



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

Kirstin M. Hamman
District Court Judge of the Second Circuit (JC6)

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Howard K.K. Luke
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, April 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Kirstin M. Hamman for the position of District Court Judge of the Second 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. Hamman on April 19, 2018 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On the same day, Ms. Hamman was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Hamman 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. Hamman 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

Ms. Hamman has a broad range of legal experiences beginning with clerkships with the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and Judge Boyd Mossman, and attorney positions on Maui with the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Office of Counsel Services. In addition her experience as a solo family practitioner and as a sitting Per Diem Judge since 2014 makes her prepared to assume the responsibilities of a permanent District Court Judge for the Second Circuit. Throughout her professional career, the nominee has been a volunteer for a number of community service projects such as the Maui Self Help Center, the Friends of the Maui Drug Court, the Commission on Children and Youth, and the Maui County Bar Association.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Kirstin M. Hamman to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

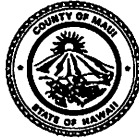
Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of our Committee.

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Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi:

**SUBJECT: IN SUPPORT OF KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN FOR
APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
SECOND CIRCUIT (ISLAND OF MAUI)**

As a Maui County Council member representing Makawao, Ha'ikū and Pā'ia, I am writing to strongly support the appointment of Kirstin M. Hamman as District Court judge of the Second Circuit on the Island of Maui.

I have been professionally acquainted with Kirstin for seven years, and worked with her for two years. I feel she possesses the experience and qualities needed to represent the judicial system at Maui District Court. Kirstin's diverse and extensive law background would allow her to make confident, fair, and ethical judgements.

As a successful attorney, child and family advocate, and dedicated community member, Kirstin displays integrity, compassion, and commitment. She is a focused, hard-working, and determined individual and has dedicated her work to specializing in family law and special education law.

April 18, 2018
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I strongly support the appointment of Kirstin M. Hamman as District Court judge of the Second Circuit (Island of Maui). Please feel free to contact me at (808) 270-5507 or via e-mail at Mike.White@mauicounty.us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", written in a cursive style.

MIKE WHITE
Council Chair

LATE



April 20, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Submitted via Capitol Website

RE: JC 6, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KRISTIN M. HAMMAN

HEARING: Monday, April 23, 2018, 10:00 am, Room O16

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) is a nonprofit business organization made up of over 300 female and male attorneys. HWL's mission includes improving the status of women in the legal profession, increasing the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility, and promoting the advancement of all women.

HWL believes that increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the Judiciary is extremely important. The judicial bench should be adequately balanced and reflect the composition of Hawaii's citizens.

The percentage of women judges in Hawaii has never been truly representative of the community at large. While there has been some diversity improvement over the last few years, HWL believes that more qualified women should be appointed to fill judicial vacancies to bring balance to the bench.

HWL **supports** the nomination of KRISTIN M. HAMMAN as the District Court of the Second Circuit, and respectfully requests that the Committee on Judiciary vote in favor of her confirmation. Ms. Hamman's appointment will help to ensure that the number of women on the bench better represents the number of women in the legal profession and the larger community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this nomination.

Very truly yours,

Hawaii Women Lawyers

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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LATE

April 20, 2018

To: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Riki Hokama
Councilmember

SUBJECT: Senate Bill JC6 Relating to the appointment of Kirstin Hamman as Judge in the District Court of the Second Circuit

I had the privilege of working with Ms. Kirstin Hamman during her time with Maui County's Council Services office, and also through the Hawaii State Association of Counties. During this time, Ms. Hamman exemplified the utmost professionalism and fairness in executing her duties as a legislative attorney. She is extremely knowledgeable, and has already been an asset to our community. As a judge, Ms. Hamman will serve our community in an even greater capacity, and be of even greater value. I fully support her nomination, and look forward to having Ms. Hamman serve in the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riki Hokama".

RIKI HOKAMA
Councilmember

April 21, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**SUBJECT: HEARING OF APRIL 23, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JC6,
RELATING TO KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN'S CONFIRMATION TO THE
DISTRICT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Kirstin M. Hamman since 2007, when she was appointed as a Legislative Attorney with the Office of Council Services, County of Maui.

Ms. Hamman worked for OCS for six years, where she was regularly tasked with challenging assignments and committees. She quickly gained the confidence of the Councilmembers, her colleagues, and the public she served as an attorney who worked tirelessly, efficiently, and with integrity.

As a fellow Legislative Attorney, I found Ms. Hamman to be a positive influence on our office. She could be relied upon for her legal acumen, research, and legislative drafting skills, and she consistently treated everyone she encountered with respect, professionalism, and humility.

Although Ms. Hamman decided to leave County employment in 2013 and pursue a private practice, she remained committed to public service, volunteering to serve as a member of the Commission on Children and Youth.

I believe Ms. Hamman will promote public confidence as a fair-minded district court judge, and support without hesitation her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Carla M. Nakata

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/14/2018 12:45:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Raatz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

I am a resident of Wailuku, Hawai`i, and have been a member of the Hawai`i State Bar Association since 1994. Without reservation, I recommend Kirstin M. Hamman for the office of District Judge, District Court of the Second Court.

I initially worked with Ms. Hamman from 2007 to 2012, when we both held the title of Legislative Attorney in the Maui County Office of Council Services. She made a smooth transition from criminal law to legislative work and proved herself to be a quick learner, devoted public servant, and trusted colleague.

Ms. Hamman worked under me from 2013 to 2014, when I was Director of Council Services. She was one of my most reliable and capable staff members. I frequently sought her advice and gave her many of the office's most challenging tasks.

During her tenure as Legislative Attorney, Ms. Hamman was highly regarded by co-workers, elected officials, and members of the public. The Maui County Council approved her employment by resolution four times, one for each of the terms in which she served.

I recommended Ms. Hamman for appointment to the Maui County Commission on Children and Youth. She has been serving on that body since 2016, when her five-year term was approved by Council resolution.

Ms. Hamman has the judgment, compassion, and dedication necessary to be an excellent full-time judge. I respectfully request that her nomination be confirmed.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

David Raatz

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/18/2018 12:40:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Tipton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

By way of introduction, I practiced law in Hawaii from 1981 until my retirement in December 2012. I was first on Oahu but moved to Maui in 2003 to work in litigation as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. I was also licensed in my home state of Tennessee in 1969, making me one of the early female law school graduates of that university.

I have known Ms. Hamman since 1996 or so when she was one of the law clerks at the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and I was a staff attorney. She and I worked closely on cases for a couple of years before she graduated and was admitted to the bar. She was very diligent and capable in her work.

I have continued to stay in touch with her after we both moved to Maui. My confidence in her is so strong that I am taking it upon myself to write this letter of support. Her experience as an attorney who had handled both criminal and civil cases in court makes her an excellent choice. She has also served as a per diem judge. She has the wisdom and temperament to make her a respected justice. I ask for your support in confirming her to this judgeship.

Please contact me should you need further information.

Cheryl Tipton

Bar Number 2872 (inactive)

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/17/2018 10:29:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Bayron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I have worked with District Court of the Second Circuit, Judicial Nominee, KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN, for close to four years. What comes to mind first is what a compassionate per diem judge Ms. Hamman has demonstrated already for the last four years. The judge has been fair and runs her courtroom in an efficient manner that has impressed me. As attorney, as I know many, she distinguishes herself a part with never ending expertise and knowledge of the law. She is the only private attorney I know that doesn't ask for consulting monies with my never ending law questions. The Hawaii Judicial had a strong pool of candidates, but I believe the best was selected.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hawaii State Deputy Sheriff/ Maui Division

Andrew Bayron

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/17/2018 3:04:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/20/2018 11:01:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Sears	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have know Ms. Hamman for approximately 13 years both as an attorney and a friend. She is a very competent, intelligent, and compassionate person. She has been a per diem judged for some time now and although I do not regularly practice in front of her, I have heard many reports from the other attorneys in my office that she is fair and equitable in her role as such. I would highly recommend Kirstin Hamman to be selected and confirmed for this position.

JC-6

Submitted on: 4/23/2018 9:11:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Radji Tolentino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I support the confirmation of Kirstin Hamman as Maui District Court judge. I've known Kirstin since I first worked with her at the Office of the Public Defender' on Maui in 2001. She was in charge of my training as a deputy public defender, my first job as an attorney right after law school.

Kirstin would make an excellent judge because she is fair, smart, and compassionate; the qualities needed for a judge to serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration. I have no reservations in Kirstin being confirmed as a judge.

Aloha,

Radji Tolentino