



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

Trish K. Morikawa
District Court Judge, First Circuit (JC 7)

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: Wednesday, April 5, 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 submit comments in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- 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 Ms. Morikawa on March 29th to discuss the Subcommittee's findings. On March 30th, Ms. Morikawa was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Morikawa was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Ms. Heim 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

During the interview of the Ms. Morikawa which included a discourse on her background, professional experiences and reasoning for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the nominee demonstrated strong communications skills with her ability to clearly and succinctly respond to questions. In addition to her positive work ethic, Bar members noted her ability to see many facets of varied and complex issues. Ms. Morikawa's service on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and as Honolulu's Housing Coordinator required collaboration and decisiveness in adversarial environments similar to the courtroom setting. Ms. Morikawa's continued service to the Partners in Development program, which inspires families and communities to success using timeless Hawaiian values and traditions is admirable.

The Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds that Trish K. Morikawa is **QUALIFIED** to serve as a District Judge of the First Circuit.

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

April 3, 2017

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing on April 5, 2017 at 9:30 am.
Regarding JC 7: Confirmation of Trish K. Morikawa

Dear Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads and the members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

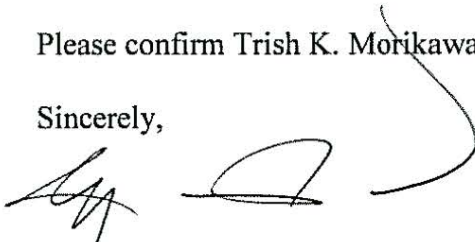
Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Trish and I were deputy prosecuting attorneys in the Career Criminal Unit. For over five years, I had the office adjoining hers and took advantage of this proximity to learn as much as I could from her. She was always willing to discuss cases and share her knowledge. Trish is the rare trial attorney who is smart, hardworking, charismatic, caring, and humble. These traits also make her an excellent judge.

Trish has the ability to connect with people from all facets of society. She genuinely cares about people and that caring comes through in her interactions with people. She will uphold the law but will deliver the law to people in a way that they can understand and appreciate. She is never condescending and always kind even when she is being firm. She is the person people instinctually look to for leadership. If there is a dispute, she is usually the person who steps in and resolves the issue in a way that all sides feel they were heard and treated with respect. The people of Hawai'i will be lucky to have her as a judge.

Please confirm Trish K. Morikawa as a judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,



Amy Murakami

BRADLEY CHONG

ATTORNEY AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION

Pauahi Tower • 1003 Bishop Street • Suite 2140 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Monday, April 3, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:
Senator/Chair: Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair: Karl Rhoads
& Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 221
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 7 Judicial Nominee, Trish K. Morikawa
Hearing: April 5, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senators:

I write this letter in support of Trish Morikawa, Judicial Nominee (JC 7). I met Trish Morikawa in law school in 1991 while we were attending the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. Trish was an excellent law student and an accomplished athlete and Ete Bowl participant (Women UH Law students (Etes) annual Thanksgiving Football Game against the UH Law women alums (Bruisers)). Trish has always been a kind person and a trustworthy friend. Trish has maintained a high degree of professionalism and integrity as an attorney while balancing her responsibilities to her family. Trish has overcome many personal hardships during her life but has persevered through hard work and her many sacrifices. Trish has a reputation as being a formidable and fair attorney during her years at the State Prosecutor's Office and at the law firm of Gallagher, Kane & Amai.

As a per diem judge in Family Court, Trish quickly demonstrated that same high level of knowledge and organizational skills by being well versed in the areas of divorce, paternity, guardianships and domestic abuse. As a family law practitioner for 25 years, I can attest that Trish's mastery of the substantive family law within a very limited amount of time is truly a remarkable accomplishment. Trish has shown tremendous insight and has always exhibited great judicial temperament in one of the most emotionally charged areas of law (Family Court) while making fair and thoughtful decisions. I believe that Trish's work ethic, intelligence and personal experiences give her the ability to apply the law equitably while treating all litigants, attorneys and members of the public with dignity and respect. Thank you for the opportunity to share my impressions of Trish Morikawa with your honorable committee.

Very truly yours,



Bradley Chong

PARK & KIM

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April 4, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC-DELIVERY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

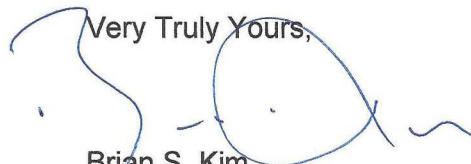
Re: Support for the Confirmation of Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu), Measure JC7

Dear Chairman and Members:

Please accept this letter as my sincere request that you support Trish K. Morikawa's nomination for the position at the District Court of the First Circuit.

Trish not only possesses an extremely bright legal mind, but is also thoughtful and compassionate. She works well with others and has consistently demonstrated the judicial integrity, character and temperament necessary for this position as a per diem Family Court Judge. We feel very fortunate for Trish's nomination and sincerely hope that you will support her as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Brian S. Kim
Attorney at law

TESTIMONY

Measure: JC 7

Hearing: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, TRISH K. MORIKAWA, for a term to expire in 6 years.

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: April 5, 2017

Time: 9:30 am

Testifier: Bridget Holthus

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

I strongly support the confirmation of Trish Morikawa as a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Morikawa for more than 15 years. We worked together as deputy prosecutors; and later, when Ms. Morikawa was with the Office of Housing of the City and County of Honolulu and I was deputy director of the City's Department of Community Services, we worked very closely on issues related to housing, homelessness, and public safety.

Ms. Morikawa is highly regarded for her civility, her integrity, and her competence as an attorney. She is decisive and determined, but she listens carefully to the views of others. In my experience, she has an exceptional ability to bring about collaboration among individuals and groups with divergent interests. She is innovative and resourceful in finding ways to maximize limited resources. And through her extensive volunteer leadership and service in community programs, she has demonstrated an enduring commitment to the well-being of the people of Hawai'i.

I believe Ms. Morikawa is exceptionally well-suited to serve as a judge, and I respectfully urge you to recommend confirmation.

From: [Cathy Juhn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 8:33:04 AM

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

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Trish Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

My name is Cathy S. Juhn and a member of the Hawaii State Bar. I have known Trish Morikawa for over 14 years. I first met Ms. Morikawa at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Ms. Morikawa was a Deputy Prosecutor and supervisor at that time. Ms. Morikawa was not my supervisor, however she made herself available to anyone that may need assistance. When I first began as a Deputy Prosecutor, Ms. Morikawa was a valued presence to me. As a new Deputy Prosecutor, Ms. Morikawa was easy to turn to for leadership and advice. Ms. Morikawa always has a companionate ear and was able to give objective advice. Over time and interactions with Ms. Morikawa, I learned to greatly value and respect her opinions, as do many people. Even now I gravitate towards Ms. Morikawa for advice and I see other colleagues do the same. I am fortunate enough to work again with Ms. Morikawa. We currently work aside each other as associates at Gallagher Kane Amai.

Ms. Morikawa is able to weigh what she hears objectively and offer her opinions in an eloquent way that does not offend. This is true, even if her opinion is not what you hoped to hear. Ms. Morikawa is compassionate without judgement. Ms. Morikawa's advice is geared towards giving the listener objective options and opinions that empower the listener as opposed to making one feel sorry for himself. I believe this is an asset for Ms. Morikawa if she was to be appointed to the judgeship. Ms. Morikawa is a very hard worker which is apparent in her caseload at Gallagher Kane Amai and balancing her Per Diem judge position at the Family Court. Ms. Morikawa believes in the justice system. It is apparent in her work and fair dealings with her cases.

Ms. Morikawa would be a great asset to the District Court of the First Circuit. Thank you for your time to consider my support of Trish Morikawa.

Sincerely,

Cathy S. Juhn, Esq.
Gallagher Kane Amai, AAL, ALC
Topa Financial Center
745 Fort Street, Suite 1550
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 531-2023 ext. 435
Facsimile: (808) 531-2408
E-mail: cjuhn@insurlawhawaii.com

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: charlene.spt.murata@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC7 on Apr 5, 2017 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 9:07:37 AM

JC7

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for JDL on Apr 5, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Murata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the confirmation of Trish K. Morikawa for the position of District Court judge. I believe that Ms. Morikawa possesses the demeanor and knowledge to perform this role well. Furthermore, her down-to-earth and affable personality will help her connect with people who go through the district court level as many of them are everyday people who do not have any "criminal intent."

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

I am writing in support of Trish K. Morikawa's nomination as a District Judge in the First Circuit.

I have known Trish since 1995 when we were both Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. As Trish progressed through the office, I eventually had the opportunity to work with her in the Career Criminal Division in the early 2000s. During that time, I was able to observe Trish's work ethic, professionalism and trial skills. Trish was prepared for each and every case whenever she appeared in court, knowledgeable about every facet of the case and the applicable law. Additionally, Trish was a team player and always willing to provide assistance whenever anyone needed it.

Trish subsequently left the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney to work in the Criminal Justice Division in the Department of the Attorney General. Again, I had the opportunity to become a colleague of Trish's at the department, albeit in a different division. Trish displayed the same work ethic as a Deputy Attorney General as she did when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

For the past few years, Trish has been working in private practice and serving as a per diem judge in Family Court. Even while working in private practice, Trish has managed to balance her time between effectively representing her clients and fulfilling her duties as a judge.

In addition to practicing law, Trish has also engaged in public service as a commissioner on the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Prior to working in private practice, Trish worked for the City & County of Honolulu as the County Housing Coordinator. While in this position, Trish conducted herself in a professional manner when dealing with the homeless situation within the City.

Based on my professional and personal relationship with Trish over the years, I have no doubt that she possesses the essential qualities and attributes to be a judge. In addition to being smart, organized, efficient, diligent, responsible, and empathetic, Trish has extensive litigation experience. All these qualities enhance her qualifications to be a judge. Having appeared in front of numerous judges throughout my career, I believe the most important qualities for a judge to have are intelligence and demeanor. Trish possesses both of these qualities. More importantly, Trish possesses the legal acumen necessary to be a judge. In conclusion, I support the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Claire W.S. Chinn

Crystal K. Glendon
94-1047 Pumai`a Place
Waipahu, Hawai`i 96797
cglendonpd@gmail.com (808) 392-5402

via email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

Re: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

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

I am writing this letter in support of Trish K. Morikawa’s nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit. I believe Ms. Morikawa is highly qualified for this position, and her exemplary skills as an attorney, per diem judge, leader and level-headed decision maker make her an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

As a trial attorney, Ms. Morikawa’s trial skills are beyond reproach. I’ve known Ms. Morikawa for over twenty years, both personally and professionally. I have been a State deputy public defender for twelve years, and she and I have practiced law against each other while she was a deputy prosecuting attorney. I can certainly say that she is formidable and intimidating in the courtroom. As a deputy prosecuting attorney, she was highly respected by the attorneys of the Office of the Public Defender and the criminal defense bar. She was a straight-shooter who you could trust when dealing with her. I had many cases against her, and I could always trust her to be honest, prepared, and fair.

As a per diem Family Court judge, Ms. Morikawa takes a measured, well-thought-out approach to her role on the bench. She is not hasty in making her decisions and ensures that she is fully informed of all facts and issues before she rules. Ms. Morikawa possesses the right judicial temperament: calm, collected, measured, and firm. She is not someone who flusters easily, and she can handle herself in situations both good and difficult. She has a calm demeanor, and, because she is always prepared and has a strong command of the law, she can manage issues, personalities, and whatever else may come up in her courtroom. I have the utmost respect for her judgment, and often seek it. She is fair and respectful of others’ opinions, even if they may differ from her own. She will carry herself with dignity and pride in all instances when she is presiding over cases.

Ms. Morikawa is highly respected and of the utmost integrity. She has earned my respect over the twenty years that I’ve known her. She is upfront and speaks with candor. If she says she will do something, she will do it. If she believes in something, she will support it. But, importantly, if she is wrong, she will admit it. I believe that this is the true indicator

of one's character. Ms. Morikawa is not so prideful that she cannot admit when she is wrong. While she is on the bench, she will listen with an open mind, not jump to conclusions, and not let her personal feelings impede her ability to rule fairly in cases. I trust her to make the right decisions, which is all we can ask of any judge.

Ms. Morikawa is dedicated to public service as demonstrated in her years as a deputy prosecuting attorney, deputy attorney general, with the City and County housing department, and as a per diem Family Court judge. In each position, the enormity of her responsibility to the public is not lost on her. She was a fair prosecutor who was experienced enough to know that just seeking a win was not her job: seeking justice was. If she didn't have a case or couldn't meet her elements, she acknowledged it. As a per diem judge, she doesn't just show up for her day of court. She juggles her full-time job at the law firm and her family to show up to Kapolei two days in advance to read through her cases and prepare for court. She takes her responsibilities extremely seriously and does not take her service for granted.

Ms. Morikawa will be an asset to the District Court bench. She is intelligent, level-headed, realistic and fair – all qualities that I believe are needed in a judge. She is also organized and can handle the daily grind that is the District Court criminal calendar, while her civil background ensures that she can equally handle any civil matters that come her way. Her extensive experience in both criminal and civil law are an asset to the bench since she can handle with either calendar. The fact that she has been doing this job as a per diem Family Court judge for the past year and a half, where she has sat regularly and attended numerous judicial trainings, is even more of an asset. She will seamlessly transition into the position with minimal training needed. That she has been in private practice since 2010 is an added bonus in that she has been away from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for a long enough period of time that she has limited personal relationships with the new deputy prosecutors practicing in the District Court.

Trish K. Morikawa's nomination is well-deserved and one that I support wholeheartedly. Thank you for considering my letter of support.

Me ka ha`aha`a,

/s/ Crystal K. Glendon

Crystal K. Glendon
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawai'i

Dawnie Ichimura
P.O. Box 30788
Honolulu, HI 96820

March 31, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran
Vice-Chair Rhoads
Members of the Judiciary Committee
c/o Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Trish Morikawa for District Court Judge. I first met Trish at the prosecutor's office. She was there for many years prior to me starting at the office. At one point, we were both in the Career Criminal Unit ("CCU") together.

From the first day I started in CCU, Trish was so friendly and helpful. She had great trial ideas and knew how to effectively resolve cases. I consider myself fortunate to have been mentored by Trish. She taught me so much about how to be a good attorney. I was always impressed by how she got along with judges, opposing counsel, and the staff and attorneys at the prosecutor's office. She was great at strategizing and issue spotting. She is a team player who was always the first to volunteer to help anyone without expecting anything in return. The quality that I most admired in Trish was her efficiency in handling her heavy caseload.

In conclusion, Trish epitomizes everything a good attorney should be—she is intelligent, patient, fair, reasonable, prepared, humble and skilled in court. I have no doubt that she will be able to seamlessly transfer these attributes to the bench.

For all of the above reasons, I know that Trish would be a great district court judge; as such, she has my full support.

Very Truly Yours,



Dawnie Ichimura

Ernest H. Nomura
c/o 530 South King Street, Room 110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 4, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Re: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee **Trish Morikawa**
Hearing: April 5, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

I am a member of the Hawaii Bar since 1988. I have practiced law in the private sector since 1988 at two major law firms in Honolulu. I am currently a government lawyer. I have appeared before many federal and state trial court judges and state and federal appellate court judges. I believe that I am qualified to submit my professional and personal support for the nomination of Trish Morikawa as a judge of the District Court of the Circuit Court for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Ms. Morikawa is an intelligent, temperate, articulate, and compassionate lawyer and will bring to the state court bench the same intelligence, temperateness, articulateness and compassion to all those who will appear before her. She is precisely the kind of judge who we as legal professionals need to appear before and who litigants who find themselves involved in the judicial system need to adjudicate their cases fairly and prudentially.

Ms. Morikawa was with the Mayor's Office of Housing, City and County of Honolulu, when I first was introduced to her. She was critical to the fair, even-handed, and legally compliant enforcement of the City's "stored property ordinance." She treated members of the public compassionately and professionally. She understood the law and applied the law correctly and fairly.

I have come to know Ms. Morikawa outside of work as well. She is Super Mom (some may say a "Tiger Mom" and that's a compliment!), a loving spouse, a consistent and respectful friend.

The Hawaii bench and bar will do well with a judge like Ms. Morikawa. The citizens of the State of Hawaii will be in good judicial hands with a judge like Ms. Morikawa.

Very truly yours,



Ernest H. Nomura

April 1, 2017

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran,
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC7 – Judicial Nominee of Trish K. Morikawa, hearing for April 5, 2017

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

I support wholeheartedly the nomination of Trish Morikawa for District Court Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu). I have known Trish for a little over 20 years; first, when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office during two different stints; when she was a Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Division, when she served under Peter Carlisle's mayoral administration for the City and County of Honolulu, and finally, when she was in the private practice of law with Gallagher, Kane & Amai.

Trish was an excellent and successful trial attorney at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where she rose from the Misdemeanor Division to the Sex Assault Unit, and then to the Career Criminal Unit. Having worked in the private sector she has learned the other aspects of law not often learned in the government sector. Her vast experience on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and a graduate of Kamehameha Schools gives her a feel for Hawaiian issues that ensures she will be sensitive to the problems that face the people of Hawaii.

I believe that Trish has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. Trish has the ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. In addition, she can comport herself appropriately, without losing her composure or equilibrium even under fire. She will make an excellent judge because she is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate.

Trish has a wealth of experience with community involvement in the many different facets in addition to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, she's involved with the Daughters of Hawaii and the Partners in Development Foundation. Besides being an outstanding volleyball player, she's an avid surfer but more importantly, she's a superb mother and wife. All these characteristics make Trish an excellent candidate for Judge of the District Court. I am confident Trish will be an excellent jurist and make sound decisions should you confirm her nomination as a District Court Judge, because she's doing it now as a Per Diem District Family Judge.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on Trish's nomination.

Very truly yours,



Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

April 1, 2017

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

Aloha Chair Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Trish Morikawa who is among the candidates nominated for the position of District Court Judge.

I have known Trish for years, as a Kamehameha School student, a student at University of Pennsylvania and a law student at the William Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai`i. She was an outstanding academic student as well as a valuable participant in sports and social activities at each school in which she was enrolled.

Her work ethic as a student was one that was entirely self-motivated and proved itself in her goals of completing tasks with flawless results.

Trish joined the Daughters of Hawai`i as a very young woman and has maintained consistent ties with the organization. She has shown continuous support and has volunteered annually at its fundraiser. Her commitment to the Daughters has also extended to having her daughter, Julia, join and the two share in this most special experience.

As a young girl, a young woman and now as an adult Trish has exhibited the kind of character that is admirable. Her steadfastness and integrity are traits that have been constant in her life, a life that I have witnessed and respect. She would be an excellent judge and an asset to the District Court.

Most sincerely,
Geraldine Abbey Miyamoto
Pelekikena(President) Ahahui Kaahumahu Honolulu, Chapter I
Former Regent of the Daughters of Hawai`i

From: [Joelle Kane](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony | JC 7 | TRISH K. MORIKAWA, Judicial Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 9:37:29 AM
Importance: High

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

To the Honorable Senator Keith-Agaran,

It is with high regard that I offer this letter in support of TRISH K. MORIKAWA, nominee for District Judge of the First Circuit. It is also with selfish reluctance that I advocate for her nomination, as she is an impact associate of our law firm.

Trish is an experienced and skillful attorney who has practiced both criminal and civil law in the public and private sectors. She is a highly intelligent, skilled and diligent individual who is able to anticipate, articulate and identify complicated issues, as well as formulate and execute thoughtful solutions. Her knowledge of the law is impressive and her qualifications and work ethic are outstanding. Trish has handled numerous complex legal and policy issues and is, in our humble opinion, an outstanding judicial candidate.

She also has an impeccable reputation for her professionalism and civility. Trish has a contemplative and considerate nature, but also the confidence to make the hard decisions faced daily by District Court judges. Her practical and common-sense approach to litigated disputes are equally impressive, often finding simplified means for resolution between the respective parties. Most importantly, Trish is a person of tremendous integrity and high moral values.

While I would hate to see Trish leave our firm, we realize that our loss would be a tremendous gain to the State of Hawai'i, not only to the Judiciary. In that regard, I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and thank you very much for this opportunity. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

/s/

GALLAGHER KANE AMAI, AAL ALC

Joelle Segawa Kane, Esq.

GALLAGHER KANE AMAI

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Fax: (808) 531-2408

Email: jkane@insurlawhawaii.com

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March 31, 2017

Via e-mail: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa
Hearing: April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

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

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Trish K. Morikawa's nomination as a District Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Morikawa for over 10 years. We first met while working at the prosecutor's office in Honolulu. We served together as trial prosecutors in the Career Criminal Division for 2-3 years. Later, we worked together as associates at an insurance defense law firm for about 2 years. In both jobs, I had near daily contact with Ms. Morikawa.

Ms. Morikawa is an even-keeled trial lawyer. She has significant trial experience, and understands the rules of evidence and their practical application in the courtroom. She is comfortable and confident in the courtroom. Whether in jury trial closing arguments, or addressing the concerns of "Occupy Honolulu" protesters (while working as the County Housing Coordinator) in front of a TV camera, Ms. Morikawa always maintains her composure, treats adversaries with respect and dignity, and remains focused on accomplishing her objectives.

As a public servant, in addition to stints as a prosecutor and at the AG's office, Ms. Morikawa has served on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and as the County Housing Coordinator. Both positions required leadership, collaboration and decisiveness in adversarial environments, just as is required by a presiding judge in the courtroom.

Ms. Morikawa has a superb reputation in the legal community. She currently serves as a per diem family court judge. She is held in high regard by prosecutors, defense attorneys (civil and criminal), and personal injury attorneys, along with several sitting District and Circuit Court judges. She is a well-prepared, respected adversary.

Ms. Morikawa will exceed all expectations as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. She is intelligent, creative, experienced, efficient, affable, well-spoken and quick on her feet. The brunt of Ms. Morikawa's legal career has been in the courtroom, and that is where she belongs.

Sincerely,



Jon S. Jacobs

Kathleen O. Ahina-Nua

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Phone:

February 16, 2017

Via Email: chiefjustice@courts.hawaii.gov

Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald
Supreme Court of Hawaii
417 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chief Justice Recktenwald:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Trish Morikawa to the position of judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I met Trish in 2005 while I was working at the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (“DHHL”). I was the assistant to the Director, Micah A. Kane. As you know, DHHL is overseen by a commission that has been approved by the State Legislature and Trish acted as one of the commissioners. I personally observed Trish act as a DHHL commissioner for 6 years.

Coming from a Hawaiian background and as a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Trish was fully qualified to act as a DHHL Commissioner. Having a “Hawaiian heart” is a plus when acting as a commissioner of your peers.

Each month, I attended these commission meetings and saw first-hand the challenges a commissioner faced. There were many times when Trish had to make difficult and sometimes heart wrenching decision about DHHL lessees.

For example, at a contested case hearing a commissioner must decide if a DHHL lessee will be evicted from their home because of non-payment or illegal activities. Many were the times when a lessee would come before the commission and plead NOT to be evicted even though they had been warned many times beforehand that they needed to contact DHHL to prevent eviction.

At these hearings, I observed Trish month after month come to the hearing well prepared; asked questions that were pertinent to the lessee; and if appropriate, make the decision to vote yes or no. Trish knows her laws for sure.

But maybe just as important, she can “read between the lines” to determine if someone is not telling the complete truth. I’ve heard her call out a lessee for an inappropriate response to questions; heard her scold lessees for not responding to DHHL letters and phone calls. Trish is no push over.

Trish can be tough. When someone tried to pull “a fast one” and not tell the complete truth, she caught that right away. She’s a good judge of people.


And Trish has a big heart. When elderly kupuna came before the commission and appeared bewildered by the process, she slowed everything down to be sure the kupuna understood what was happening. More often, Trish would vote to give the kupuna another opportunity to receive counseling from DHHL to find a way to keep a roof over a kupuna’s head and to keep her family together.

On a personal side, Trish is a family centered person. In addition to working in a busy law office, she is a wife and mother to 2 children. She does all of this with a heart of Aloha.

I ask that you give Trish your consideration to being a Judge at the District Court of the First Circuit. I believe she will act fairly when necessary but be tough as nails when appropriate. Trish's decisions as a Judge I believe will always be made in a fair and just manner to anyone appearing before her.

Please feel free to contact me at _____ should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen O. Ahina-Nua

March 31, 2017

State Senate Judicial Committee

JC 7 Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017, 9:30am.

Aloha Chairman Keith-Aragan, Vice Chairman Karl Rhodes, and Members of the Judicial Committee.

I would like to submit testimony in full support for Trish Morikawa for District Court Judge. I have known Trish personally for over 14 years. Trish served two full terms as the Oahu Commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or eight years while I left as Chairman of the DHHL Commission in 2012. She was professional and during contested case hearings and lawsuits, took the lead for the Commissioners in working with our assigned State Attorney Generals.

Additionally, Trish has served on the Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF) Board for the past two years and has already made an impact towards potential lawsuits against PIDF. She possesses the leadership qualities to be an excellent judge understanding the balance between law and the people she serves.

As a graduate of Kamehameha Schools combined with her higher education success and the years of experience in law in both the public and private sector, she makes for a solid choice as a judge.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in full support for Trish.

Mahalo and aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaulana H.R. Park". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "P".

Kaulana H.R. Park

665 Kealahou Street

Honolulu, HI 96825

w.808.521.2641

April 3, 2017

Re: **JC7 - Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

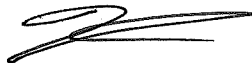
Dear Chairperson Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

This letter is written in support of Trish K. Morikawa for District Court Judge. I have known Mrs. Morikawa since law school at William S. Richardson School of Law and she has always been a very hard worker with great integrity.

I recently completed a case with Mrs. Morikawa where I represented a defendant and Mrs. Morikawa represented a co-defendant. Throughout the case, Mrs. Morikawa showed great professionalism and exhibited a very even temperament despite a long and arduous case. She worked hard throughout and was courteous to all involved. I believe the personality and character shown during that case will assist Mrs. Morikawa in serving as a District Court Judge and I wholeheartedly endorse Mrs. Morikawa's nomination.

Thank you for your consideration. If there are any questions, please contact me on my direct line at 591-5778.

Sincerely,



Kekuailohia M. Beamer

March 31, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 7- Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30

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

I strongly support the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Morikawa for many years, and have the utmost respect for her intelligence, knowledge of the law, integrity and fairness. We met at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

She has proved herself to be hard working, diligent, and thoughtful, and has garnered the respect of others in the legal community. Her present position as a per diem District Family Court judge has provided good training to segue to the bench. She would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Judiciary, and does not bring an agenda with her. Rather, she would be guided by the law, compassion for the plight of the less fortunate, and dedication to justice and fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K. Takata', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K. Takata, Esq.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
235 S. Beretania Street, Ste. 300
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 016
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 7 – Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa

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

I am respectfully writing in strong support of judicial nominee Trish Morikawa for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.


I have known Trish for 25 years in a professional and personal capacity. We worked together at the Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's Office for many years. She is by far one of the finest and most memorable attorneys I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with and supervising. Trish possesses many traits which I believe would serve a judgeship well. She is extremely diligent, intelligent, hard-working, fair, compassionate, efficient, resourceful, dependable, and has an extremely positive attitude. I have found Trish to be exceptionally grounded in principles, values, and integrity. On countless occasions, I have seen how well she works and interacts with people yet stays true to the law and her convictions.

Trish has also served for a number of years on the Hawaiian Homes Commission as a Commissioner and has been actively engaged in our community. She has always been committed to her family, her children, and improving our state. She thrives in a life with purpose and accountability so I cannot imagine a better candidate.

Presently, she works for Gallagher Kane Amai practicing civil litigation and is a per diem judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit thereby demonstrating the breadth of her legal abilities and professional experience. Respectfully, I ask that you strongly consider this nominee as she has dedicated her life to public service and improving our community. She would be an outstanding District Court judge and, by her own actions, understands as well as values the importance of our judiciary system.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

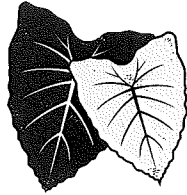
My name is Landon M.M. Murata and I **strongly support** the confirmation of Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Morikawa since at least as far back as 2003 when I was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Virginia Lea Crandall. I got to know her better while we were both employed as deputy prosecuting attorneys in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's Career Criminal Division. In 2009, Ms. Morikawa and I were co-counsel in the prosecution of a 1978 murder. The jury trial in that case lasted several weeks and Ms. Morikawa and I spent countless hours working to obtain justice for the victim in that case. And justice was indeed served.

Based on my experience with Ms. Morikawa over the many years I have known her and through our close, professional relationship, I can say without a doubt that she has exactly what it takes to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of a district court judge. While Ms. Morikawa and I have very different litigation styles, I have always looked up to her as a perfect example of what an attorney should be, not just as a technically sound professional, but as valued member of our community and a truly good person.

Ms. Morikawa's integrity and intelligence are above reproach. In terms of her legal knowledge, ability, and professional experience, I would not hesitate to consult her on any issue, be it civil or criminal. While I fully expect her judicial temperament, like her actual temperament, will be both measured and professional, I believe she also has profound capacity to render her decisions with compassion and with a full understanding of the practical realities of any given situation. Similarly, I have no doubt that she will execute the duties and responsibilities the position in a manner consistent with the highest ethical and judicial standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Judicial Nominee, Trish K. Morikawa.



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

February 16, 2017

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

Subject: **JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.**

Gentlemen,

I am writing to urge your selection of Ms. Trish Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Morikawa has served on the Board of Directors of Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) since February 2015. PIDF is a non-profit organization that has served over 80,000 at-risk children and families throughout the state for the past 20 years through educational and social service programs, including the only safe house for adjudicated young males on O'ahu and the statewide foster parent recruitment program. As an officer of PIDF, I have had the pleasure of observing Ms. Morikawa's service on the PIDF Board and have appreciated the energy, intelligence, passion, and insight she has brought to the diverse issues we face in our service to those in need.

Her work in the judicial system combined with her understanding of social issues and the cultural diversity of our community have prepared her for the position on the District Court. I am confident she will bring legal excellence and compassion to the court and also a finely tuned cultural insight to the issues and individuals she will oversee in her court. Her understanding of the host culture and her history of service to the community will make her an outstanding part of our judicial system. I urge her appointment.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Laura R. Dang
Vice President of Administration/
Secretary

April 1, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Chairperson Keith-Agaran
Vice Chairperson Karl Rhodes

Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Ms. Trish Morikawa who is a nominee for District Court Judge.

I have known Ms. Morikawa for most of our lives, as we grew up next door to each other. Our families attended the same church in Kailua and we went to the same grade school. As we grew up, we started our own families, began our own career and different lives.

As a Honolulu Police Officer working in Kailua, I remember testifying in Kaneohe District Court with Trish as the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. As a young, DPA trying traffic court cases, she was professional and knowledgeable. The most distinguishing quality that I felt she had was her passion for her job. She stood her ground, argued her cases against some of the big name DUI attorneys, and never backed down. While sitting on the witness stand, it was impressive to see her determination, preparedness and work ethics.

After being promoted, I was later assigned to the Honolulu Police Department's Civil Affairs Detail, where our paths crossed again. One of my duties was working with Trish who was the Mayor's Coordinator for Office of Housing. As you can imagine, dealing with the homeless in Chinatown and the Occupy Honolulu Movement in Thomas Square was a difficult task. Trish took on this assignment with the same traits she had as a DPA, but there was another distinguishing quality that was very prominent, her compassion. Even though it was a difficult situation, her compassion for the people she was trying to help was obvious and stood out. After months of working with the same characters on the street, they came to trust her and really believed she was there trying to help their situation.

I was honored when Trish told me that she was a candidate for the District Court Judge vacancy. Honored that been though I have been retired from the Honolulu Police Department with 30 years of service, she sought me out and asked for my support. I was ecstatic when she told me that she was nominated for the Judge position by Chief Justice Recktenwald and needed a letter of support for her confirmation hearing with the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Members of the Committee
Page 2

Ms. Morikawa will be dedicated to the administration of justice by being fair and impartial, and her dignity and commitment will promote public trust and confidence. I truly believe that Ms. Morikawa will bring the characteristics I have described in this letter, to the bench and the people who come before her.

In closing, I sincerely appreciate your time and respectfully request you to confirm Ms. Trish Morikawa for the next District Court of Honolulu.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence F. Santos Jr." in a cursive style.

Lawrence F. Santos Jr.
1666 Paukiki Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 256-2887

April 4, 2017

Via email to JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chair Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair Rhoads
Members of the Committee

RE: JC 7 – JUDICIAL NOMINEE TRISH MORIKAWA, HEARING APRIL 5, 2017 AT 9:30 A.M.

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

I am writing to express my support of the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa as a District Court Judge to the First Circuit. I have been a friend and colleague of Trish for almost five years. I met Trish while working as Associate General Counsel for Hawai'i Gas and worked closely with her on a civil matter she handled on behalf of the company.

While working on this civil matter, I became acquainted with Trish both professionally and personally and was impressed by her keen legal knowledge and ability and her strong dedication to the community. I learned that through her prior involvement with the County Housing Coordinator with the City and County of Honolulu Office of Housing, Trish was heavily involved with community outreach to the homeless living on the Leeward Coast in Makaha. This is a cause that is dear to me as I was raised in Waianae and continue to have strong ties to the community. I know Trish to be deeply committed to public service and the health and well-being of our local residents. I have the utmost confidence that Trish has the judicial temperament needed to faithfully carry out and fulfill the responsibilities and duties of serving as a District Court Judge to the First Circuit.

I know Trish to be financially responsible, diligent and fair. I believe her legal experience in both private practice and government gives her a broad and well-rounded background that will allow her to excel in this role. I also believe that this position will allow Trish to fulfill her dedication and commitment to serving the people of Hawai'i and I wholeheartedly support her nomination. If I can provide any additional comments or support on Trish's behalf, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Lianna L. Figueroa, Esq.

Phone: (808) 291-7970
JD Number: 9173

April 4, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and
Members of the Committee
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

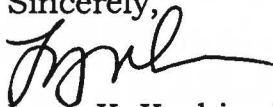
I am writing to express my support of Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa.

So that you understand the perspective I write from, I wanted to share a little bit about my background. I began my legal career nineteen years ago at the Prosecutor's Office. It was at the Prosecutor's Office where I met Trish. I was newly assigned to the Felony Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit. As you know, many of these cases involve child-victims having to discuss very personal and intimate details and there was no shortage of raw emotion and deep indescribable hurt. Prosecuting these cases was not only legally challenging but also very taxing, so much so that it was almost too much for me to bear. Lucky for me, Trish became one of my mentors. She taught me how to handle the emotions and focus on truth and justice. She is empathetic with the victims and families but has a knack of spotting truths, falsities and sorting through the "grey areas."

Not unlike the sex assault case, emotions run high for all litigants no matter why they are in Court. I personally believe that the great judges are legally savvy and can manage their courtroom. Trish excels in both areas. She is fair, practical, empathic, a great time manager, sensible and decisive. Additionally, Trish has the legal savvy and experience in the areas of the Family or District Courts that will serve her well.

Trish has a very charismatic and infectious personality. Even beyond her exterior, Trish is one of the most approachable, intelligent, articulate and diplomatic persons that I know. I hope you regard Trish as highly as I do.

Sincerely,



Lynn K. Kashiwabara

Lynne Jenkins McGivern
Post Office Box 240801
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821-08

March 31, 2017

Via e-mail - JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Senate Judicial Committee
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Recommendation for Trish K. Morikawa

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

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Trish K. Morikawa for the District Court judgeship for which she has been nominated.

Please be advised that most recently I have appeared before Trish in the Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii where she has been sitting as a per diem judge. I practice Family Law with Ashford and Wriston LLP. Trish presided over three of my cases in the last month or so. I observed her to have a great deal of equanimity, poise, and courtroom control. One of my cases presented particular challenges for Trish because the opposing attorney was someone who often gives the judges a hard time (no matter who the judge is), and he acted consistently therewith at the hearing. However, Trish handled him and the situation adeptly, and without getting upset, which was no small feat. I have conferred with other family law attorneys, and they have also had very positive feedback to offer on Trish's performance as a judge in Family Court to date.

I have known Trish for many years. I first met her in approximately 1996 at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I was Branch Chief of the Domestic Violence Teams, and Trish was a deputy on the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor Team.

I considered myself to be extremely fortunate to have her in my area, as did her peers. The prosecution of the misdemeanor Abuse of Family and Household Member cases is very difficult. Trish was well-liked by her peers, victims, office staff, and the judges. She was diligent, empathetic, and hardworking.

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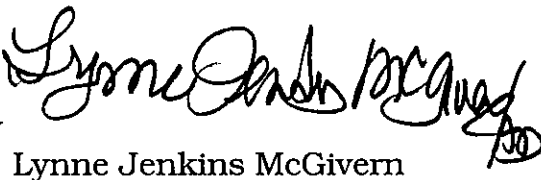
The Senate Judicial Committee
Re: Trish K. Morikawa
March 31, 2017
Page 2

As a past president of Hawaii Women Lawyers, I am a staunch advocate for the advancement of women in the legal community and for the appointment of more women attorneys to the bench. Women are still underrepresented in the judiciary. Trish will have an excellent judicial demeanor and her appointment to the District Court would be a credit to the state and to the community.

In sum, the community will be extremely fortunate if Trish is appointed to the bench. I thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and I invite you to contact me if you would like any further information. I can be reached at 539-0438.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON
A Limited Liability Law Partnership

By 
Lynne Jenkins McGivern

LJM:agd

March 31, 2017

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

Testimony for JC 7, Trish K. Morikawa
Hearing Date: April 5, 2017

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

I am writing in strong support of Trish Morikawa, a nominee for District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I worked with Ms. Morikawa while at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, under Prosecuting Attorney Peter Carlisle and Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro. Ms. Morikawa and I were both assigned to the Career Criminal Unit.

During this time, Ms. Morikawa acted as an invaluable mentor to me as well as countless other deputies in the unit and throughout the office. Ms. Morikawa patiently explained difficult subjects ranging from information charging, repeat offender and extended term sentencing, and trial procedures in a manner that left me comfortable and confident in my abilities to handle these areas. While it is evident that Ms. Morikawa is a highly intelligent individual able to grasp complex legal issues, she made it clear to me through the example she set that the keys to her effectiveness as an attorney were hard work, discipline, and humility. These were traits that I saw on display each time Ms. Morikawa approached a case and in her interactions with law enforcement agencies, defense attorneys, and members of the public.

Even after leaving the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and now working at DCCA, I have remained in contact with Ms. Morikawa, soliciting her advice on civil and administrative matters.

I have never gotten the impression from Ms. Morikawa that I was wasting her time or that I was asking a “stupid” question during the numerous times I sought her counsel. These interactions not only revealed her extensive legal knowledge and trial skills, but also gave me insight into her character. Even though Ms. Morikawa is a far more experienced attorney than I, she always treated me as a peer and in turn solicited my advice on matters.

On a personal note, Ms. Morikawa is a warm, caring, and compassionate person who has a self-deprecating sense of humor. She is devoted to her family and community and treats others with respect and civility. These are traits that are critical for a District Court Judge as they are often the “face” of the Judiciary in interacting with members of the public. I know that Ms. Morikawa will make a great judge and I look forward to appearing in front of her.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in favor of Ms. Morikawa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MN', written over a horizontal line.

Marc Nakamura

Attorney

Hawaii Bar Number 8167

DEELEY KING PANG & VAN ETTEN

WILLIAM J. DEELEY
DENNIS W. KING*
F. STEVEN PANG
ALAN VAN ETTEN

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP
PAUAAHI TOWER
1003 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1550
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-6444
TELEPHONE: (808) 533-1751
FACSIMILE: (808) 599-2908

DENNIS W. KING, Esq.
dww@dkpvlaw.com

MEGAN KAU, Esq.
mk@dkpvlaw.com

JAMES A. KAWACHIKA*
COUNSEL

JOHN WINNICKI
ZHONGLI YU*
AARON LOESER
ERIC SEELEMAN
TRISTAN ANDRES
MEGAN KAU

* A LAW CORPORATION
* LICENSED ONLY IN CALIFORNIA

March 31, 2017

Chair Keith-Agaran,
Vice Chair Rhoads, and
Members of the Committee
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Via E-Mail

Re: **JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, Hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.**

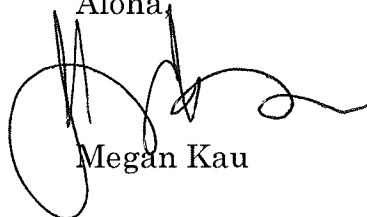
To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of judicial nominee Trish Morikawa. I support her nomination because she is an intelligent, competent, and compassionate person and attorney. I know Trish from working alongside her at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I started there in March 2006 but did not work with Trish until 2008. She was a reliable mentor. She was always able to answer my questions and lead me in the right direction. She treated everyone with the same compassionate and helpful tone. She also has excellent demeanor. I have never seen her lose her temper or treat anyone unfairly.

Since we parted ways in approximately 2010, I have kept in regular contact with her. I don't see her very often but I talk to her maybe once every month. Even in the civil realm, Trish is known to be reasonable, knowledgeable, and diligent.

I completely support Trish in becoming a judge. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Aloha,



Megan Kau

Micah A. Kāne

45-135 Moamahi Way
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
(808) 436-5200

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

It's with high regard that I submit this letter in strong support of Trish Morikawa in your consideration for filling the District Court Judge position.

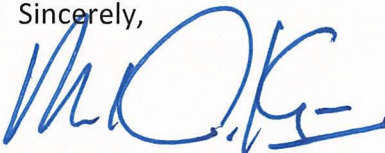
I have known Trish for more than 30 years. Trish has the background, demeanor, broad legal knowledge, intellect and diligence that will make her an excellent judge. She is always prepared for the work at hand, always gives due consideration to various points of view and has always been someone that treats people with respect and impartiality.

Having served with Trish for two terms as a Commissioner for the Hawaiian Homes Commission, I have come to respect her capacity, empathy and perspectives in dealing with very difficult situations. As Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, I would often look to her for guidance and perspective on many of the difficult issues we addressed.

Trish has a decorated background both academically and athletically. However, beyond her many accomplishments, she is a model mother, wife and leader. While I am sure there are many women in Hawaii who are qualified to fill this vacancy, I believe Trish is special. As a father of three daughters I often point to her as an example for them to look to; a statement that I do not make lightly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Micah A. Kāne

Michael J. Chun, PhD

April 3, 2017

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha e Honorable Senator Keith-Agaran,

My name is Michael J. Chun and I am writing in strong support of Trish K. Morikawa's confirmation as District Court judge. Trish and I serve as directors for Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF), a not-for-profit organization that provides educational and social services throughout the State of Hawai'i. It is in this capacity that I have come to know and appreciate her impressive intelligence, strong character and personal chemistry — attributes and qualities that will serve her well as District Court judge.

PIDF delivers a host of services funded by public and private grants and contracts to a wide range of beneficiaries, with special emphasis on the very young and the most in need. For our funding efforts to be successful, these programs must meet high standards of relevancy, accountability and effectiveness, all of which are monitored closely by the Board. It is within this context that Trish has demonstrated perceptive insight, ethical values and collaborative spirit. She questions for clarity, listens for understanding and deliberates without bias — crucial qualities for a judge in our judicial system. Her engagement with PIDF staff is genuine and sincere, and is an important factor in the trust they have in her judgment and wisdom. Her presence and contributions have clearly strengthened our board and the work that we do.

In addition to her perceptive insights and thoughtful judgment, Trish's legal expertise has been extremely valuable in minimizing PIDF's liability exposure, which is especially crucial given the clients we serve. Her legal knowledge and judgment have informed the Board's deliberations at both the strategic and program levels.

A person's character, competence, commitment and chemistry are key qualities in determining how well a person "fits" into an organization. Character rooted in integrity earns trust. Competence measured as expert brings credibility. Commitment to ideals generates respect. Chemistry based on rapport encourages engagement. These are qualities that Trish Morikawa has consistently demonstrated throughout her career and personal life and are qualities that will serve her well as judge in District Court. Her knowledge is impressive; however, it is how she uses this knowledge in exercising her judgment that provides the wisdom sorely needed when sitting on the bench.

Post Office Box 30791, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96820 michaeljchun@gmail.com

My support of Trish Morikawa for confirmation as District Court judge is genuinely enthusiastic and without reservation. Mahalo nui loa for considering my endorsement.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

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

Michael J. Chun, PhD

March 31, 2017

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: C7 – JUDICIAL NOMINEE TRIS MORIKAWA, HEARING
APRIL 5, 2107 AT 9:30 A.M.

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am sending this communication to you in support of Trish Morikawa for appointment as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit, in the State of Hawaii.

I serve with Trish on the Board of Directors of Partners In Development Foundation, a non-profit entity that primarily serves the disadvantaged Hawaiian community in our state. The foundation has eleven programs, with "Tutu and Me," a traveling pre-school that goes into disadvantaged Hawaiian communities, as its flagship program. The program is designed to educate children 0-5, in order for them to at least attain academic equality with other children, when they later enter kindergarten or first grade. This program has been so successful that we have trained the staff of the National YMCA to implement it, under its own nomenclature, in their facilities nationwide. We have several homeless programs, with the only educational program for homeless children in the nation. We have also taken over the entire Foster Care program from the State of Hawaii. We also administer and operate a Safe House of delinquent adolescent boys in Kalaeloa. For more information about our foundation, you may go to its website at: www.pidfoundation.org

Along with another individual, Tris is the newest, and I believe the youngest, member of the Board of Directors of our foundation. However, with her



background in law, she has been providing invaluable assistance and guidance to our staff and our board on legal matters.

Trish is an intelligent individual, who is very proactive in getting things done, and possesses solid Christian values. As an outstanding woman, and a person of Hawaiian ancestry who had graduated from Kamehameha Schools, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Hawaii Law School, I believe that, with her background and experience, Trish would be an outstanding District Court Judge in our State of Hawaii.

Should you have questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me at 595-3936, or via email.

ALOHA ke AKUA ia `oe!



**Morris Takushi
Chairman, Program Committee
Hawaii Prayer Breakfast**

**Co-founder and Emeritus Board Member
Partners In Development Foundation**

From: [Oz Stender](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC-7 Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa/Hearing onn April 5, 2017
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:50:54 AM

Chair Keith Agaran: Aloha Chair Agaran and Committee Members: My name is Oswald Stender, retired Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and former Trustee of the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate. This memo is with reference to your consideration for recommendation to the full Senate the confirmation of Ms. Trish Morikawa to the position of District Court judge. I write this memo in support of Trish whom I have known since she was a young teenage hula dancer with Halau Mohala Ilima. I have watched her grow and mature through her days at Kamehameha Schools and have provided her financial support through her years at college and have followed her early career in law. I strongly believe that she has all the qualities that make her fit for the position of a judge in the judicial system. I need not recant her educational or work history detail as you most likely have all of that at this point in time. I do want to point out however, Tisha's community involvement with Partners-In-Development: the Hawaiian Home Lands and Alignment Hawaii Initiatives. I mention these these organizations because these are life's experiences that point out Trish's passion and commitment to family and her community.. These are life's experiences that give her grounding to deal with issues that the people of her ethnicity who, in disproportionate numbers, are fumbling through the judicial system. Trish has the qualities and life's experiences to help them. In closing I sincerely support and strongly recommend Trish Morikawa to fill the position of District Court judge. Mahalo. Oz Stender.

April 4, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 7 Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa, District Court of the First Circuit
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in strong support of the District Court judicial nomination of Trish K. Morikawa. I have known Ms. Morikawa for over twenty years. Our paths first crossed when we were both deputy prosecutors at the Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Ms. Morikawa is a dedicated, compassionate, diligent, and highly skilled trial attorney with an outstanding work ethic. She is highly effective both in and out of the courtroom not only because of her ability to analyze complex legal issues, but also because of her ability to respectfully communicate with others. As a deputy prosecutor, Ms. Morikawa was always a selfless with her time and experience in training others. She was always a consummate team player, who never hesitated to lend a hand.

Equally important, Ms. Morikawa can appreciate divergent points of view and successfully encourage parties, including multiple government and private entities, to collaborate, as evidenced by her work as the County Housing Coordinator. I have had the opportunity to work with and observe Ms. Morikawa in the courtroom, in the office, at multi-agency meetings, and at homeless operations. She treats everyone fairly and respectfully – colleagues, staff, the judiciary, opposing counsel, defendants, witnesses, representatives in the legislative branch and executive branch of county government, social service providers, and the residentially challenged whom she encountered in her operations.

Our careers have now taken us on different paths – she as a civil litigator and per diem judge, and I at the Department of Public Safety. We, however, have always been in communication and have shared our experiences as we have pursued our careers and raised our children. Ms. Morikawa believes that she has benefitted from her education and truly wants to give back and serve the community. She has served as a DHHL Commissioner to give back to her Native Hawaiian community. She has served many victims, including many child sex assault victims, as a deputy prosecutor, and worked with outreach and service providers to provide services and shelter to those affected by the homeless operations as County Housing Coordinator. She instills the values of gratitude and giving back in her children.

Ms. Morikawa has juggled a legal career, her family, her two children's extra-curricular activities of which there are many, and her volunteer work. She is a perfect combination of keen mind and big heart. She cares. She cares about how her actions and decisions affects the lives of others. She is honest, direct, diligent, and believes in doing the right thing, even if that decision may be unfavorable or difficult, and she instills these values in her children. If she were selected as judge, the Judiciary, and more importantly, the people of our State, would benefit from Ms. Morikawa's intellect, honesty, and commitment and dedication to making our community a better place to live.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee R. Sonobe Hong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Renee R. Sonobe Hong

February 23, 2017

MARK E. RECKTENWALD
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Hawai'i
417 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am forwarding my unconditional support and strong recommendation for TRISH K. MORIKAWA as a judicial nominee for the Honolulu District judgeship.

I have been a Victim Witness Advocate employed by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorneys Office for the past 24 years. For the first 15 of the last 24 years, I have had the pleasure of working together closely with former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Trish K. Morikawa.

During all my professional encounters with Ms. Morikawa, she has continually displayed extraordinary legal and personal skills in and out of the courtroom. Her legal skills, tenacity and high-level of intelligence has earned her the respect of her colleagues. She would always demonstrate much compassion and empathy while simultaneously seeking justice for the victims.

I have always been impressed with the way Ms. Morikawa is able to balance a professional career as an attorney, she previously sat on the Board of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, while at the same time being an extraordinary wife and mother. Ms. Morikawa's reputation in our community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship is unblemished and highly regarded by all that know her.

Ms. Morikawa not only would be an excellent judge, but she would exceed all expectations and be a huge asset to the judicial system. She has the uncanny ability to simultaneously be professional while relating to people on personal level, while maintaining compassion and fairness. Very few people have this unique compliment of skills which is sorely needed in our judicial system today.

Trish is not just a former co-worker to me; she has become a part of my family. I am fortunate to have been able to work closely with her, but more importantly, I have been blessed to be friends with her also. Our families have vacationed many times together and Trish truly amazed me with her organization skills even while on vacation.

Trish K. Morikawa is an excellent role-model and I am proud to say that my 17 year old daughter looks up to and has the utmost respect for her Aunty Trish.

I can be contacted at mobile (808) 387-1710 if any further inquiries are desired.

Respectfully,

Rhona A. Collins



THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD H.S. SING

NIMITZ BUSINESS CENTER
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE B-299
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

TELEPHONE: (808) 532-3800
FACSIMILE: (808) 532-3804
EMAIL: RICKSING@HAWAII.RR.COM

April 3, 2017

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

RE: JC7 for Ms. Trish Morikawa, District Court of the First Circuit, Judge – In Support
Set 4/5/17 at 9:30am, conference room 016

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Trish Morikawa, Esq. for a District 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.

Ms. Morikawa is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. She has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical “in the trenches” experience as a prosecutor, Per Diem Family Court Judge, and private attorney. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Trish Morikawa.

Outside of her professional life, Ms. Morikawa is a caring and devoted parent, who treats others with respect and fairness. She is levelheaded and compassionate. She possesses the best of the traits that we hope for ourselves. I trust her as a friend and colleague, and believe that our community needs and deserves Ms. Morikawa 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

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Regarding JC7
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair
Thursday, Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Respectfully Submitted By Richard K. Perkins, Circuit Judge (Retired)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit Court.

I have known Trish for more than twenty years. She first appeared before me in the mid-1990's as a deputy prosecuting attorney. From the beginning, she stood out among the young prosecutors who appeared in my courtroom in terms of intelligence, diligence, preparation, and temperament. She was tenacious as an advocate — it was clear that she cared — but always under control emotionally (which is often difficult for even experienced litigators). Her presentations were thoughtful and well organized and she had good command of the rules of evidence and penal procedure. In her dealings with the court and defense attorneys, she was tough, fair, and unfailingly honest.

While all of this together with her many years of courtroom experience as a litigator and per diem judge easily qualify her to sit on the district court bench, Trish Morikawa is much more than just a good lawyer. She has been involved for years in matters affecting the native Hawaiian community, including service on the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and has worked as a Honolulu County housing coordinator charged with addressing, among other things, the hugely difficult issue of homelessness. She has been able to balance her work responsibilities with her obligations as a wife and mother — and as a daughter caring for her own ailing mother. She appears to be fully engaged in a life of service and commitment to doing the right thing.

If confirmed, Trish Morikawa will be a competent, caring, certainly excellent and perhaps exceptional district judge.

1542 Kupau Street
Kailua, HI 96734

March 31, 2017

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol
E-mail: <JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

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

Re: JC 7 – Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Trish Morikawa for District Court Judge. When I think of a judge, I think of someone of unquestionable integrity who is knowledgeable, articulate, fair, committed to the task at hand, and has a strong sense of conviction. Trish exemplifies all of these traits, so in my view she is an ideal candidate. Furthermore, she is well-rounded with over two decades of experience in a variety of courtroom settings, including her work as a per diem judge, and as a prosecutor of career criminals, sexual offenders, child exploitation offenders, and other felons as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu and a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i, and more recently as an attorney for insurance and civil cases. While her colleagues know of her legal expertise, I would like to highlight a different side of Trish--her commitment to serve the Hawai'i community.

I have known Trish for 7 years, initially as a fellow American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) soccer parent on the fields of Kailua and Waimanalo, and more recently when we were asked by the Warrior Soccer head coach to serve as the team parents/coordinators for our sons' premium soccer teams. (Trish has been the team parent for the younger division of the Warriors and I am the team parent for the older division of the Warriors.) Premium soccer team players train all year long and participate in two major seasons per year (fall and spring), for leagues such as the Hawai'i Youth Soccer Association (HYSA) and the Junior Men's Island Soccer Organization (MISO). In her role as team parent for the past three years, she interfaced between the coaches and parents, a diverse group of people brought together by their son's love of soccer. As premium soccer players, these boys had to demonstrate a high level of skill in order to make the soccer team, but there was a fair amount of turnover every season in the younger division. Bringing together a diverse group of parents, with a new bunch of parents thrown into the mix every season, involved a lot of Trish's time, patience, coordination and organization skills, and a good attitude! Her role included getting to know the new parents and players, updating contact lists and the team website, sending out frequent parent communications, compiling parent surveys and reporting back to the head coach, collecting fees, chasing parents to submit player registration paperwork by the deadline, coordinating the snack assignments, distributing and collecting the uniforms each season, organizing potlucks and team bonding events, and doing whatever was asked of her by the coaches and parents. It

has been a pleasure working so closely with Trish for these three years. We would brainstorm on how to handle difficult situations, and I could always count on Trish to offer a pragmatic approach and get things done. Keep in mind that this is a volunteer position, and even when her son decided to take a break from soccer each fall season to play football, Trish cheerfully carried on her year-'round team parent duties for Warrior Soccer, even though he only participated during our spring seasons. That speaks of her commitment to completing what she was tasked to do and supports her goal to give back to the community.

While law-enforcement officials serve the Hawai'i community by keeping our citizens safe, Trish is committed to serving our community beyond the courtroom. She helps those less fortunate and those in need, including the homeless, by volunteering as a board member for Partners in Development Foundation and working with other non-profit agencies. Trish's quest to serve our community extends to how she is raising her children. She encourages and supports her son's and daughter's participation as buddies in AYSO's Very Important Player (VIP) soccer program, where VIP buddies help special needs soccer players participate in the sport by assisting them (one-on-one) on the soccer field during games and also at the annual Kirk Banks tournament. This is just one example of how Trish is dedicated to ensuring the next generation continues to give back to the Hawai'i community.

Trish is a remarkable professional who is able to balance her career, family, and community-service activities. Her appointment as a judge is the logical next step to continue her commitment to serve the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rona Ikehara-Quebral". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rona Ikehara-Quebral, Ph.D.
Senior Bioarchaeologist & Business Manager
International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.
Cell.: (808) 497-4501
E-mail: <rikehara_quebral@hotmail.com>

Rowena Anelaaulii Somerville, Esq.
1302 Aloha Oe Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 258-2717
hirowena@yahoo.com

April 11, 2003

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Rm. 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Confirmation of Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court
of the First Circuit

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran,

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am writing in **strong support** of Judicial Nominee Trish K. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Morikawa and I were colleagues for nine years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. She is a highly skilled and effective trial attorney. She has the ability to evaluate cases, serve as a mediator/arbitrator, and she does so with strong compassion. She has an impeccable reputation both in and out of the courtroom, and she has furthered her career in the Department of the Attorney General's office, private practice, and most currently as a Per Diem Judge.

As a current Hearings Officer for the State of Hawaii and former Deputy Attorney General, I have confidence in Ms. Morikawa's ability to effectively serve as a District Court Judge. She is fair, compassionate, and has outstanding judicial temperament. As she has proven from her work experience, she will perform her duties with diligence and integrity.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration of the confirmation of Ms. Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at the above numbers.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Rowena A. Somerville

From: [LAW OFFICES OF SCOTT K. COLLINS](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 7 - Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 10:29:11 AM
Attachments: [MORIKAWA,TRISH SKC 2-23-2017 LTR TO CHIEF JUSTICE.pdf](#)
[MORIKAWA,TRISH SKC 3-19-2017 SKC LTR TO HSBA.pdf](#)

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

I respectfully submit the above letters of support for District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA. The above letters were recently sent to both Chief Justice MARK RECKTENWALD and to the Hawaii State Bar Association as I feel very strongly about supporting TRISH MORIKAWA. I am unable to attend to present live testimony due to a required court hearing that requires my presence.

As both of my above attached letters indicate, TRISH MORIKAWA is not only highly qualified for the position, but she would most certainly be an asset to the judicial system. I have had the unique opportunity to observe the judicial system first as a police officer for 13 years, then as a deputy prosecutor for the next 10 years, and currently have been in private practice for the last 20 years. During this time I have observed and interacted with numerous judges. I highly respect and admire TRISH MORIKAWA, have no doubt whatsoever that she would be an excellent and outstanding judge, and that our judicial system as a whole will greatly benefit from her sense of fairness, intellect, experience and judicial temperament.

Chief Justice RECKTENWALD nominated TRISH MORIKAWA from the numerous applicants who were scrutinized very intensely and thoroughly. This fact alone speaks volumes and only further validates my unconditional support and recommendation for TRISH MORIKAWA.

Please seriously consider my letters of unconditional support for District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH MORIKAWA.

Respectfully,

Scott K. Collins, Esq.

LAW OFFICES OF SCOTT K. COLLINS
Scott K. Collins, Esq.
Harbor Court
55 Merchant Street, Suite 1850
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone No. (808) 533-3335
Facsimile No. (808) 533-3336

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February 23, 2017

Justice MARK RECKTENWALD,
Chief Justice
Hawai`i Supreme Court
417 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SENT VIA E-MAIL TRANSMISSION TO chiefjustice@courts.hawaii.gov ON THIS SAME DATE.

Re: Letter of Support For District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

Dear Chief Justice Recktenwald:

I respectfully hereby submit this letter of support unconditionally and without any reservation whatsoever on behalf of District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for over twenty (20) years.

Throughout those twenty plus (20+) years, I not only have come to know Ms. MORIKAWA on a professional level, but on a personal level as well. Our families socialize together frequently and have even vacationed together on several occasions over the years. She has that unique ability to be able to balance her professional life with her personal life which has continued to amaze and impress me over the years.

Ms. MORIKAWA has extremely impressed many other people by her uncanny ability to currently balance a professional career as a private attorney, with her latest and most challenging endeavor has been to also preside in the Family Court of the First Circuit as a Per Diem Family Court Judge. She has successfully managed to do all of this while simultaneously being an extraordinary wife and mother to her husband and children.

Justice MARK RECKTENWALD,
Chief Justice
Hawai'i Supreme Court
Re: Letter of Support For District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.
February 23, 2017
Page Two

It should also be noted that Ms. MORIKAWA's reputation in our community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship is unblemished and highly regarded by all that know her. I can speak from personal experience, as many of Ms. MORIKAWA's friends are also friends of mine whose relationships are close and valued. Many of my colleagues have also been greatly impressed with her wisdom, fairness, intellect and judicial temperament while she currently presides in Family Court as a Per Diem Judge.

Ms. MORIKAWA understands and appreciates that her high level of integrity, principles and values have to be complimented by fairness, compassion and composure - - - but never influenced or tainted by emotion, personal feelings or bias. It is this unique "skill set" that has earned Ms. MORIKAWA the respect of all those around her. This is also why other attorneys trust her, seeking out her advice and guidance at every opportunity.

Another impressive and admirable character trait is that Ms. MORIKAWA also has that uncanny ability to simultaneously be professional while relating to people on a personal level, while maintaining compassion and fairness. Very few people have this unique compliment of skills which is sorely needed in our judicial system today.

Without any doubt or reservation, I personally attest that Ms. MORIKAWA is extremely qualified and deserving to be appointed as a presiding judge. This is based on my over thirty (30) years of practice in the legal profession, appearing before numerous judges on countless occasions. Ms. Morikawa is exceptionally and extraordinarily qualified to be a judge of others. **Ms. MORIKAWA would be a great asset to the judicial bench based on her unique compliment of high intelligence, principles, integrity, compassion, fairness and judicial temperament, as she has already previously demonstrated by currently presiding and sitting as a Per Diem Judge in Family Court.**

If there is any further need to inquire with me, please do not hesitate to call upon me either at my office, (808) 533-3335, or my cellular, (808) 429-3335.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott K. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Scott K. Collins, Esq.

Law Offices Of
SCOTT K. COLLINS

*HARBOR COURT 55 Merchant St., Suite 1850
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813*

*Telephone No. (808) 533-3335
Facsimile No. (808) 533-3336*

E-Mail: Attorney@SCollinsLaw.com

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March 19, 2017

Hawaii State Bar Association

Attn: HSBA Member Comment on Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA

SENT VIA E-MAIL TRANSMISSION TO memberscomments@hsba.org ON THIS SAME DATE.

Re: Letter of Support For District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

Dear HSBA Board:

Pursuant to your recent e-mail requesting comments on recent District Court Judges of the First Circuit nominations by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald, I respectfully hereby submit this letter of support unconditionally and without any reservation whatsoever on behalf of District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for over twenty (20) years.

Throughout those twenty plus (20+) years, I not only have come to know Ms. MORIKAWA on a professional level, but on a personal level as well. Our families socialize together frequently and have even vacationed together on several occasions over the years. She has that unique ability to be able to balance her professional life with her personal life which has continued to amaze and impress me over the years.

Ms. MORIKAWA has extremely impressed many other people by her uncanny ability to currently balance a professional career as a private attorney, with her latest and most challenging endeavor has been to also preside in the Family Court of the First Circuit as a Per Diem Family Court Judge. She has successfully managed to do all of this while simultaneously being an extraordinary wife and mother to her husband and children.

Hawaii State Bar Association

Attn: HSBA Member Comment on Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA

Re: Letter of Support For District Court Judicial Applicant TRISH K. MORIKAWA.

March 19, 2017

Page Two

It should also be noted that Ms. MORIKAWA's reputation in our community as to honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship is unblemished and highly regarded by all that know her. I can speak from personal experience, as many of Ms. MORIKAWA's friends are also friends of mine whose relationships are close and valued. Many of my colleagues have also been greatly impressed with her wisdom, fairness, intellect and judicial temperament while she currently presides in Family Court as a Per Diem Judge.

Ms. MORIKAWA understands and appreciates that her high level of integrity, principles and values have to be complimented by fairness, compassion and composure - - - but never influenced or tainted by emotion, personal feelings or bias. It is this unique "skill set" that has earned Ms. MORIKAWA the respect of all those around her. This is also why other attorneys trust her, seeking out her advice and guidance at every opportunity.

Another impressive and admirable character trait is that Ms. MORIKAWA also has that uncanny ability to simultaneously be professional while relating to people on a personal level, while maintaining compassion and fairness. Very few people have this unique compliment of skills which is sorely needed in our judicial system today.

Without any doubt or reservation, I personally attest that Ms. MORIKAWA is extremely qualified and deserving to be appointed as a presiding judge. This is based on my over thirty (30) years of practice in the legal profession, appearing before numerous judges on countless occasions. Ms. Morikawa is exceptionally and extraordinarily qualified to be a judge of others. **Ms. MORIKAWA would be a great asset to the judicial bench based on her unique compliment of high intelligence, principles, integrity, compassion, fairness and judicial temperament, as she has already previously demonstrated by currently presiding and sitting as a Per Diem Judge in Family Court.**

If there is any further need to inquire with me, please do not hesitate to call upon me either at my office, (808) 533-3335, or my cellular, (808) 429-3335.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott K. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott K. Collins, Esq.

**SHANLYN A. S. PARK
965 MAUNAWILI CIRCLE
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734**

April 4, 2017

VIA E-MAIL (JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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

**Re: Letter in Support of Trish K. Morikawa
Hearing: Wednesday, 4/5/17, 9:30 AM, JC7**

Dear Committee:

I am writing to express my views concerning Trish K. Morikawa, Judicial Nominee for confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Morikawa personally for over twenty years, and I believe she would make an excellent judge.

Ms. Morikawa has an impeccable reputation and is highly regarded in our community for her competence, experience, intelligence and civility. She understands the importance of working together and using common sense. These qualities, along with her respect for the legal system and her desire to experience all of its aspects, are evidenced by her comprehensive legal experience, both behind and in front of the Bench. She has worked as a prosecuting attorney, as a Commissioner with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, as a civil attorney, and as a Family Court per diem judge. Her well-rounded experience has earned her high respect throughout the legal community.

It is my opinion that Ms. Morikawa is level-headed, has excellent judgment and the moral courage necessary to be an excellent judge. She has the ability to see to the heart of the matter and analyze it properly. Ms. Morikawa is a person of integrity and honesty. My view is that Ms. Morikawa has all the qualities that have translated into her being a very effective judge.

If I can provide any further information to assist you in making your decision, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 551- 8087 or at shanlynpark@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Shanlyn A.S. Park*

SHANLYN A.S. PARK

From: [Stephanie Nishimura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 7 - Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:52:01 AM

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

I am writing to urge your selection of Ms. Trish Morikawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

In Ms. Morikawa's service as a Board member of Partners in Development Foundation, an organization that serves thousands of needy children and families throughout the state, I have had the pleasure of serving alongside her in my role as Chief Financial Officer. Her dedication, expertise, and passion in support of the Foundation are invaluable assets to our Organization. She shares a deep commitment to the poor, particularly those in the Hawaiian community, and blesses the Foundation with her energy, intelligence, and insight as we face diverse issues in our service to the needy. The Foundation continues to serve tens of thousands of children and families throughout the State over the past twenty years.

Ms. Morikawa's experience in the judicial system combined with her compassion for the social issues in our community have prepared her for the position on the District Court. I am very confident she will not only bring legal excellence to the court, but also a responsive insight to the issues and individuals she will oversee in her court. Her understanding of the Hawaiian culture and her history of service to the community will make her an excellent official in our judicial system. I urge her appointment and appreciate your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,
Stephanie K. Nishimura

Stephanie K. Nishimura
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Partners in Development Foundation
2040 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 595-2752
Fax: (808) 595-4932
www.pidf.org

- *Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values* -

From: [TANA KEKINA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC7- Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5,2017 at 9:30am
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 11:56:26 AM

April 3, 2017

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

I am writing to overwhelmingly support Trish Morikawa for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit Court. I have known Trish for 25 years. Trish and I attended law school together at the William S. Richardson School of Law, we worked together at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and have been friends through the years.

Trish has extensive legal experience in criminal, civil and family law and a lot of courtroom experience. As a prosecutor, she excelled in the courtroom. She prosecuted numerous trials from traffic cases to class "A" felonies. She had a stellar reputation in court with the defense bar, judges, court staff police officers and victims/witnesses. She was also known to be fair and well-prepared.

Trish has the integrity, diligence and temperament to be a judge and is a committed public servant. She had an excellent reputation as a prosecutor. She was always an advocate for the most vulnerable and has served our community in many positions, whether professionally or personally. Trish is compassionate, nurturing and will assist all who appear in her courtroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tana Kekina-Cabaniero

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: westley.chun@gmail.com
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 7 - Judicial Nominee Trish Morikawa, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 3:08:20 PM

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

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on Trish Morikawa's behalf.

I have known Trish Morikawa since 2010 when we both worked for the City and County of Honolulu. She was the City's housing coordinator and I was the Director of the Department of Facilities Maintenance. While I was at the City, the City enacted a sidewalk ordinance that required my department to keep sidewalks clear and unobstructed. This effort required displacing homeless and Occupy Honolulu supporters who were camping on the side of city streets and sidewalks.

I worked closely with Ms. Morikawa to develop a plan of action and process for enforcement. She was instrumental in coordinating the efforts of various city and state entities (including the Department of Parks and Recreation, HPD, HCDA), IHS and other homeless shelter providers -- as well as working with private property owners.

During implementation of this program, Ms. Morikawa used her analytical and legal skills to guide us through the process. Being a former City Prosecutor, also helped, as she had worked closely and developed good working relationships with HPD in the past.

Throughout this enforcement effort, Ms. Morikawa often accompanied me and my crew to the homeless sites. There were many times when we were criticized, verbally abused, and intimidated by opposition groups. These activities are well documented in videos and are on the internet. During this effort, Ms. Morikawa remained calm, focused, and never forgot the task at hand. I admired her ability to work with diverse stakeholders, many of whom were extremely aggressive in blocking our efforts to enforce the ordinance. I admired her ability to work with the homeless and people from all walks of life to get the job done. Ms. Morikawa was extremely "hands on", patient, and not afraid to deal with difficult and often volatile situations. She took action when needed and had a ability to work under pressure.

Due to Ms. Morikawa's great work ethic, diligence, and drive to do the right thing, the enforcement program was successful -- hardcore homeless encampments were eliminated and programs were initiated to help the homeless during our tenure at the City.

I understand that Ms. Morikawa is being considered to be a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. Based on my personal and

professional observations of Ms. Morikawa, I believe that she has qualities to be a great judge and I strongly support her nomination to the bench. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Westley K.C. Chun, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, BCEE

From: [Bagasol, William C](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC 7 - JUDICIAL NOMINEE TRISH MORIKAWA, hearing April 5, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 4:44:29 PM

I am a supervising attorney for the Office of the Public Defender and have been a practicing attorney for over 29 years.

I met Mrs. Morikawa over twenty years ago when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. As opposing counsel, I have found her to be very competent, prepared and vigorous in her representation. Over the years, despite our adversarial system, I have found her to always be very honest and reasonable.

Her many years of experience as a private practitioner has broadened background and expertise. Of course, her experience as Per Diem Judge further legitimizes her nomination and the need to confirm her.

More recently in 2015, we worked together on the same subcommittee for the Judicial Council's 2015 Penal Code Review Committee. This experience reaffirmed my deep respect for her. I found her to be prepared, intelligent, reliable, organized and open minded—characteristics one would expect for a good Judge.

From a personal stand point, she is a very warm and compassionate individual. I do think she will strive to be fair and do what is right. With this in mind, I can only expect her display no less than excellent judicial temperament. I sincerely believe our Judiciary and community will truly benefit with Mrs. Morikawa on the bench. I am proud to support her nomination and encourage her confirmation.

William C. Bagasol, Esq.