

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Ralph J. O'Neill](#)
To: [JDI Testimony](#)
Subject: GM509 appointment of Keith Hiraoka
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:34:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To whom it may concern:

The Judiciary plays a vital role in our community in the State of Hawaii. One only has to consider recent national events to understand the importance of our judges.

I have worked with Keith Hiraoka for many years, as I practice in similar areas. Not only does he have a keen intellect, he also is able to analyze issues from a variety of perspective. Combined with his balanced personality, the State of Hawaii would be fortunate to have him as a judge.

I strongly support his nomination.

I appreciate your time.

Ralph

Ralph J. O'Neill, Esq. | Licensed in Hawaii (SBN 4705) ♦ California (SBN 198197)

MacDonaldRudy

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LATE TESTIMONY

February 23, 2017 – 9:30 A.M.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor – Room 016

GM509- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KEITH HIRAOKA, for a term to expire in 10 years.

Dear Chairman Keith Agaran and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Keith Hiraoka is an excellent choice to serve on the First Circuit court. I've known Keith throughout the years to be professional, ethical and fair during my tenure in Hawaii State Government.

Keith is a graduate from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and earned his juris doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1983. In recent years, his primary areas of practice have been insurance coverage and representing attorneys, accountants, realtors and other professionals who have been sued. He has tried cases before juries, judges and arbitrators, participated in many mediations and briefed and argued appeals before the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court of Appeals and the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Given these credentials, I believe Keith would be an outstanding Judge on the First Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. N. Fuchigami', with a stylized flourish at the end.

FORD N. FUCHIGAMI



TOMMY WATERS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221

RE: Keith Hiraoka, Nominee First Circuit Court
GM509
2/23/17 Hearing at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and JDL Members:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Keith Hiraoka for Judge First Circuit Court

Mr. Hiraoka concentrates his practice in the areas of insurance coverage counseling and litigation, extra contractual ("bad faith") insurance litigation, and professional liability defense of insurance agents and lawyers. Mr. Hiraoka has more than twenty-six years of trial, arbitration and mediation experience, and has represented numerous insurers, self-insured companies, lawyers, and corporate and individual clients in a wide variety of civil litigation matters. Mr. Hiraoka would make a terrific Judge and member of the Hawaii State Judiciary.

Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,

Tommy Waters Esq.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDL Testimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM509 on Feb 23, 2017 09:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:57:45 PM

GM509

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marci Lopes	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	No

Comments:

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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LATE TESTIMONY

February 22, 2017

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: 509 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH HIRAOKA, for a term to expire in 10 years

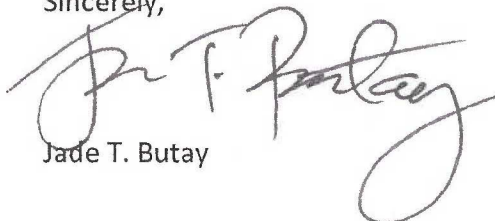
Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest **support** for the confirmation of Mr. Keith Hiraoka to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Without a doubt, he is eminently qualified.

I met Mr. Hiraoka a couple of years ago and in that time I have come to know him and respect him very much. He is a man of character, compassion, and impeccable integrity. He knows how to get people to work together, has a good sense of humor and doesn't take himself too seriously. His ethics is beyond reproach, his breadth of knowledge is remarkable, and his commitment to service is deep. I cannot think of a better combination of qualities for a Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this brilliant attorney, great human being, and devoted public servant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jade T. Butay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jade T. Butay

LATE TESTIMONY**Law Offices of Cary T. Tanaka**

Suite 1010 Bishop Street Tower • 700 Bishop Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 536-8885 • Facsimile (808) 536-8845
Email: carytanaka@aol.com

February 22, 2017

VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION - 586-7348

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In the Matter of the Confirmation of Keith K. Hiraoka
Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit
GM 509
Hearing: February 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Keith K. Hiraoka for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Keith for the past 20 years. During that time, he has always conducted himself in a professional manner and has extended the utmost of courtesies to everyone he has come into contact with. Professionally, Keith consistently demonstrates a high degree of academic ability and moral toughness. In my dealings with him, he has always provided me with good analysis as to legal issues in a very timely and informative manner.

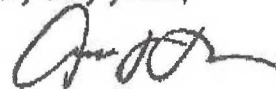
Although there is no question that, professionally, Keith is qualified to serve as a Circuit Court Judge, I believe that his most redeeming quality rests with his humility and kindness towards others. He is fair and is always there to lend a hand. Whether it be as a HYSA soccer official or a manpower volunteer at school events, Keith is always first in line to provide assistance where it is needed.

I believe that Keith also possesses the appropriate temperament which will be an asset to the Judiciary, as well as to the people of the State of Hawaii. As such, I ask that the Senate favorably consider Keith K. Hiraoka's application for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
February 22, 2017
Page 2

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting my office.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



CARY T. TANAKA

CTT:dac

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A LAW CORPORATION

February 22, 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: GM509 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KEITH HIRAOKA, for a term to expire in 10 years.

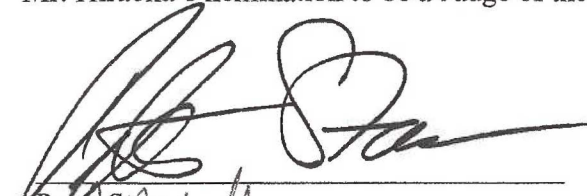
Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

We would like to submit this testimony in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Keith Hiraoka to be a Circuit Court judge.

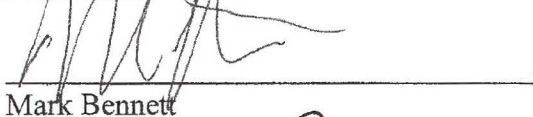
We believe that Mr. Hiraoka is an outstanding attorney and has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and would make an excellent trial judge.

The Circuit Court of the First Circuit is a critical court that handles important trial matters on the criminal and civil side. The sitting judges in the First Circuit, together with those that have recently retired, are outstanding. Mr. Hiraoka will continue in that tradition as one of the new First Circuit Court judges.

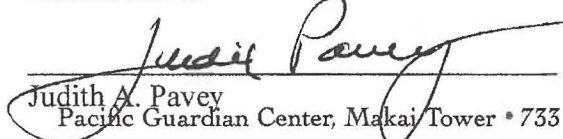
We, therefore, respectfully ask that you recommend that the Senate consent to Mr. Hiraoka's nomination to be a Judge of the Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.



Peter Starn



Mark Bennett



Judith A. Pavey

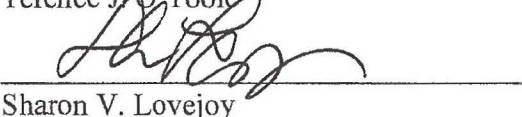
Pacific Guardian Center, Makai Tower • 733 Bishop Street, Suite 1900 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 537-6100 • Fax: (808) 537-5434 • Web: www.starnlaw.com

Very truly yours



Terence J. O'Toole



Sharon V. Lovejoy

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

February 23, 2017

GM 509: Nomination of Keith Hiraoka to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I strongly support Keith Hiraoka's nomination to be a judge of the First Circuit Court. Keith is a veteran attorney in private practice who has extensive civil litigation experience. His courtroom experience along with his handling of a diverse set of clients will serve him well as a circuit court judge.

I have known Keith for approximately thirty years. He possesses the highest level of character and integrity and is well respected in the legal community. He has excellent demeanor and is well-liked by all. I support his nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.