has received numerous glowing accolades of his abilities as a litigator as well as his obviously high intellect. I would echo those sentiments, and wish to add one more.

I firmly believe Mr. Eddins will have a fantastic judicial temperament. To those of us who are litigators, whether criminal or civil, this is not an underrated quality. It is important, and it is not a given in a candidate for judicial office. Mr. Eddins is not arrogant, nor do I believe the position will create a negative temperament in him in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall K. Hironaka, Esq.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD H.S. SING

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February 21, 2017

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran , Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM507 for Mr. Todd Eddins, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Todd Eddins, Esq. for a Circuit Court Judgeship.

I am a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense who has appeared in the District, Family, and Circuit Courts on a regular basis over the past 20 years. I am familiar with the histories, procedures, and personalities of the Courts of the First Circuit.

Mr. Eddins 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 and private defense attorney. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Todd Eddins.

Outside of his professional life, Mr. Eddins is a loving caring parent, who treats others with respect and fairness. He is levelheaded and compassionate. He possesses the best of the traits that we hope for ourselves. I trust him as a friend and colleague, and believe that our community needs and deserves Mr. Eddins on the bench.

The opportunity to have such a qualified individual on the bench should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

*/S/ Richard H.S. Sing*

Richard H.S. Sing

# **RICHARD K. MINATOYA**

TESTIMONY  
ON  
GM 507 - CONFIRMATION OF TODD W. EDDINS,  
JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

February 23, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support GM 507, the confirmation of TODD W. EDDINS as Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Eddins for over 25 years, from when we were in law school, and have also handled cases against him. He is well versed in the justice system, and has clearly demonstrated the knowledge, skills, temperament and talent to serve excellently as a circuit court judge. I recommend confirmation without reservation.

Accordingly, I request that the committee RECOMMEND CONFIRMATION to the full Senate.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [Richard Stacey](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 - Hearing Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016 - Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Todd Eddins to serve as a judge to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:26:17 PM

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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of the nomination of Todd Eddins to serve as a judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. As a deputy prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu for many years,

I have known Todd for at least two decades, and have been on the opposite side of Todd in several cases, including felonies, and including at least one trial that I recall. Todd earned my respect by being smart, well-prepared and ethical, and he was a tough opponent. Todd has been able to be a strong advocate without crossing the line in the eyes of the attorneys on the other side. I have also discussed non-criminal matters with him after I moved to the Department of the Attorney General and have found him to be just as well-informed on the civil practice side of litigation. I am quite sure that Todd would be able to treat parties, witnesses, attorneys and court staff in a polite, patient manner, and the ability to do that is admirable and should be a prerequisite for any member of the bench. Todd will make an excellent judge.

I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ if any further information is needed.

Mahalo,

Rich Stacey, Bar No. 6419



Executive Centre | 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 4100, PH-2 | Honolulu, HI 96813

Main: 808-695-4240 | Fax: 808-275-3217 | Direct: 808-695-4241 | rogomori@ogomorilaw.com

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February 21, 2017

VIA E-MAIL: (senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Todd Eddins

Dear Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran:

I am an attorney and the founder of Ronald T. Ogomori, Attorney at Law, a Law Corporation. I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Todd Eddins, who is one of the applicants for the existing vacancies at the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Todd since 1990 as we both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. In addition, Todd and I worked together at the Office of the Public Defender. On a social level, Todd and I played on the same Lawyer's league softball and basketball teams for many years. I consider Todd to be a close friend of mine.

In regards to my opinion of Todd's lawyering skills, it is without reservation that I consider Todd to be the most qualified and effective criminal defense attorney in the State of Hawaii. I would always recommend Todd to anyone in need of a criminal defense lawyer. He is quick on his feet in trial and is one of the most intelligent persons that I have ever met in my entire life.

Todd has the requisite litigation experience and temperament to be an extremely effective judge. He is always prepared and takes pride in this work. More importantly, Todd is a person of the highest integrity. Therefore, it is without reservation that I recommend Todd Eddins to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions or comments, I may be reached at (808) 695-4241.

Very truly yours,

RONALD T. OGOMORI



**From:** [Sergio Rufo](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 appointment of Todd Eddins  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:22:34 PM

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I strongly support Mr. Eddins for a position as a ICC Judge. I have known Todd for many years, both with him and against him on cases and in sporting competitions. He is more than competent and above board. He would be a welcomed addition to the bench.

Thanks,  
Sergio

SERGIO RUFO

**From:** [Steve Goodenow](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** GM507 - TESTIMONY REGARDING TODD EDDINS AS FIRST CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:42:10 AM

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**TO: SENATE COMMITTEE OF JUDICIARY AND LABOR**  
**FROM: STEVE GOODENOW, CLI, CFE**  
**RE TODD EDDINS CONFIRMATION HEARING AS JUDGE TO THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT**

ALOHA: I have known Todd Eddins for the past 20 years. I am in the investigative profession and have worked as a licensed Private Detective & Guard since 1967. My work involves both Civil and Criminal cases. Over the years I have worked on cases where Mr. Eddins has been both the attorney representing my clients or representing opposition clients. Mr. Eddins has always been a person of high integrity and attentive representation. Mr. Eddins through knowledge of the law and court procedures has always, in my mind, separated him from others. He is fair, judicial in temperament and has always advocated for the legal rights of his clients. His knowledge of the law and the proper representation of the case facts and evidence has made him a leading attorney in the field of criminal law. Mr. Eddins selection as a nominee for a First Circuit Court Judge should be approved and the legal system in Hawaii will be better for his appointment.

**I urge the Senate Committee of Judiciary and Labor approve the nomination of Todd Eddins as a judge in the First Circuit Court.**

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have

Aloha, Steve Goodenow

**Steve Goodenow, CLI, CFE**  
**The Hawaii Investigative Group, LLC.**

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# RUSH MOORE LLP

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

Attorneys at Law

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February 21, 2017

The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Via E-mail [JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Measure GM507  
Confirmation Hearing, Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Committee:

This letter is to support the nomination of Todd Eddins to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Six years ago, I met Todd through referrals from other lawyers. I was assisting a close friend who needed representation in an area with which I was unfamiliar. I contacted Todd, who immediately became involved in this very serious and sensitive matter that impacted on both my friend's professional and family life. I had little involvement with the representation, but am aware that Todd worked for many months and was able to "clear" my friend. My friend and his family were very grateful to Todd, who they found not only to be a skilled lawyer, but an empathetic and considerate person.

Todd is an experienced, hard-working and energetic lawyer with significant litigation experience. He's very pleasant and always courteous. I believe he would bring his many positive qualities to the bench and could be expected to have a good judicial temperament.

Todd would be an excellent Circuit Court Judge and should be given serious consideration for confirmation of his nomination.

Please contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

RUSH MOORE LLP  
A Limited Liability Law Partnership

By   
SUSAN TIUS

Taryn Tomasa

February 21, 2017

Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Conference Room 016  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
via email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Hearing on GM 507 9:30 AM Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Consideration and Confirmation of  
Judicial Nominee Todd W. Eddins

Senators Keith-Agaran, Rhoads and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of TODD W. EDDINS to the circuit court bench. I have known Mr. Eddins for over eighteen years, both professionally and personally. It is without hesitation that I submit this letter in support of his nomination. I believe that Mr. Eddins possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this judicial position demands.

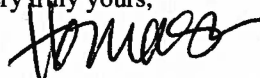
In the years that I worked with Mr. Eddins at the Office of the Public Defender, he was a dedicated and diligent advocate for his clients. Mr. Eddins always possessed and demonstrated a mastery of the law and legal authority, including for matters involving complex legal issues. Although his criminal defense practice tasked him with contentious and high publicity trials, Mr. Eddins is also a skilled mediator and civil litigator as evinced by his successful years at the firm of Galihier DeRobertis Waxman and in his own practice.

I am also familiar with Mr. Eddins and his family. Mr. Eddins has always embraced strong family morals. 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 Eddins family is kind, generous, and successful, is a testament to Mr. Eddins and his wife, Rowena's, ability to lead by example.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Eddins's character, intellect, and values make him a consummate judicial nominee for the circuit court. I have practiced substantially in trial and appellate courts, both in private practice and public service. Thus, I am familiar with the demands of the position and I recognize that a successful judicial applicant must possess the legal aptitude and acumen 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. Based on my knowledge and experience with Mr. Eddins, 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

**From:** [Terry Revere](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM507 Hearing on Thursday February 22 at 9:30 re Todd Eddins  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:15:41 AM

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Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Todd Eddins. He was in the class above me in law school. He has earned a great reputation from that point on in both criminal and civil matters. If confirmed, he will be an excellent Judge.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Terrance M. Revere  
Revere & Associates, LLLC

PLEASE NOTE: For all new matters, prospective clients and billing inquiries please contact my staff at

[www.revereandassociates.com](http://www.revereandassociates.com) and fill out our client intake form.

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February 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State of Hawaii

**Re: Confirmation Hearing: First Circuit Court, Mr. Todd W. Eddins**

Dear committee members,

Please accept this letter for my support for Mr. Todd W. Eddins for the appointment of Judge of the First Circuit Court.

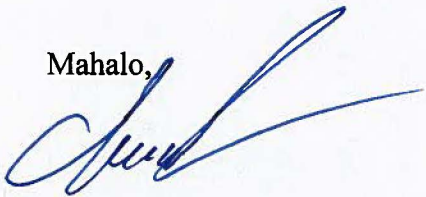
I have known Mr. Eddins for nearly 10 years in a personal capacity coaching Little League together and other youth sports. Through this experience and having our boys play together for many years, Mr. Eddins shows patience, civil engagement, compassion and fairness.

Knowing these personal quality and having an understanding of his professional success, I am very confident he would be fair, objective and provide an acute understanding of the law in case before him.

I trust that through your own knowledge of Mr. Eddins, other letters of support and his proven record of success through fairness, you will support him to this position.

Thank you for this opportunity, if I can provide more information or answer any questions, please contact me as your schedule allows at: 808-227-7302 or [toddcullison@gmail.com](mailto:toddcullison@gmail.com).

Mahalo,



Todd Cullison

THE LAW OFFICE OF

**WALTER J. RODBY**

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February 17, 2017

Fax: 808-586-7346  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228

RE: Confirmation of Todd W. Eddins  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016  
Thursday, February 23, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senators:

My name is Walter J. Rodby and I write this letter to express my complete support for TODD EDDINS as your nominee to the bench of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit for the State of Hawaii.

I first met Todd in 1988, while we were first year students at the Richardson School of Law, where we quickly became very close friends.

As an attorney practicing here in Honolulu, I am certain that others will speak at length about Todd's outstanding reputation in the legal community, both as a trial attorney, and a scholar.

However, I wanted to speak about Todd's character and integrity outside of the office, about his dedication to his family and our community.

At Richardson, Todd effectively assisted in reinvigorating the Advocates for Public Interest Law summer internship program. Todd's assistance with fundraising was key, as was his participation with the "Protection and Advocacy" organization. Todd was also part of a core group of students involved with establishing the bar association's mandatory pro bono program which was implemented in 1992.

GM 507



Todd and Rowena Eddins are the proud parents of four lovely children. Over the years, I have had the blessing of seeing their family grow and prosper. To see the joy in Todd's face as he plays with and coaches his children and others in various sports, is contagious.

Though he might not readily admit it, Todd is a true outdoorsman. Before we married and settled down, we would regularly go hiking and climbing on all of Oahu's major trails and peaks. We also participated in community events such as trail building and clearing.

As our children grew older, we began taking them on annual Martin Luther King Jr. day pilgrimages to the Haleakala National Park, where we would spend several days hiking and camping within the crater.

I know that Todd would make an excellent circuit court judge, leaving all who appeared before him with a positive impression of our Judiciary.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,

  
WALTER J. RODBY

TO: Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

FROM: Wilfredo Tungol, Esq.

RE: GM 507 (Confirmation of Todd Eddins for 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court Judge)

Date of Hearing: February 23, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for your confirmation of Todd Eddins as First Circuit Court judge to fill the vacancy of retired Judge Perkins. I have the privilege of trying a criminal case with Todd many years ago when I was in private practice and Todd was still with the Public Defender's office. It was a case where there were two co-defendant and I was appointed by the PD's office due to a conflict over representation of two co-defendants. The case involved terroristic threatening and possession of unregistered firearm. I will not go into the details of the case, but only to point out that my client and Todd's client had conflicting versions of who owned the unregistered firearm. Todd already had a reputation as a skilled trial attorney with the PD's office. I, on the other hand, did not have as much criminal trial experience as Todd. Nevertheless, Todd was very gracious during our trial, never taking advantage of his experience over my own. He represented his client ably and well, resulting in an acquittal by the jury. My client was less fortunate, having been found guilty as the sole owner of the gun.

I didn't have any more court encounter with Todd after that case, but I knew that he would go far in his legal career. After leaving the PD's Office, he has expanded his horizon by going to private practice and later joining the law office of the late Gary Galiher to do civil litigation work. I was not surprised that he was nominated by Governor Ige for this important position.

I am confident that Todd will be a fair and impartial judge on the bench. His vast experience in criminal law will ensure that those that appear before him will be treated with fairness. And compassion when the circumstances requires it. The people of Hawaii is fortunate to have Todd to be one of our judges. He understand Hawaii, its culture and its people. He is truly a "once in a generation" kind of guy. I urged you to act favorably towards his confirmation.



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

**Todd W. Eddins**  
**Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit**

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Nadine Y. Ando  
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Todd W. Eddins for the position of Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors evaluates the qualifications of persons appointed for judicial office, the position of Hawaii U.S. Attorney and the position of Hawaii State Attorney General. We follow a multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review Subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President, which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Eddins on February 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Subcommittee's findings. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Eddins was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Eddins was reviewed and all of the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Mr. Eddins in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialog and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, the HSBA Board found Mr. Eddins to be **QUALIFIED**.

Mr. Eddins, who has been a civil and criminal trial advocate for 25 years handling complex cases, is known for his ability to think critically and strategically, and has demonstrated a solid understanding of the nuances of case law and the rules of evidence. He manifests good composure and is reportedly calm even when litigation becomes heated or highly emotional. His extensive record of pro bono work also demonstrates a dedication to the promotion and furtherance of access to justice for the broader community.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of this Committee.