

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANA O. VIOLA
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

January 27, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination to the Position of Attorney General

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 2019, and for the opportunity to aid in the Confirmation process by providing answers to the specific questions you posed in the letter.

1. Employment Status

On January 3, 2019, Governor David Ige nominated me to serve as Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i. My commission became effective on January 14, 2019, when I officially joined the Department of the Attorney General ("the Department").

2. Role and Responsibility of the Department

The Department provides a myriad of legal services to the State of Hawai'i, and to the people of Hawai'i. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, the Attorney General serves as a legal advisor to the executive branch of state government. The Attorney General also provides legal advice to the Legislature. This advice includes reviewing legislation, providing testimony, and drafting opinion letters and legal documents. The advice provided by the Department assists both the Governor and the Legislature in the discharge of their respective public duties.

As the chief legal officer for the State of Hawai'i, the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney Generals ("DAGs") become involved in an array of legal issues. In addition to providing legal advice, the Department handles a variety of both civil and criminal matters, including civil litigation, land and natural resource disputes, criminal

investigations and prosecutions, tax matters, oversight of charities and nonprofit organizations, the execution of mandates arising from federal and state statutes, regulatory issues and administrative matters.

In the criminal context, the Attorney General serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the state. The Department investigates violations of state law and maintains specialized units, including units dealing with Medicaid fraud and internet crimes against children. The Department is authorized to prosecute criminal cases in all counties. It also partners with federal law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of federal crimes.

Importantly, the Attorney General serves as the people's lawyer. The Attorney General is obligated not only to assist the Governor, the Legislature and state agencies, but also to serve the best interests of the public. This institutional obligation is reflected in the fact the Attorney General is the only member of the Governor's cabinet who cannot be removed by the Governor after confirmation by the Senate.

3. The Department's Strengths and Challenges

Based on my two weeks in office, the Department appears to be a well-oiled institution that ably serves the needs of its many clients statewide. The Department has more than 200 attorneys and 500 professional staff. Its sheer size provides both unique capabilities and challenges. As the largest law firm in the state, the Department is well-positioned to take on complicated matters requiring different areas of expertise. It also has talented and dedicated attorneys and staff. The volume of cases and matters, however, presents managerial challenges. While the existing management structure seems excellent, the Department must maintain a mechanism that identifies issues and matters that require a higher level of oversight attention. This effort should come from the top down, which is why I have met as many of the supervisors and line DAGs as possible in my first couple weeks. During these meetings, I have sought to understand the priority issues in each Division and to evaluate how best to address them.

As part of my effort to become familiar with the Department, I am working to identify its top budget priorities. Ensuring that the Department has the necessary equipment to perform its myriad functions is critical. Along those lines, we will need to upgrade computer systems and technology, especially in the criminal and investigation departments. In addition, initiatives related to victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking and other crimes are important budget priorities. The Department needs funding to support its leadership role in making its initiatives successful, and to provide the basic equipment necessary to serve its clients and the public. Finally, ensuring that we can attract talented attorneys is paramount, which means we need to be competitive in the salary arena.

4. Qualifications to Serve as Attorney General

I believe my criminal and civil litigation experience will help me get up to speed quickly on many of the matters the Department is handling. I have handled all phases of civil and criminal proceedings, including the investigation, preparation, trial and appeal of cases. I understand the dynamics, sensitivity and significance of criminal investigations and prosecutions, as well as the resources and skills that are needed. My experience handling substantial tort and civil litigation also will assist me in evaluating civil matters involving the state.

In addition to having litigation experience, I also understand how to work on the operations side of a large organization. Prior to law school, I was the Operations Coordinator for the City of New York, Parks Department. I was involved in developing and implementing a variety of initiatives related to public projects, beaches, pools and park properties. I was involved in labor matters, capital improvements and numerous issues that required collaboration with different divisions in the Parks Department as well as with other city, state and federal agencies. Having worked in an organization with many employees, obligations and responsibilities, I was exposed to different models of leadership. The most effective leadership came from those who led by example, which is what I hope to do. I look forward to advocating on behalf of the State of Hawai'i in cases before our state and federal courts, and to embodying the type of professional commitment I expect to see from employees in the Department.

5. Potential Conflicts

Because of the nature of my civil practice, conflicts may arise. I will be vigilant to identify any conflicts, and will abide fully by the Department's protocols and other ethical rules governing the handling of such matters. When necessary, I will recuse myself and enact walls to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of material.

6. Differences Between the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i

While both Constitutions protect basic, fundamental rights, the Hawai'i Constitution goes further in identifying the various roles and processes involved in government. It also provides additional protections in certain areas, including, for example, the right to privacy and the protection of children. And, it expressly addresses public health, public assistance and the promotion of a "healthful environment." Moreover, in the Preamble of the Hawai'i Constitution, there is an express reaffirmation that "government of the people, by the people and for the people" must be exercised "with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth."

The most notable differences arise from the fact the Hawai'i Constitution expressly addresses issues unique to Hawai'i. These include provisions pertaining to

"Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources," which are "held in trust by the State." Additional provisions expressly address Hawaiian Affairs, including ceded lands and the protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights.

In short, the Hawai'i Constitution creates obligations on the part of the Department to ensure protection and fulfillment of specifically enumerated rights. I am committed to ensuring that these rights are defended competently in the litigation arena and protected appropriately by law through the Department's legislative review process. I also am committed to ensuring that the Department timely provides advice and other assistance to aid legislators and state agencies effectively.

7. Additional Information and Disclosures

In addition to my work experience, I have been actively involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Hawai'i State Bar Association and the Hawai'i Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. I am a Vice Chair of the Task Force on Civil Justice Improvements and prior to this nomination, was a volunteer arbitrator with the State of Hawai'i's Court Annexed Arbitration Program for the First Circuit. For three years, I also represented the District of Hawai'i as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and worked with the federal district court to manage its pro bono program. I also have been active with the William S. Richardson School of Law, including co-teaching a class on small business and entrepreneurship, and am on the faculty of the Hawai'i Federal Trial Academy.

As to the very last question, I am not aware of any personal information that could cause embarrassment to the Governor, Department or Legislature.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' that loops around and underlines the name 'CLARE E. CONNORS'.

CLARE E. CONNORS
Attorney General



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m., Room 016

In consideration of
GM 598, Clare E. Connors
as the
Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General

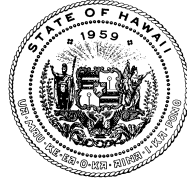
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Clare E. Connors, as the attorney general of the Department of the Attorney General (AG).

Clare graduated from Yale College and Harvard Law School and is an experienced criminal and civil litigator who will be a tremendous asset as the State of Hawai'i's chief legal and law enforcement officer. She recently left her position as an attorney with Davis Levin Livingston where she represented a variety of clients since 2011 and previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawai'i from 2004 to March 2011.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Clare E. Connors will continue to support our employees in the Department of the Attorney General in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kūpuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM598
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the
Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: April 10, 2019

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination of Clare E.
3 Connors for Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

4 Ms. Connors' resume reflects professional experience both on the mainland and Hawaii, in the
5 public and private sectors, civil and criminal law, and in executive administration and operations.
6 Her collegiatlity and dedication to public service are evident to other Cabinet members during
7 her tenure so far, and we look forward to her leadership as Hawaii's top law enforcement official
8 in the pursuit of social justice and equity before the law.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM598.

10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

11

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.labor.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 598 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney
General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE
E. CONNORS**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

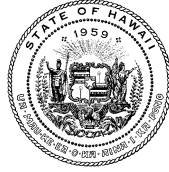
My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 598, Gubernatorial Nominee, Clare E. Connors, as the Attorney General.

Ms. Connors has demonstrated that she has the leadership and experience to successfully serve as the Attorney General. As the Attorney General, Ms. Connors has used her extensive legal knowledge and experience to address difficult issues like potential loss of federal funding for important programs as well as governmental transparency and accountability. In addition, Ms. Connors' participation in numerous legal organizations, law committees, and community activities demonstrate her passion for the law, and for improving the justice system and State.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Connors to serve as the Attorney General so that she may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Connors.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019, 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 598

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **CLARE E. CONNORS** FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 598. I support the nomination of **MS. CLARE E. CONNORS** to the position of Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General.

Based on Ms. Connor's resume, she has extensive experience in the legal arena, attained honors in achieving her education at both Harvard Law School and Yale College and contributes to professional activities to keep in line with her profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
RODERICK K. BECKER
AND
ROBERT YU

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 598

April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.
Room 016

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLARE E. CONNORS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support the appointment of Clare Connor to the position of Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General (department). We are working with Ms. Connors in our professional capacities as Director and Deputy Director of Finance, respectively.

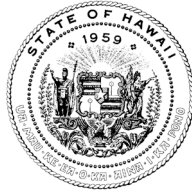
Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Ms. Connors is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Connors has experience as an attorney in Virginia and Hawaii. Her work experience and legal background will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, April 10, 2019

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 598
Gubernatorial Nominee Clare E. Connors

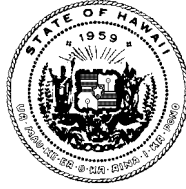
Dear Chair Roads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of confirming the nomination of Ms. Clare E. Connors as Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General. She began her legal career in Hawai'i as a law clerk for federal District Judge David Ezra and was an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawai'i from 2004 to March 2011. Prior to that, she was part of the Attorney General's Honors program with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, D.C., and worked as a trial attorney for the DOJ Tax Division. Most recently, she was a successful private attorney and partner at the law firm Davis Levin Livingston.

Ms. Connors is an experienced criminal and civil litigator who possesses the skills to lead the state's legal department, defend the state in legal proceedings and provide outstanding legal advice and counsel. For those reasons, she will be a tremendous asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nominee.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 23, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoades, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 598 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, Clare E. Connors, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Hearing: April 10, 2019, 09:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: Aloha Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The DHS is in strong support of GM 598 submitted by the Governor for consideration and confirmation of Ms. Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General of the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

Ms. Connors has a sixteen year distinguished legal career as a federal attorney, trial attorney, and private attorney. Clare also possesses outstanding educational credentials with a B.A. from Yale and J.D. from Harvard; and continues to engage in community activities to make Hawaii a better place to live.

I have the privilege and honor of working collaboratively with Clare, in her capacity as the Interim Attorney General and member of the Cabinet, on various legal issues impacting DHS and Hawaii. Throughout my interactions with Clare, I found her to possess a sharp legal mind, acumen, and temperament; and a person who is sincere, humble, knowledgeable, professional, and fair, and deeply rooted in a strong belief that we must do the right thing for right reasons when making critical legal decisions impacting Hawaii.

I request the Senate Committee on Judiciary, to unanimously confirm my colleague Ms. Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 598.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 221
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

<http://tax.hawaii.gov/>

Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560

Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

Re: GM 598 CLARE E. CONNORS

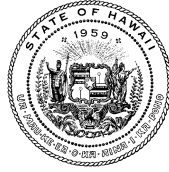
Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Chu Takayama, Director of Taxation, and I offer this testimony in strong support of Clare Connors' confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

The depth and breadth of her experience both here in Hawaii and on the Mainland brings a wealth of new ideas and forward thinking to the office. We are fortunate to have a nominee of her caliber.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and urge your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

APRIL 10, 2019, 9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 598
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLARE E. CONNORS,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 598. I support the nomination of Ms. Connors the position of Attorney General of the Department of Attorney General.

Ms. Connors has served as Attorney General since January 2019. Previously, she was a Partner at Davis Levin Livingston Law Firm and she has been a Lecturer in Law and Co-Instructor at the University of Hawaii, William Richardson School of Law. In addition, Ms. Connors has served as the Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia and in the District of Hawaii.

The Attorney General has been a tremendous asset to the State and a strong addition to the Administration. Ms. Connor's extensive law background in private practice and public service makes her an ideal candidate to serve as the Hawaii State Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 3, 2019

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director *KI*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on G.M. No. 598, Consideration and Confirmation of
Gubernatorial Nominee CLARE E. CONNORS as Attorney General, State
of Hawaii**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") writes in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Clare E. Connors as Attorney General, State of Hawaii.

In the short time Clare has been appointed as Attorney General in January 2019, she has been extremely approachable and astute in campaign finance issues. The Commission has appreciated her receptiveness to complicated matters and her remarkable demeanor in dealing with the Commission as a client. She has been an outstanding and effective advocate as the chief attorney for the State of Hawaii.

I have also known Clare for at least fifteen years as a colleague and a friend. I first met Clare when I worked at the Attorney General's Office as the Director of the Hawaii High Technology Crime Unit and the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Clare was the Assistant U.S. Attorney who assisted us on various multi-agency investigations and prosecutions of technology related crimes and Internet crimes against children. She was an exemplary prosecutor, a steward of justice, an extraordinary writer and speaker, and an incredible team player. Since then, we also served on the Punahou Alumni Association board during a pivotal time when the school was transitioning towards a college model.

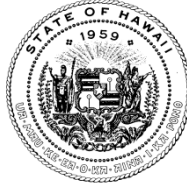
Testimony on G.M. No. 598

April 3, 2019

Page 2

Clare is an exceptionally honorable, intelligent, hard-working, dependable, resourceful, and respected individual who has excelled in her positions. We believe she has the proper demeanor and integrity to do well as the Attorney General, State of Hawaii, and therefore, appreciate the opportunity to write in support of her nomination.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

G.M. 598

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Ms. Clare Connors as Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General (AG).

Ms. Connors graduated with distinction from Yale University and is a law graduate of Harvard Law school. She has worked for the Federal government and private sector as an attorney and a lecturer in law at the University of Hawaii.

Ms. Connors has superb knowledge of the law, integrity, and in-depth understanding of government. She possesses tested judgment to assess and weigh conflicting principles and impacts of any particular decision or course of action. She has the intellectual capacity to deal impartially with all matters that come to the AG and is able to make informed decisions that will stand up to close scrutiny. She is a problem solver focused on finding solutions to overcome roadblocks, mitigate risks and advance the State. She has the skills and experience to perform her duties as the state's AG at the highest level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

APRIL 10, 2019
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 598
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLARE E. CONNORS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT
NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 598, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, Clare E. Connors, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Connors has a robust law background that will undoubtedly provide well-informed decision making in her role as the Attorney General. Her extensive knowledge and dedication to government service both at the federal and state levels will be instrumental for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

April 8, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
For Hearing on Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

Governor's Message 598
(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

RE: Consideration and confirmation of Clare E. Connors for Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General. In the short time I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Connors in her capacity as Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, I have found her be a dedicated, measured and helpful person who is well suited for the position of Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General. In her current capacity I have experienced Ms. Connors as cooperative, helpful, and welcoming.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Clare Connors as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 598 and Clare E. Connors.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 598
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the
Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee,
CLARE E. CONNORS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **Clare E. Connors** to serve as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

Ms. Connors' legal experience as a lecturer in law and co-instructor at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, Manoa; as the Assistant United States Attorney General in Hawaii and Virginia; clerk for the United States District Court Judge in the district of Hawaii; and in private practice, brings a wide range of knowledge and expertise to this very crucial position for the State of Hawaii. Her commitment to public service will benefit the people of the State of Hawaii.

For these reasons, I urge her confirmation for the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
CLARE E. CONNORS,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 598 nominating Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

Ms. Connors, a graduate of the Harvard School of Law, brings a wealth of experience to the Attorney General position, including work in the United States Attorney's Office in both Virginia and Hawaii, work as a professor at the Richardson Law School in Hawaii, and work as a private attorney in Honolulu.

In addition to her professional work experience with both criminal and civil litigation, Ms. Connors is also active on a pro bono basis with a bent toward legal policy, civil justice and education. The Department believes that Ms. Connors possess the skills, knowledge, drive, and dedication to serve in the position as the Attorney General.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Governor's Message 598, nominating Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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ENGINEERING
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598,
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CLARE E. CONNORS.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 10, 2019; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

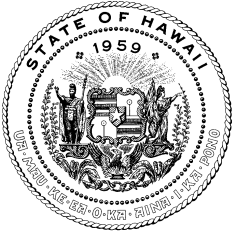
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Governor Ige's nomination of Clare Connors as the State's Attorney General.

Ms. Connors' credentials as a graduate of Harvard Law School, Yale College, and Punahou School, place her among the top lawyers in the nation. Her experience as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice Tax Division in Washington, DC and her practice of law in Hawaii, as partner in the Davis Levin Livingston firm, make her very well qualified to lead the Department of the Attorney General.

PSD respectfully urges the Committee on Judiciary to Advise and Consent to the nomination of Clare Connors as Attorney General of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | 235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813 | oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT GLENN
DIRECTOR

(808) 586-4185

Testimony of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 AM, Room 016

in SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598, CLARE E. CONNORS
As the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General

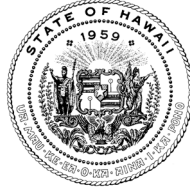
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Clare E. Connors to serve as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

Ms. Connors has already made a great contribution to the executive branch. Her legal experience will support well-informed decision making in her role as the Attorney General. Her extensive knowledge and dedication to government service both at the federal and state levels is a benefit to Hawai'i.

As the Attorney General, Ms. Connors has already been asked to address difficult issues and she has risen to the challenge with grace and humbleness. She listens and asks questions demonstrating that she understands the key issues and helps to find solutions that advance Hawai'i's interests and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 598.



LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Judiciary

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 598**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Clare E. Connors**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Clare Connors to serve as the Attorney General, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Ms. Connors's previous experience in private practice and at the U.S. Attorney's Office have provided her with the knowledge and skills to lead the Department of the Attorney General. Over the last few months, I have sought the counsel of Ms. Connors on a number of legal matters that have come before the DCCA. In response, Ms. Connors has provided insightful and timely guidance. Indeed, Ms. Connors has already demonstrated herself to be diligent, hard-working, and immensely capable. The team at DCCA are grateful for the help that she and her deputies provide to us every day.

I firmly believe Ms. Connors will be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination as Attorney General.

Testimony of Catherine P. Awakuni Colón
G.M. 598
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM No. 598. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.



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

Clare E. Connors
Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: P. Gregory Frey
President-Elect, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 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 on the nomination of Clare E. Connors for the position of Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

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 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 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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Hawaii's Lawyers Serving Hawaii's People

- 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 and a determination of qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Ms. Connors on February 4th to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On the same date, Ms. Connors was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Connors 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. Connors 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

The Attorney General of the State of Hawaii must possess broad practice experience in different practice areas of the law; experience in organizational administration; and a clear understanding of the attorney client relationship.

Ms. Connors' impressive education credentials helped prepare her for a distinguished legal career with litigation experience in criminal law, civil law and business law. She is well-respected in the legal community for her diligence, work ethic, and knowledge of the law and procedure. She is also known for her research and clear and concise drafting skills, ability to identify and address issues and concerns efficiently, and exhibiting civility with everyone she works with including colleagues, opposing counsel, staff and witnesses.

As a team leader in the US Attorneys' Office, Ms. Connors evaluated talent and placed individuals where they could be most effective and inspired others to work harder. During this transition period Ms. Connors is learning of the organization and administrative structure of the Attorney General's Office, the largest law firm in the State.

The responsibilities of the Attorney General are broad and expansive since the Attorney General must serve a number of different clients: the Governor and the Executive Departments, the Legislature and public interests. Ms. Connors is aware of the challenges of multiple clients, which at times may have conflicting interests.

In addition to professional and family responsibilities, the Nominee has served and currently serves on a number of Supreme Court and HSBA committees to improve the legal profession and delivery of services. She has served on the faculty of the Hawaii Federal Trial Academy, was a speaker for continuing education seminars on appellate practice and served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Conference.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Clare E. Connors to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

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



TO: Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

RE: GM 598 Clare E. Connors

Aloha! Please accept this short and strong testimonial support for Clare Connors. A woman impeccably equipped and honorably motivated to serve as Hawaii's Attorney General.

Clare is a woman of integrity, competence and professional confidence. These qualities and other unquestionably impressive character traits make her a model for leadership. This is a time for bold leadership.

At the core of our community, in the current administration, it is imperative to follow the grace of leaders whose experience, record and appeal is offered with bold authenticity.

Thank you for your favorable action in confirming Clare Connors as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

STARN • O'TOOLE • MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

April 4, 2019

VIA-EMAIL

jdctestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate District 13
Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General of Hawaii
GM598
To Be Heard at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, 2019

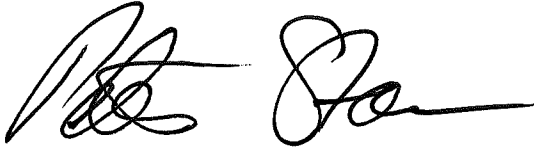
Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to give our highest recommendation of Clare E. Connors for appointment as Attorney General of Hawaii. We have personally known and worked with Clare since she was with the Hawaii US Attorney's Office, and through private practice, and supported her prior nomination to the Hawaii Federal District Court. She has impeccable credentials and has already shown the independence and courage the position of Attorney General requires. Clare is an excellent, intelligent and insightful lawyer. She merged her outstanding analytical and legal skills with her ability to work harmoniously with others as a valuable team member and we predict she will be a highly respected and accessible leader of our state lawyers.

We all are of the opinion that Clare has all of the attributes to be an outstanding Attorney General. First, she possesses the appropriate temperament. Second, she is innately fair. Third, her academic record demonstrates her strong intellect. Fourth, still in the prime of her career, she possesses the willingness and good health to work hard to address the heavy workload of an Attorney General. Finally, and perhaps, of greatest importance, Clare is a person of enormous integrity.

We are confident that, if confirmed, Clare would make a valuable contribution to the people of Hawaii, the Hawaii State Judiciary and the Office of the Attorney General.

Sincerely,



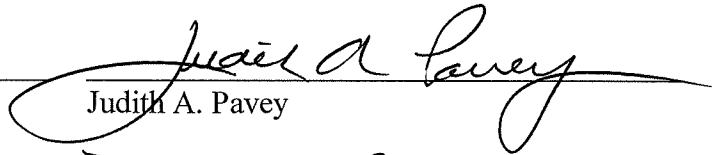
Peter Starn



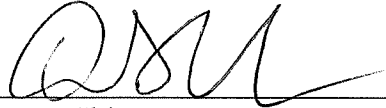
Terence J. O'Toole



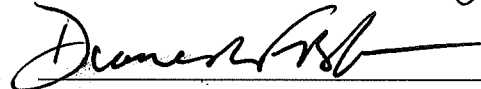
Sharon V. Lovejoy



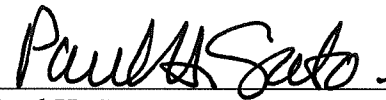
Judith A. Pavey



Doug Chin



Duane R. Fisher



Paul H. Sato



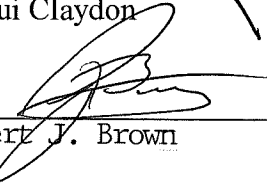
Andrew J. Lautenbach



Kukui Claydon



Maile S. Miller



Robert J. Brown



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2018 - 2019

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1253 S Beretania Street, #1609
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph: (808) 741-4772
Email: gwright@acechawaii.org
Website: www.acechawaii.org

April 8, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 9 a.m., Conference Room 016

Subject: SUPPORT - GM 598 Gubernatorial Nominee Clare E. Connors as Attorney General

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

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) represents 70 engineering consulting firms with over 1,500 employees throughout Hawaii.

Recently, our President and several of our members had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Connors to discuss an issue that has been negatively affecting our members for years. We were impressed with Ms. Connors willingness to engage in conversation and to hear our concerns. We feel she has shown a commitment to researching further and we look forward to continued discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ms. Connor's nomination.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

J. MICHAEL SEABRIGHT
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

DISTRICT OF HAWAII
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, C-409
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850-0409

TELEPHONE
(808) 541-1804

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhodes
Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, HI

Dear Senator Rhodes:

Re: Nomination of Clare Connors as Attorney General

I am writing to enthusiastically support Clare Connors' confirmation to serve as our state's attorney general. I truly believe that Clare's breadth of experience, coupled with her common sense and integrity, makes her uniquely qualified to serve.

Before becoming a United States District Court judge in 2005, I worked with Clare for a short time at the United States Attorney's Office while I was chief of the white-collar crime section. During that time, I soon came to realize that Clare was an exceptional prosecutor and attorney. Given her obvious skills, it did not take long for Clare to be assigned the most challenging and important cases in the office.

And after I took the bench, Clare appeared before me for many years as an Assistant United States Attorney. I observed a thoughtful, intelligent, highly motivated, and extremely skilled attorney. I also observed Clare's writing and analytical skills on a regular basis. Her writing is of the highest caliber, well organized and always well analyzed. Clare tried two complex criminal fraud cases in my courtroom — *United States v. John Mendoza* and *United States v. Paik and Durate*. In both cases, Clare was a consummate professional. She was always prepared, always respectful of the court and opposing counsel, and always excelled in the courtroom. She demonstrated all the attributes of a top-notch litigator —

Hon. Karl Rhodes
Page Two
March 21, 2019

common sense, work ethic, compassion, an ability to think on her feet, and an inherent sense of fairness.

Clare's integrity goes hand in hand with her commitment to the law and our community. In short, I always observed Clare to be driven by a clear moral and ethical compass. When confronted with difficult issues as a prosecutor, Clare showed the highest ethical standards. She never wavered for the sake of expediency.

Since joining private practice, Clare has remained active in the federal bar. During the years 2014-2017, Clare was selected as one of five lawyers to serve the court as a lawyer representative. Clare also served the court in 2018 as our "pro bono liason," working with the court to find counsel to represent pro se civil litigants in federal court. In these capacities, Clare played an important role in the administration of justice in the District of Hawaii and throughout the Ninth Circuit and demonstrated her commitment to serving our community.

In short, I know that Clare will serve our state with great distinction if confirmed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Seabright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Michael Seabright
Chief United States District Judge

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Legislature
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 598
Nomination of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Having worked with four attorney generals and three prosecutors, that experience is a valuable backdrop to gauge the qualifications and suitability of a nominee for Hawaii's attorney general, the state's chief law enforcement officer. I was minimally acquainted with Clare Connors before she joined the attorney general's office. Yes, her academic credentials are impressive and impeccable, from Punahou, to Yale undergraduate, then Harvard law school. Likewise, her career path spans from government at the U.S. Attorneys' office to private practice in a top notch law firm, encompassing criminal and civil cases. Even her disappointments are enviable. As the nominee to the Hawaii federal district court, a partisan U.S. Senate sat on the nomination until a new administration was in office.

With all that on her resume, what has truly impressed me is what is not on her resume – Clare's character and personality. She is a lady of impeccable integrity, infused with humility, emboldened by courage, with an easy laugh. She adheres to the highest ethical and professional principles expected of prosecutors. With the qualifications she possesses, others would be arrogant and condescending – Clare is not. The great Greek philosopher Aristotle said, "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others." Clare is a lioness. All of this topped with a frequent smile and self-deprecating sense of humor.

I whole heartedly support her nomination as Hawaii's attorney general. We are fortunate she is willing to accept the job and I look forward to working together.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin K. Takata
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice Division

P.S. I will be out of country at the time of this hearing.

From: [Harlan Y. Kimura, Esq.](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Email In Support of Clare Connors
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 8:13:29 PM

To The Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting this email in support of Clare Connors for Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. I previously had several criminal cases against her during the aftermath of the Mortgage Loan Crisis in the early 2010s. Although designated to prosecute offenders in mortgage fraud cases, she was very even-handed and even-tempered in that role. What I found especially noteworthy was her exercise of discretion in cases in which the offenders exhibited many mitigating factors prompting her to recommend sentences that were "fair and just." Therefore, it is without hesitation that I encourage the Senate to confirm her as the next Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. She has, and will continue to bring issues for resolution by the courts in order for the public to regain confidence in our Judicial System. The Keith Kaneshiro case is a prime example of Ms. Connors' commitment and courage in this regard.

Thank you,

Harlan Y. Kimura, Esq.
Central Pacific Plaza
220 South King Street, Suite 1660
Honolulu, HI. 96813
Tel. No. (808) 521-4134
Fax No. (808) 521-0361
Cell No. (808) 226-2225

TESTIMONY OF: Li-Ann Yamashiro

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

GM 598 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I am a Supervising Deputy Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General and am writing to express my strong support to confirm Clare E. Connors as Attorney General.

Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of working with Clare and she has demonstrated that she possesses the qualities and disposition essential to serve as Hawaii's Attorney General. In her short time as Attorney General, she has demonstrated her leadership skills in addressing a myriad of difficult situations. Clare has met those challenges with a keen understanding of the law and with the utmost integrity.

All of us at the Attorney General's Office take pride in the work that we do and strive to provide the best legal advice and representation possible to our respective clients. That pride, willingness, and desire to do the best job possible starts at the top with our Attorney General and Clare evinces such qualities. Our department would be extremely fortunate to have Clare as its leader.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Clare E. Connors for Attorney General.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:13:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laeton J Pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators Rhoads and Wakai:

I am pleased to write in support of the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Clare E. Connors to the office of Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. I first became acquainted with Ms. Connors in May 2014 when she was an attorney with Davis, Levin & Livingston and I was a client.

According to Wikipedia, Clare was raised in [Hawaii](#) and graduated from [Punahou School](#). She subsequently received a [Bachelor of Arts](#) degree, cum laude, in 1996 from [Yale College](#), and went on to obtain a [Juris Doctor](#) in 2002 from [Harvard Law School](#). Connors began her legal career as a [law clerk](#) to Judge [David Alan Ezra](#) of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, from 2002 to 2003. From 2003 to 2004, she served as a Trial Attorney in the Tax Division of the [United States Department of Justice](#) and also served on detail as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. From 2004 to 2011, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the [United States Attorney's Office](#) for the District of Hawaii. From 2011 to 2019, she was an attorney at the [law firm](#) of Davis Levin Livingston in [Honolulu, Hawaii](#), where her practice focused on civil litigation.

On September 8, 2015, [President Barack Obama](#) nominated Connors to serve as a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii. On April 14, 2016 her nomination was reported out of committee by [voice vote](#). Sadly, her nomination expired on January 3, 2017, with the end of the [114th Congress](#). She was appointed Attorney General of Hawaii by Governor [David Ige](#) on January 3, 2019.

Prior to her nomination by President Obama, I spoke with agents of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigations in favor of her judicial nomination. In my opinion, Clare is highly intelligent, articulate, the consummate professional, ethical beyond reproach, ideally suited to serve the people of Hawaii in the position as Attorney General and, in my opinion, has already shown great muster as Acting Attorney General.

I sincerely hope that her nomination will be confirmed.

Laeton J. Pang, M.D., M.P.H., FACR, FACRO

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:40:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Miki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support Clare Connors nomination to be the next Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

As a Federal Law Enforcement Officer, I have worked with Ms. Connors for a number of years, when she was a prosecutor with the Federal Government. In all of my dealings with her, she has always loved to serve her country and the State of Hawaii. As a prosecutor, she was assigned cases that either I had worked or my office co workers had worked on. These cases dealt with financial crimes against the U.S. government and were extremely complicated. She was always been firm, fair, honest, and extremely diligent on how she prosecuted each of the cases. She is a person with great integrity, honesty and an extremely hard worker, not to mention she is really smart. I cannot put into words what a great attorney and person she is. She will serve the State of Hawaii and will lead the Attorney General's office to the next level in the years to come if confirmed.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:33:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Clare Connors to serve as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. I have crossed several paths with Clare. Three years ago, we were co-instructors for a law school class at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. The class is called the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Clinic, and as part of the class we work with the students to provide pro bono legal services to startups and small business owners. Clare was a great colleague, and was hard working, bright, easy to work with, and practical. Clare worked for a startup so had a background for this class, but she was also a quick study, given her legal expertise was mostly in litigation matters. The students also loved working with her. We have also crossed paths as fellow Punahou Alums, where she served for the Punahou Alumni Association, and as fellow parents, and we have a number of mutual friends.

To be honest, Clare is a super star, and in my opinion the State of Hawaii is fortunate to have someone of Clare's caliber join its ranks. Clearly this relates to her legal skills and abilities. But it goes much deeper than that. What also makes Clare an outstanding candidate is her passion for the community and extremely high ethics. Certainly that is always an important characteristic in public service, but even more so in this day and age. Clare will always endeavor to do that right thing and, coupled with her dominant legal skills and ability to work with people, the State of Hawaii could not have a stronger Attorney General than Clare Connors.

April 2, 2019

Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Governor's Message 598

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of Clare Connors' nomination for State Attorney General. I have known Ms. Connors for many years on a professional basis only. I first met Ms. Connors when she was working at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii. She was a strong advocate and was very thorough and conscientious about her work. As a federal criminal defense attorney, I knew that I could trust her representations and that we would have a fair and honest adversarial relationship. She is a true professional with integrity.

When Ms. Connors left the United States Attorney's Office to go into private practice, I had several occasions to interact with her on legal matters when I needed assistance in understanding civil law practice. She was extremely knowledgeable and helpful. Her reputation as a top notch attorney continued with her in her civil practice.

I also believe that her recent handling of the Kaneshiro matter shows her outstanding qualifications to be the State Attorney General. It was creative, yet legally sound. Most importantly, it demonstrated the ability and understanding to address a problem that needed to be resolved immediately without further delay.

I recommend her to Your Committee without hesitation. Mahalo.

Alexander Silvert, Esq.

241 Iliha Street

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

From: [Wes Porter](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Governor's message 598
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 10:21:00 AM

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of Clare Connors' nomination for Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. I worked with Clare as a federal prosecutor at the the U.S. Department of Justice and United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii. She was always hard working, prepared, collaborative and extremely intelligent.

Clare Connors will be an excellent AG for our state and she will serve us honorably in that role.

Sincerely,
Wes Reber Porter

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair
Judiciary Committee
415 South Beretania St. Room 204
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads,

I am Daniel Hanagami, Chief Special Agent of the Investigations Division, Department of the Attorney General. I am humbly requesting that the Senate Judiciary Committee appoint Attorney General nominee Clare Connors to the permanent position of Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

I have been the Chief Special Agent of the Investigations Division since August of 2013, and have served under three Attorney Generals. Our Investigations Division addresses the most complex and controversial criminal, administrative and civil investigations in our community. To address these matters, it takes leadership, coordination, teamwork, a full understanding of the applicable laws and rules, in which I feel that Ms. Connors excels in her abilities to address these matters. Ms. Connors is not afraid to assume command and take leadership in sensitive, complex, and controversial issues that we currently face on a daily basis. In coordinating and planning with her staff, Ms. Connors is very respectful of each person's input and is always willing to hear their points of view.

Being in law enforcement criminal investigation, and also private investigation for over forty years, I can attest that Ms. Connors has the ability to provide leadership for the Department of the Attorney General's journey into the realm of excellence and servicing our community members.

In the short time Ms. Connors has been at the helm of the Department of the Attorney General, Ms. Connors has exhibited leadership skills, understanding, patience, professionalism and experience in the aspects of criminal law, civil issues, and administrative matters. Ms. Connors is extremely charismatic, personable, an intellectual, very personable, an excellent listener, and has been supportive of all the efforts of the Investigations Division's criminal and administrative investigations. Ms. Connors is an asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you Chair Rhoads and your Judiciary Committee for allowing me to provide this support for nominee Clare Connors.



Daniel Y. Hanagami

DAVIS·LEVIN LIVINGSTON

ATTORNEYS

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MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON
mlivingston@DavisLevin.com

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

April 3, 2019

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The Senate
State of Hawaii

Re: GM 598 – Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Clare Connors as Attorney General

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Clare Connors for the position of Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. Ms. Connor has all of the qualities needed to be a superb Attorney General. The people of Hawaii are truly fortunate to have such an extraordinary attorney appointed to this critically important position.

It has been a privilege to have practiced law with Ms. Connors for the past seven years. I first met Ms. Connors when she left the Hawaii United States Attorney's Office to join my law firm. Although we had high hopes for Ms. Connors, she surpassed all expectations. She made the transition from prosecuting white collar crime as an Assistant United States Attorney to a private civil litigation practice with remarkable speed, and quickly assumed lead responsibility for major cases. In the process, she became a close friend and a highly valued colleague. She is truly both an amazing person and an outstanding lawyer.

Ms. Connor's exceptional academic achievements and honors, as well as her impressive work history, speak for themselves. Hopefully, I can add some personal reflections and comments that will provide a slightly different perspective on Ms. Connor's fitness for this important position.

In her first public appearance after being appointed by Governor Ige to be Hawaii's Attorney General, Ms. Connors stated that public service is in her DNA. This comment is truly revealing. In my experience, a concern for the "public interest" informs virtually all of Ms. Connors' professional conduct. As the legal advocate for the people of Hawaii, she will be working on familiar ground.

One of Ms. Connors most important qualities is her impeccable integrity, grounded in a bedrock belief in the rule of law and a moral compass that points to truth and justice. Not only

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
April 3, 2019
Page 2

will her strong ethics and strength of character guide her own conduct and decisions as Hawaii's Attorney General, they will inspire and uplift those around her.

Although personal integrity is an essential quality for the position of Attorney General, it is not sufficient. To be effective, an Attorney General must be able to lead and manage the State's largest law firm as it handles a vast spectrum of often exceedingly complex legal issues, many further complicated by political interests. Having worked closely with Ms. Connors during the past seven years, I have no doubt that she has the intellect and managerial skills to succeed with these daunting challenges. She carries her outstanding competence with a combination of self-confidence and humility that makes her an effective leader. She knows how and when to collaborate and delegate, but she is not afraid to take control when appropriate. Although she is an optimistic person, she has been in the trenches of criminal and civil litigation long enough to have a sober and realistic view of human nature. She is creative and compassionate, but well-grounded in common sense. When necessary, she can be as tough as they come.

I have also had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Connors in a number of complex and high stakes lawsuits. I can attest to her keen intellect and analytical ability, her good judgment, and her exceptional writing skills. She is also adept at oral argument, and occasionally served as the public spokesperson for our law firm in civic engagements.


Governor Ige emphasized the breadth of Ms. Connor's legal experience when he introduced her as Hawaii's next Attorney General. I agree that her experience in both criminal and civil litigation, and her prior administrative work, will serve her well as Attorney General. I would add, however, that Ms. Connors is an extremely quick study, so she will come up to speed rapidly even when starting from a standstill.

Finally, I want to emphasize Ms. Connor's superb work ethic. Simply put, she knows how to work hard and long, and she knows how to work efficiently.

Clare Connors is the consummate public servant, and the people of Hawaii are fortunate now to have her as one of our leaders. I support the confirmation of Clare Connors for the position of Attorney General for the State of Hawaii enthusiastically and without reservation.

Sincerely,

DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON


MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON

MKL:jfp

The Honorable Karl Rhodes
The Honorable Glen Wakai
Senate Committee on Judiciary

GM. 598 Confirmation Hearing Re: Clare E. Connors
As Attorney General

Hearing: April 10, 2019 at 9:30 am
State Capitol - Conference Room 16

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF
CLARE E. CONNORS FOR THE POSITION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Senator Rhodes and Senator Wakai:

I am pleased to submit this written testimony on behalf of my friend and colleague Clare Connors who was appointed by Governor Ige for the position of Attorney General. Ms. Connors is a person with whom I have had extensive professional contact, as she has been a partner in my law firm. I practiced with her for over 7 years. You will quickly discover that Ms. Connors is an extraordinary intellect with impressive academic and professional credentials. I have seen her in periods of intense pressure and she accomplishes her many professional tasks with the greatest amount of scholarship, dignity and grace. She had extensive experience working in the state and federal courts of Hawai`i. She is an excellent legal scholar and most important, she is a practical, efficient lawyer with substantial leadership skills that will serve her well in her position as Attorney General.

For the many years that I worked with Clare, she has always been a person of extraordinarily high integrity and impeccable honesty. She is deeply committed to the people of this state, as she was to her many individual clients that she represented while a partner at our law firm. Governor Ige has made an excellent choice by selecting Ms. Connors for this position and I have little doubt that she will discharge her duties as Attorney General with distinction, integrity and competence. I have known many Attorney Generals in the State of Hawai`i over the past 45 years practicing law and I believe that Ms. Connors will likely distinguish herself as one of the best we have ever had.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Davis
mdavis@davislevin.com
808 524-7500

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/4/2019 8:19:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Cruise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chairperson and Committee Members:

I have known Clare Connors by as a professional colleague for approximately ten years, first by reputation and then by observing her legal work. In my view, she exemplifies the highest standards and most admirable aspirations of the legal profession. Her skills as a lawyer are outstanding and widely admired. Beyond that, however, it is Ms. Connors' keen sense of "right-and-wrong" and her dedication to being on the side of what is "right" is unwaverieng. Her ethics are unquestionable. I beleive very strongly that she will make us proud as the top law enforcement officer in our state, and I applaud the Governor's choice.

Sincerely,

Michael Cruise

Honolulu, Hawaii

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/4/2019 8:46:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Creps	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Clare Connors as our next Attorney General. I have known Clare for several years as a fellow trial lawyer and neighbor in Kailua. She is highly intelligent and has a diverse background covering both civil and criminal law. Beyond legal acumen, Clare possesses the integrity and sense of fairness which are integral for any chief legal officer. I also think she has the temperament and people skills to effectively manage a large state agency.

Again, I urge the Senate to confirm Clare as Attorney General. Thank you in advance for considering my testimony.

Aaron Creps, Esq.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/4/2019 1:41:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Inciong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I had the honor to work alongside Clare E. Connors, your nominee for Attorney General, at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii where I have served as an Assistant United States Attorney since 2004.

While Ms. Connor's credentials and resume are truly impressive and impeccable, they don't begin to tell the story of her excellence as an attorney and advocate for the government. During her time at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Connors was highly respected not only for her intellect but her inexhaustible work ethic and dedication to the missions of the Department of Justice. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Connors was a total team player and always had time for a kind word and smile for anyone in the office no matter their position.

I had the specific privilege of co-trying a serious drug trafficking and money laundering case with Ms. Connors in 2008 before then-Chief Judge Susan Oki Mollway. The trial, which lasted approximately six weeks, was a great example of Ms. Connors' ever present willingness to help when the office was in need. Because of the magnitude of the trial, I needed someone to come in and handle the money laundering, forfeiture and other financial aspects. Ms. Connors did not hesitate to join the prosecution team and I could not have been happier because I had complete trust and confidence in her abilities.

Without any surprise, Ms. Connors did a tremendous job and the three defendants, who represented the very highest level of a Las Vegas drug trafficking organization, were found guilty of all charges. The two principals were each sentenced to 32 years in prison after the sentencing court described their drug distribution ring as the largest to ever operate in Hawaii after finding them responsible for distributing 2,000 pounds of methamphetamine in the District of Hawaii.

What I remember most about Ms. Connors at the trial; however, was that she was eight months pregnant at the time and was a warrior for every day of it. I half-joked with her that she could not have her baby until after the trial was over. Luckily, for me and the case, she gave birth to a healthy child after the verdicts were rendered.

I have served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the last 21 years in three different federal districts and prior to that as a deputy district attorney for five years in two different mainland district attorney's offices. During that time, I have worked alongside hundreds and hundreds of prosecutors. I can think of no one more qualified or better suited to serve as Hawaii's Attorney General than Clare E. Connors.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Inciong

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/5/2019 4:14:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Karl Rhodes

Honorable Glenn Wakai

Committee Members

Senate Committee on the Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Re: GM598 – Support of Clare Connors' Nomination for Attorney General

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

I am a partner at Davis Levin Livingston and a former Federal Public Defender. I have known Clare Connors for the past thirteen years, first as an adversary (when she was an Assistant United States Attorney) and then as a law partner. I wholeheartedly support her nomination to be the next Attorney General. She is extremely well qualified for this position.

Clare is a gifted attorney. She possesses the rare qualification of being both excellent on paper and in the courtroom. During her time at Davis Levin Livingston, she worked on many of our most complex cases. The same was true while she was at the U.S. Attorney's office. She has earned the respect from her adversaries and the judiciary for her excellent work on significant legal issues. And I am certain that she has the overwhelming support of Hawaii's legal community.

But to me, her most important trait is her compassion and understanding for the people and the land that make Hawai'i unique. Because of this, she has a deep commitment to public service – which can be seen by her volunteer work in the community and now in her desire to return to public service. I am certain that she will always strive to protect Hawai'i and its people through her role as Attorney General.

I strongly urge you to recommend the confirmation of Clare Connors for Attorney General.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Winter

Davis Levin Livingston

851 Fort Street, Ste. 400

Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 524-7500

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/5/2019 8:06:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kory Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Wakai & members of the committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my **strong** support in favor of Attorney General nominee Clare E. Connors.

Having practiced law in the State of Hawai`i for the last twenty years, as a deputy prosecuting attorney, deputy attorney general, and a solo practitioner in my own firm, I can state without reservation that Ms. Connors is one of the finest attorneys in our profession. Ms. Connors is clearly very intelligent having graduated from Harvard Law School, has extensive experience working in both the public and private sector, and has years of experience handling both criminal and civil cases. Beyond her professional qualifications, my dealings with Ms. Connors have demonstrated that she is honest and fair, and I have a great deal of respect for her character and professional integrity.

Ms. Connors' actions since assuming the position of Attorney General have displayed her commitment to justice and her willingness take the lead in addressing Hawai`i's most pressing legal concerns. While many law enforcement agencies voiced concerns regarding Honolulu Prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro's refusal to take a leave of absence despite being the target of a federal criminal investigation, it was Ms. Connors who petitioned the Hawai`i Supreme Court to suspend Mr. Kaneshiro, prompting him to take a voluntary leave of absence. Ms. Connors has also joined with the attorney generals of other states to oppose a number of President Trump's orders that would have negatively impacted the rights of Hawai`i's citizens.

As a citizen of the state of Hawai`i, I feel we would be fortunate to have Ms. Connors representing us as our Attorney General. I can think of no one more qualified or better suited to hold such an important position.

Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity to voice my **strong** support in favor of Ms. Connors' nomination.

With respect,

Kory W.J.I. Young

April 5, 2019

Via www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Conference Room 016, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM598: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of
Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS
as Attorney General, State of Hawai'i

Hearing: April 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Wakai, and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter *in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee Clare E. Connors* as Attorney General, State of Hawai'i.

I've known Ms. Connors for several years. She previously served as an arbitrator in a case that I was litigating. I found her to be extraordinarily well-prepared. Her judicious arbitration award ultimately resolved the case.

I cannot think of a more qualified individual for the position of Attorney General. Ms. Connors has criminal and civil trial experience and managerial experience.

1. Ms. Connors is a skilled trial attorney who served for seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States District Court, District of Hawai'i.

2. Ms. Connors was most recently a partner at Davis Levin Livingston, a prominent personal injury law firm in Honolulu.

3. Ms. Connors has extensive managerial experience from her time serving in key positions within New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation.

The mere fact that Ms. Connors has chosen to walk away from a lucrative private sector job to serve the State of Hawai'i as Attorney General is indicative of what is important to her. She is a true public servant and will exceed all expectations.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon S. Jacobs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon S. Jacobs

TESTIMONY

**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**GM 598, Consideration and Confirmation of
CLARE E. CONNORS
as the Attorney General**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Committee Members,

My name is Patricia Ohara and I am a Supervising Deputy Attorney General with the Department of the Attorney General. I strongly support the nominee for Attorney General, Clare E. Connors.

Clare has been heavily involved with the work of the Department from the time she was nominated in January. I have had the opportunity to work with Clare on some matters and have found her to be prepared, thoughtful, and decisive. Clare's extensive experience in the private sector and with the federal government enables her to quickly understand the issues before the Department and to meaningfully contribute to the discussions at hand.

I believe Clare's interest in public service and the high caliber of her legal experience will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Department. She is abundantly qualified to lead this Department, and I urge the Committee to recommend her for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Committee: Committee on Judiciary

Re: G.M. 598, Personal testimony of Daniel M. Gluck in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General

Hearing Date/Time: April 10, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

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

In my personal capacity, I write in strong support of the confirmation of Clare Connors as the Attorney General of Hawai'i.

I have known Clare since we were both students at Harvard Law School, around eighteen years ago. Even then, she had a reputation for being extremely smart, tenacious, and dedicated to public service. Among other things, she served as a student attorney with the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau – the oldest student-run legal services organization in the nation – providing free legal services (primarily in the areas of family law, housing, and government benefits) to those who could not otherwise afford an attorney. This volunteer service typically required a time commitment of at least twenty hours a week on top of a rigorous course load.

Clare and I have remained friends since then, and I always enjoy the opportunity to discuss legal issues with her. She is fair, she is thorough, and she is a person of utmost integrity. She has the civil and criminal law experience to ensure that the people of Hawaii's interests are represented fully, and she will work tirelessly to serve the public.

In sum, I support Clare's confirmation wholeheartedly and without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel M. Gluck

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/7/2019 10:32:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Okinaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members,

I write in support of the Senate's confirmation of Clare Connors as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii. As General Counsel for the University of Hawaii, I have had opportunity to work with Clare over the past few months, and have been favorably impressed by Ms. Connors, and believe she will serve the State well.

Already Ms. Connors has demonstrated her innate intelligence, as well as the confidence to make difficult decisions. She will be a valuable asset to the Department of the Attorney General, as well as the State of Hawaii, with her litigation and courtroom experience, her willingness to learn, her honesty, and her ability to handle the most challenging of decisions and situations. Her stalwart commitment to the community and to serving the community as the Attorney General is laudable, and I am grateful for her service and example.

Thank you for your favorable consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

Carrie K. S. Okinaga

April 7, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
and Members on the Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members on Judiciary:

Re: Nomination of Clare E. Connors, Attorney General

I am providing testimony in support of the nomination of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Connors from when she was a judicial law clerk to Judge David A. Ezra, United States District Court Judge, District of Hawaii. All law clerks are talented young lawyers but even in this group, Ms. Connors stood out. She has the rare combination of being brilliant yet humble and pleasant. I believe she then went to the Tax Division, U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. I was a supervisor for the Drug and Organized Crime Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office here in Hawaii when she was hired as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Given her tax background, Ms. Connors was assigned to the White Collar Section where she immediately made a difference. She has a tremendous work ethic, asked questions and she worked well with a wide range of personalities. Ms. Connors worked on high profile tax cases and justice was served in those cases. I remember seeing her often in the office on weekends with one or both of her children who were toddlers. Ms. Connors was a tremendous asset to the office and was very well-liked by her colleagues, the law enforcement community, the defense bar, the judges and the office staff. And, she is a civic minded person, active and involved in her community.

Given her strong academic credentials, her experience in both civil and criminal litigation, her moral character and integrity, I believe that Ms. Connors is extremely qualified to be our next Attorney General. She is an honest, decent and fair person. Her areas of practice as Attorney General will be vast and varied but I assure you that she will be well-prepared and willing to listen. She will not have any hidden agenda, she believes in upholding the rule of law. I know Ms. Connors very well and consider her a friend. She will represent the State of Hawaii with honor, integrity, and fairness.

Sincerely,
Florence Nakakuni

The Senate Committee on Judiciary

April 8, 2019

415 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Ms. Clare E. Connors

My name is John Teraoka. I am a retired (2005) Special Agent, formerly with the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. I have 27 years of service. An IRS Special Agent investigates criminal violations of the Internal Revenue Code (Title 26 United States Code (USC)) and related offenses (Title 18 USC).

In the early 2000s, Ms. Clare Connors, an attorney with the Department of Justice, Tax Division, Washington DC, was assigned to prosecute a tax case that I worked on in Hawaii.

The case involved a complex nationwide tax scheme to defraud the IRS using sham trusts. There were boxes of evidence which had to be reviewed before trial. Tax cases are usually prosecuted using circumstantial evidence. This involved voluminous documents. Ms. Connors was in the office day and night and on weekends preparing for trial. Witnesses and records (financial/business/trust) had to be subpoenaed from Hawaii (all four major islands). Alaska to California, Florida to New Hampshire, and most states in between.

Ms. Connors obtained indictments for five defendants on tax and conspiracy violations for multiple years. Each defendant had their own defense attorney. One defendant, who resided in Washington State left the state. He was later arrested in Colorado by the local authorities on a misdemeanor charge, identified as a federal fugitive and extradited to Hawaii.

All five defendants were convicted. One of the longer sentences was for more than 10 years, which in part was based on the total tax liabilities of the defendants and witnesses to the tax scheme.

As I learned by assisting in the prosecution of this past case, Ms. Connors is very intelligent, articulate, organized, responsible, and personable. I hesitate to use these adjectives since it is not complete in identifying all her traits.

Ms. Clare Connors will be an exceptional Attorney General for the people and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

John Teraoka

98-747 Leialii St.

Aiea, HI

(808) 486-3595

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOV. MSG NO. 598

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLARE E. CONNORS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT
NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in support of Clare E. Connors' confirmation as the Attorney General.

During her time at the Department of the Attorney General she has developed an understanding of the responsibility and function of the department. She is knowledgeable about law and has experience as a criminal and civil litigator. Her overall background and experiences as an attorney working in the public and private sector is an asset and resource for the State.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

RACHEL MORIYAMA
659 North Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

April 8, 2019

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee Clare E. Connors for
Attorney General, State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my unqualified support for the nomination of Clare E. Connors to serve as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, and I urge you to vote to confirm her for that position. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1984, and I am writing this letter in my personal capacity as a bar member and private citizen of the State of Hawaii.

I worked with Clare at the United States Attorney's Office ("USAO") for the District of Hawaii from 2004 to 2011. During that time, I had the pleasure of getting to know Clare as an attorney, a colleague, and a friend.

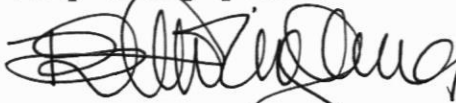
First and foremost, Clare is an individual of the highest integrity, honesty and moral character. As a person and as prosecutor, she always did the right thing and ensured that justice was served. Second, she is an excellent attorney with an extremely well-rounded and diverse professional background that will serve her well as the Attorney General. As an Assistant U. S. Attorney, Clare prosecuted complex fraud, tax and other white-collar crimes. She handled difficult and sensitive matters, including sentencing, with discretion, common sense, compassion and fairness. Following her tenure at the USAO, Clare joined the law firm of Davis Levin Livingston, where she has been a successful civil litigator and community leader. Clare has amply demonstrated that she has the intelligence,

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
April 8, 2019
Page 2

broad legal experience, analytical ability, sound judgment and strong work ethic necessary to serve as an effective Attorney General.

What makes Clare especially qualified to serve as the Attorney General, however, are the particular traits that make her a good leader, administrator, and colleague. Clare has the personality, temperament, interpersonal skills, judgment, compassion, and common sense -- in addition to her intelligence and proven legal experience -- needed to be an effective Attorney General and the State's highest law enforcement officer. During her tenure as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, I had the pleasure of working with her on cases and can testify that Clare is a leader who knows how to work with others, knows how to listen and how to build consensus, and knows how to make the tough decisions. She understands the value of collaboration and knows how to build relationships. If confirmed as the Attorney General, I know that Clare will provide a quiet and effective leadership to the Department of the Attorney General and the entire State law enforcement community. In addition to her exceptional intelligence, work ethic, organizational abilities, and people skills, Clare will bring a great sense of humor and collegiality to the Department of the Attorney General. The people of Hawaii deserve an Attorney General who is a proven leader and who is among "the best and the brightest" of our legal community. Clare Connors fits that bill. I sincerely hope that you will confirm her as the next Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, and thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



RACHEL S. MORIYAMA

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 1:09:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john lederer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have had personal experience with Clare Connors on a professional basis. She has proven herself to be an extremely intelligent, highly ethical attorney. She would serve the state well in the capacity of Attorney General. I enthusiastically endorse her nomination

John Lederer

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capital, Conference Room 016

Re: Governor's Message No. 598 -- Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

Clare is exceptionally well-qualified to be our Attorney General. As a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, her academic achievements and educational background are of the highest level. Her impressive legal career includes extensive experience in both criminal and civil law, representing the United States as a federal prosecutor at the Hawai'i U.S. Attorney's Office before becoming a partner and civil litigator at a well-known Hawai'i law firm. These experiences and her legal acumen will serve her well as the chief legal officer and chief law enforcement officer of the State. Clare is committed to public service and has engaged in numerous volunteer activities.

Recently, I have had the pleasure of serving with Clare on the Task Force for Civil Justice Improvements, which was formed to recommend ways to improve the civil justice system in Hawai'i's circuit courts. Shortly after I retired as Chief Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald appointed me to serve as chair and Clare as one of the vice-chairs of the Task Force. Clare has been a wonderful colleague on the Task Force. She is conscientious, congenial, and easy to work with. She worked hard to help organize the Task Force and has generously shared her valuable insights, recommendations, and experiences.

I am thankful that Clare chose to come home to Hawai'i to pursue her career and that she has offered to step forward to take on the challenge of serving as our Attorney General. I believe she has the integrity, intelligence, work ethic, and

leadership skills to be an outstanding Attorney General. I am confident that she will do her utmost to serve the public's interests.

I respectfully submit this testimony in favor of the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig H. Nakamura".

Craig H. Nakamura

Clyde J. Wadsworth
2233 Nuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96821
clyde.j.wadsworth@hawaii.gov

April 8, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In Support of the Nomination of Clare E. Connors
Attorney General
GM 598
Hearing Date/Time: April 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of Clare E. Connors as the State of Hawaii's Attorney General.

I am the State's Solicitor General and, in that capacity, I supervise the Appellate Division of the Department of the Attorney General, with oversight authority over most state and federal appeals in the Department. I have 34 years of litigation and dispute resolution experience, and I am writing in my personal capacity.

I have been aware of Clare's outstanding professional reputation for many years, and I have had the privilege of working with her for the past three months in the Department of the Attorney General. During that time, Clare has demonstrated a commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards. She is a thoughtful, practical leader with sound and considered judgment. I am honored to work with her as the Department strives to provide the most effective and efficient representation we can to our clients.

I urge the Committee to support Clare's appointment. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Clyde J. Wadsworth

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANA O. VIOLA
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
EDUCATION DIVISION
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1255

April 8, 2019

Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 598; Hearing on April 10, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.
Confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Hawai'i Attorney General; Testimony in Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhodes and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Clare E. Connors to be the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i.

I have been fortunate enough to have worked with Clare Connors since her interim appointment in January of 2019. As the Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the Education Division of the Department of the Attorney General, I have had a number of matters that require consultation and input from Clare. I have found her to be extremely smart, a very quick study, practical and reasonable in her approach, and an extreme pleasure to work with. She has an excellent disposition and is very professional in her approach and treatment of the Deputies within the department. She does not shy away from making decisions, even decisions that may not be the popular choice. She has the ability to think on a "big picture" level and balance the needs of the client and the State in making her decisions.

To date, Clare has shown that she has the integrity and honesty required of the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i. She clearly has the legal skills and just as importantly, she has shown that she has the management skills and the perfect temperament to handle the pressures of this position.

I think our department would be extremely fortunate to have someone of Clare's skill and caliber leading us. I fully support and strongly recommend that the Senate Judiciary Committee confirm and send for consideration to the full Senate Clare E. Connors to be appointed as the Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Holly T. Shikada
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Education Division

Testimony *In Support* of

Clare E. Connors

As

Attorney General

For

The State of Hawai'i

Committee on Judiciary, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Submitted by

Diane K. Taira

(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I support the nomination of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

I have been a Deputy Attorney General for over 22 years and have been a Supervising Deputy Attorney General for over 12 years.

While I have worked with Ms. Connors for just shy of three months, it is readily apparent that she is a caring, dedicated, hard-working, intelligent and experienced attorney who brings with her an energy and fresh perspective that has already benefitted the department. Ms. Connors is quick on the uptake, is experienced in both criminal and civil litigation, in government and private practice. Her qualities and experience inform her decisions and skillfully advances the effort of this department. Ms. Connors' remarkable resume evidences her experience and talent, but will be eclipsed by the impressive testimony you will no doubt receive from the many who know her. Without reservation, I submit that Ms. Connors is eminently qualified to be Hawaii's Attorney General.

It is my hope that the Committee will find the same and support the nomination of Clare E. Connors, recommending the Senate's advice and consent to her appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ms. Connors.

FROM: James W. Walther
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
DATE: April 8, 2019

RE: GM 598
Consideration and Confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General
Hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary on April 10, 2019

CHAIR RHOADS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I write in support of Clare E. Connors for your consideration to be confirmed as the Attorney General. As a Deputy Attorney General, I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Connors for the past several months since she was first nominated. In that short time, I have found her to be intelligent and insightful in her analysis and discussion of legal issues. Additionally, she is compassionate and considerate of the human aspects of the law; she cares genuinely about the way the law and her decisions affect people. She also has a kind spirit, a sense of humor, and sincere humility, all of which will serve her well in one of the most demanding positions in State government.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 9:29:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee:

I support the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General of Hawaii. Ms. Connors will bring fresh insights to the Department of Attorney General. She understands her role as both the State's chief law enforcement officer and the State's civil attorney to State officials. I have no doubt that she has all of the skills necessary to be a great Attorney General.

Thank you.

Russell A. Suzuki

Kenekoia/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho'omalua/Chair
Kenekoia/Senator Glenn Wakai, Hope Luna Ho'omalua/Vice Chair
Ke Kōmike Ho'okolokolo, Committee on the Judiciary

Hearing date

Pō'akolu, 'Apelila 10, 2019 / Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 9:30am

Position

SUPPORT

GM 598 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLARE E. CONNORS.

Welina mai kākou,

I write in support of GM 598 and would like to share a few insights on the character of Attorney General Gubernatorial Nominee Clare Connors, a friend for over a decade.

On a recent visit to Clare's home, I received a small glass jar of golden honey produced by her hive of bees. Clare and her husband had a new hobby, and I delighted in hearing about her adventures as a nascent beekeeper: workers and queens, order and swarms, strength and fragility, work and reward. This makana (gift) of honey and the bees in her apiary are an apt metaphor for this nominee: Clare is generous, diligent, tenacious, and community-oriented. She has committed her life to service and justice. Her sharp intellect is matched only by her uncompromising integrity.

As a Native Hawaiian, I believe that Clare respects Hawaiian culture and strives to understand the historical forces that have shaped our community. A gifted listener, Clare considers other points of view with discernment. Sometimes we agree, and sometimes we don't, but in all circumstances, I have witnessed that Clare shares my values: committing to doing what is pono (right and just), practicing ha'aha'a (humility), seeking na'au'ao (wisdom and understanding), and aloha kekahi i kekahi (loving one another).

In her personal life, Clare conducts herself with honor. I respect her wisdom, trust her judgement, and value her friendship. Hawai'i will be well-served by Clare Connors as our Attorney General.

Me ka ha'aha'a (with humility),



Kanani Young Harris

April 8, 2019

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

I strongly support the nomination of Clare E. Connors for Attorney General.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Senate Judiciary Committee Members. I am submitting my testimony in strong support of Clare Connors for Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Clare Connors for over 14 years since she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney. She is a brilliant critical thinker and tenacious attorney with a well-grounded sense of justice that will serve our state well.

Clare Connors has a love for her home the state of Hawaii, it's people, places and practices that make these islands so special. She truly possesses the aloha spirit that will make her a successful Attorney General in her dealings within the state as well as with the rest of the country, and even internationally if needed.

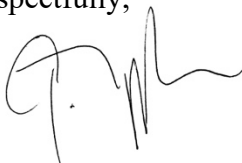
Community work for Clare has not been to build her resume, but rather is simply a living expression of her values:

- Faith & family: her teaching religious education at St. Anthony
- Community: Outdoor Circle and Kailua Town Party
- Education: Volunteer work with alma maters Punahou School and Yale University
- Justice: Providing pro bono legal services and volunteering with the UH law school

Clare Connors is an excellent choice for the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, and I fully and this nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Greg Tjapkes

Greg Tjapkes
1082 Lunaai Street Kailua, HI 96734
808-777-9553 gtjapkes@gmail.com

April 8, 2019

Dear Chair Rhoads,

I am Submitting Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Clare E. Connors as Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General

It must be noted that Clare Connors, is first and foremost, a local girl who has very strong family and community ties. She has consistently been involved in community issues, has exemplary family values, and has a true concern for Hawaii and our environment.

Over nearly 20 years I have come to know Clare Connors very well, as her immediate supervisor, colleague and friend. I initially knew Clare as a law clerk and was very impressed by her intelligence and drive. She was a bright young legal mind, and an excellent writer, with strong legal reasoning.

Clare later came to work at the United States Attorney's Office under my supervision. During this time she excelled in case development and honed her litigation skills. Clare is a person of strong moral character, who at all times acted with professionalism, integrity, and honesty. I have found Clare to be consistently kind and thoughtful of both staff and attorneys, while tackling all case assignments with dedication and a smile. Clare's legal skills really shined when she began handling complex white-collar cases within our office. Here legal judgment and reasoning are some of her strongest skill-sets. While handling some very challenging cases, she consistently acted in a fair and just manner.

In addition to her demeanor and being a joy to work with, Clare has always been a resource who was able to present creative ideas, thoughts and opinions, supporting the cases being handled by others in the office. Clare has excellent communication skills and is always able to articulate her thoughts and ideas in an effective manner. She demonstrated leadership, initiative and successfully met all her deadlines and goals with ease. In addition, she is extremely organized, reliable and worked independently on any case assigned to her. Clare's performance was truly outstanding and she was a model team member to others.

Clare later went on to private practice, where she handled civil cases on the part of victims who were harmed as a result of the actions of others. Clare was a great advocate for those who otherwise might not have had the resources to stand up for themselves. She has experience in both the public and private sectors and has been extremely successful in both venues.

Clare has my highest recommendation for the position of Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. I sincerely believe that Clare would be a tremendous asset for the people of the State of Hawaii as our Attorney General. If you have any further questions with regard to her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Johnson, Esq.
Honolulu, Hawaii

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

THE THIRTIETH STATE LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2019

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598
Nomination of Clare E. Connors

SUBMISSION OF LAWRENCE L. TONG

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR, GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I write to recommend the confirmation of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii.

I have been practicing law in Hawaii since 1981. I submit this testimony in my individual capacity, and not on behalf of my employer. I met Ms. Connors in the early 2000s, when we worked together as Assistant United States Attorneys. I was privileged to work with her for about seven years, and have been her friend since then. I am familiar with her professional skills and personal character. In my opinion, Ms. Connors has a combination of experience, integrity and resolve that will make her an extraordinary Attorney General for the people of our state.

Ms. Connors' academic and professional accomplishments are readily apparent from her resume. She has a diverse base of experience—she was an accomplished student at different universities, a public administrator for the City of New York, a law clerk for a federal judge, a federal prosecutor, and then a private practitioner. Ms. Connors began her legal career as a law clerk to then-Chief U.S. District Judge David Alan Ezra. She spent a year learning federal statutes and case law, and handling civil and criminal matters through trial or compromise. Judge Ezra was a mentor to her, showing her how to resolve disputes dispassionately, on the basis of the facts and law, and without regard to the identity or power of the parties.

Following her clerkship, Ms. Connors joined the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division, where she prosecuted tax cases. She travelled to various circuits and appeared before a variety of judges. The work required not only an understanding of the intricacies

of criminal tax law, but also an ability to adjust to the cultures of different jurisdictions. After enjoying success in that role, Ms. Connors decided to return to Hawaii, where she became as Assistant U.S. Attorney. During her seven years with the office, Ms. Connors handled a broad variety of criminal cases involving violent crime, child exploitation, prison disturbances, narcotics, money laundering, Ponzi schemes, tax, fraud and public corruption offenses. Ms. Connors took on many of the office's most difficult cases early in her career. Following the sub-prime mortgage crisis, Ms. Connors spearheaded the office's prosecution of dozens of individuals for loan generation fraud involving false income statements, inflated appraisals and the like. She also prosecuted integrity offenses involving public officials or employees who abused their positions for personal gain.

All of these cases required sophisticated legal skills. Ms. Connors had to lead grand jury investigations, gather the evidence, and apply the law to complex fact patterns. She also had to make nuanced judgments about whether a defendant acted with criminal intent or, if not, whether administrative or civil sanctions were appropriate. In making these judgments, Ms. Connors often worked both as an attorney and team leader. She led the efforts of task forces or working groups comprised of multiple government agencies and representatives of private industry. The participants sometimes had conflicting needs and priorities, and none reported directly to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Ms. Connors nonetheless showed an ability to forge alliances while respecting the disparate perspectives of the participants.

After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Connors distinguished herself in the handling of complex civil disputes. While representing injured persons, she took on institutional entities represented by some of Honolulu's largest private law firms. She proved to be a tireless advocate who was not afraid to assert her clients' rights in the trial and appellate courts, or in mediation proceedings.

While working in both the private and public sectors, Ms. Connors has given freely of her time to the legal community. She has been active in the Hawaii Women Lawyers Association, a delegate and representative at the United States District Court's District Conference and the Ninth Circuit's Judicial Conference, the author of a Hawaii Federal Appellate Practice Manual, a presenter at numerous legal seminars, and a faculty member of the Hawaii Federal Trial Academy. Ms. Connors also taught a class on entrepreneurship at the University of Hawaii.

Given her background and engagement, it was not surprising that the American Bar Association rated Ms. Connors "unanimously well qualified" when nominated to be a federal judge. Although Ms. Connors never obtained a floor vote on the nomination, that disappointment gives this Senate an opportunity to confirm her for service in another

significant role.

Ms. Connors is not only an outstanding attorney, but also a wonderful person. She is a devoted wife, mother and daughter. She and her husband have demanding careers that require compromises of the sort that many working Hawaii couples face. Ms. Connors has worked hard to assure that her career successes have not come at the expense of her family. She participates in her children's schooling and outside activities, and puts family above all else. When her father fell ill, Ms. Connors became a patient advocate, studying treatment plans, and making sure that he had the best treatment available. I was enormously impressed by how she maintained her career, and supported her siblings, mother and others with grace. Ms. Connors similarly values her personal relationships, and gives freely to friends, regardless of how busy she may be.

I am confident this committee will hear much about Ms. Connors. She is talented, thoughtful and has endless capacity. She is brilliant but humble—although she is generally the smartest person in the room, you would never know it from her demeanor. She is a great listener—even though she does her own research, she listens patiently to all views, regardless of the identity of the speaker. She is a dealmaker—she finds ways to get to “yes,” but is not afraid to be firm when necessary. She can multi-task, attack varied disputes, get to the issues, strip the personalities, and find creative, well-reasoned solutions. She has the courage to do what is right (as we have already seen), and not just what is politically expedient. She will be an outstanding Attorney General.

I am proud to support Ms. Connors, and urge this Committee to act favorably on her nomination.

From: [Muehleck, Tom \(USAHI\)](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of Claire E. Connors
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 6:55:26 AM

I would like to take this opportunity to write you in my personal capacity, not on behalf of the Department of Justice, to support the nomination of Clare E. Connors for Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I have been an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the District of Hawaii for 29 years and met Clare in 2003 when she came to our office on detail from the Department of Justice Tax Division. Shortly after meeting Clare, I learned that she was raised in Hawaii and that she really knew how to prosecute criminal tax cases. We were all pleased when in 2004 Clare joined our office as an Assistant United States Attorney.

During her service as a federal prosecutor Clare successfully prosecuted complex criminal tax and money laundering cases and enjoyed the respect of Hawaii's federal judges, her fellow AUSAs, federal law enforcement agencies and the defense bar. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Clare E. Connors as Hawaii's Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Muehleck

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 7:09:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynette Marushige	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 9, 2019

Gary Suganuma
45-123 Namoku Street
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
(808) 222-0238
gary.suganuma@gmail.com

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **GM 598, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Clare E. Connors for Attorney General**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee:

I am the supervising deputy attorney general for the Tax and Charities Division of the Department of the Attorney General. I submit this testimony in my individual capacity in strong support of GM 580 submitted by Governor Ige for consideration and confirmation of Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Connors over the past several months and believe she has done an excellent job. Consistent with her strong credentials, Ms. Connors has proven to be very smart, a quick learner, and a hard worker. In my meetings with her, she has always been extremely prepared and ready to provide thoughtful feedback and analysis. She has been able to quickly learn the many important matters handled by the various divisions in the Department. I believe Ms. Connors has been an effective leader for our Department and that she will continue doing a great job if given the opportunity to do so. I, therefore, respectfully ask this Committee to confirm her nomination for Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:01:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Antolini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee,

I write in **strong support** of the nomination of Clare E. Connors for Attorney General.

Clare has a well-earned reputation for integrity, professionalism, and fairness.

Her years of top-notch experience in litigation and service to the bar and community make her an excellent nominee.

She will be a great Attorney General for Hawai'i!

I wish her the very best and hope that the Senate will confirm soon her for this important position.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini

Attorney HSBA #5430

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:54:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Kolonie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony **in Support** of Clare E. Connors
as
Attorney General for the State of Hawai‘i

Senate Committee on Judiciary
April 10, 2019, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Submitted by Craig Y. Iha (written comments only)

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the nomination Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General for the State of Hawai‘i.

I have worked as a Deputy Attorney General for the past ten years, and have been a Supervising Deputy Attorney General since late last year.

In the several months that I have worked with Ms. Connors, I have come to know her as a caring, competent, and strong attorney dedicated to the best interests of the State. Even more important, Ms. Connors leads by example – putting in long hours, making hard decisions, and prioritizing integrity over expedience.

I have no doubt that Ms. Connors is supremely qualified to lead our department and to serve the people of Hawai‘i as Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ms. Connors.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANA O. VIOLA
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirtieth Legislature 2019
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 598 – Gubernatorial Nominee, Clare E. Connors

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

I write in strong support of nominee Clare E. Connors as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. In my opinion, Clare is the perfect choice for the state's Chief Law Enforcement Officer.

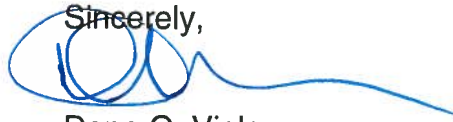
Clare's impressive background and stellar professional career speak for itself. She is an accomplished and fearless litigator whose talents and integrity gained her the admiration of former President Obama, in his selection of Clare as a federal judicial nominee. As Clare's First Deputy since her appointment in January of this year, I have seen first-hand how she operates and understand why she earned that esteem. She is not only a brilliant attorney, but she is also conscientious, thoughtful, determined, and, as the job requires, a quick study. It is hard to believe she is new to this office as within less than four months, she has tackled and mastered multiple weighty issues of state and national significance.

Clare's legal acumen and professional talents are not her only strengths. Clare is sincere and honest, treats everyone with respect and kindness, has a wonderful sense of humor, and is a joy to work with.

All of these exceptional qualities make Clare the best choice for Attorney General. I respectfully ask that you recommend her for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dana O. Viola
First Deputy Attorney General

LATE

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 9:44:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Clare Connors as Attorney General. As many others have probably stated, she is extraordinarily intelligent and capable. After working with her for several months at the Department of the Attorney General, I can also say that she listens to input from others, but is unafraid to make the final decision herself. She welcomes discussion, expresses her appreciation for the work of others, and provides useful feedback. She has a character and temperament that will serve her well as Attorney General. I look forward to working for and with her, and hope you will approve her nomination.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
CLARE E. CONNORS AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 10, 2019

LATE

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii and for over the past thirty plus years have been a government affairs consultant. I am testifying in strong support of Clare Connors to be the state's Attorney General.

Ms. Connors has the necessary background to be an effective Attorney General. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she has been a trial attorney for most of her career. I feel that this is an important qualification of an attorney who is appointed as the state's Attorney General. She has been involved in both criminal and civil litigation and this background will clearly serve her well as our Attorney General. She has had experience working as a trial attorney at the United Department of Justice as well a federal prosecutor in Hawaii, and she has been a litigator in private practice focused on civil litigation for the past eight years.

Besides her outstanding legal qualifications, I feel that she will conduct herself with the utmost integrity and for the public good.

I wholeheartedly support her nomination to be the next Attorney General for the State of Hawaii and urge this committee and the Hawaii State Senate to confirm her.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 6:57:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaliko chun	Testifying for DHHL	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 4:44:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Comments	Yes

Comments:

We would just like to offer comments with respect to this nominee. As native Hawaiians, collectively, we believe that we his State Government has failed in its fiduciary duties to adequately fund DHHL.

We also believe that OHA should NOT be receiving GENERAL FUNDS, as that process just made it possible for native Hawaiians to be subjected to intrusion into the process by which our OHA leaders are elected.

We also believe that DHHL should NOT be using Deputy Attorney's General's as their legal counsel during the commission meetings, as well his sets up an obvious conflict of interest since as Judge Castinetti has explained to DHHL in the Nelson case that, DHHL should not have sided with the State in that case because, DHHL owes a duty to the Beneficiaries of the Trust and NOT to the State. Therefore, like OHA, DHHL should be having it's own counsel present during the commission meetings, to advise the commission, since inherently the Deputy Attorney Generals' advice will be from the perspective of protecting the State's interest & NOT the interests of DHHL.

Further, we believe that the BIGGEST problem that affects our State Government, from the Head of State, through the State Legislature, & down to the Department heads, is the TOTAL ABDICATION OF THEIR FIRST OATH OF OFFICE!!! Which is, when all of you take the OATH OF OFFICE, you say: I SWEAR TO DEFEND & UPHOLD THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII & ALL ITS LAWS!!! That's your FIRST OATH OF OFFICE! No one takes an oath that says: "I promise to cut deals with my colleagues so I can get my pet legislation passed, or so I don't get my bills killed." It's this kind of political pressure that causes good Senators, for example, to refuse to allow Senator Nishihara to utilize the Subpoena process, which can only happen by way of a resolution, that off the top, nine Senators were dead set against using that process to investigate the Department of Public Safety's Administration! This has now led to our informants, to push an investigation by the FBI.

It is the fact that the FBI has had to step in to fight Government corruption in Hawaii, why? Because our State Government is incapable of policing and/or investigating itself, due primarily to the clear violation of their FIRST OATH OF OFFICE!

As the State's HIGHEST LEGAL COUNSEL, part of your duties include giving legal opinions, if you have no desire to hold your own clients accountable for violating their First Oath of Office, then as far as native Hawaiians are concerned, we have no hope or confidence that you will be effective in fulfilling your duties to hold your own Government Officials accountable for violating their first oath of office. As an example, you should end the corruption in your own department by firing or releasing Deputy Attorney General Lisa Itomura, who has used perjured testimony to attempt to persuade the Circuit Court to rule against me in an evidentiary hearing. Though I still prevailed over the State & your Deputy Attorney General, as a Pro Se Litigant with no Law Degree, which has led to my release from the illegal confinement I suffered for 5 1/2 years on a bogus Parole violation. Nevertheless, Ms. Itomura was never held accountable for her role in allowing the bad actors who were employed by the State to subject me to illegal confinement in prison.

Lastly, if the common everyday person has no direct access to you, we will continue to have NO FAITH that anything will change, especially where native Hawaiians are concerned. As a native Hawaiian advocacy corporation, it is our hope that you will have an open door policy to meet with you, so we can work with your department to help fix our broken system, which NO ATTORNEY GENERAL in this States' history. Mahalo.

LATE

GM-598

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:21:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Joyce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ms. Connors is a bright and kind individual. Someone that the office can definitely benefit from, with her background. She also has some fresh ideas with her team, on tackling long standing issues. I support the Governor's nomination of Ms. Connors for Hawaii AG.