

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

The Commission has the unique historical role of being a government agency tasked with systemic advocacy to further the equality of women through long range planning and coordination. The eight responsibilities of the Commission are specifically enumerated in statute, which include: coordinating activities and information; public awareness campaigns; legislation and administrative advocacy; political education programming; interaction with state, federal and international bodies; conference attendance; coordinating associated funding; and finally submitting an annual report to the legislature. (HRS §367-3)

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission?

My role as a Commissioner is to use my knowledge and expertise as a direct legal service provider to help identify and plan for activities and advocacy that fulfill the statutory duties of the Commission. It is my responsibility to seek out research, data, and information to inform myself on current issues, and to listen and hear from other Commissioners and stakeholders regarding community issues relating to the needs of women and girls.

3. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Commission? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Commission or if you were invited to apply.

I initially applied to the Commission after transitioning from policy work to direct legal services. I want to serve on the Commission because it is important for those of us working in direct legal services to consider how our indigent clients can be served through substantive systemic changes and governmental planning and coordination.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Commission. Please discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

As a practicing attorney involved in direct indigent client representation, I have on the ground experience with the variety of systemic barriers women and families face in Hawai'i. In particular I work with many women exiting incarceration, women who are unsheltered and housing insecure, women with physical and mental disabilities, and survivors of domestic violence. I am eager to bring my experiences representing clients to a government commission, and excited to see how through collaboration, we can ensure our state is committed to empowering women and fulfilling the statutory duties of the Commission.

I have extensive experience in legislative research, drafting, and administrative testimony. As a Policy Advocate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) I worked to help the organization develop its own positions on a variety of policies all for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. I have policy subject matter expertise on such diverse topics as affordable housing policies, land use, public benefits, and other social services. I am experienced with the responsibilities representing a government agency, and weighing in on important areas of

concern; I served as the agency representative for OHA on the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness for several years before moving to my current position.

Community collaboration and community organizing to empower communities to be their own best advocate is an important framework I believe necessary for any advocacy campaign. As an attorney committed to public interest work, I have sought to remain connected to community groups. I was involved in community organizing of tenants in public housing projects at Kuhio Park Terrace and Mayor Wright Homes. I was also involved in community initiatives designed to engage all stakeholders. One example of success is my involvement as part of the COFACAN. We were successful in working with communities from Micronesia, governmental agencies like the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the White House Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other stakeholders to collaborate on new guidance and employer training to address employment discrimination for Micronesians completing employment verifications. This led to the USCIS creating and releasing a new form for I-9 employment verifications. Born from this success, and supportive work on an impact litigation, the community has worked to form the COFA-CAN Community Action Network has remained active during the legislative session on state initiatives, as well as joining the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum in supporting federal legislation to restore Medicaid for Micronesian residents.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term as a member of the Commission?

I want to bring my expertise working with women who are unsheltered to the Commission, and work to systemically address housing insecurity. Additionally, I am a skilled data analyst. I am interested in seeing how the Commission can continue to act as a clearinghouse for data regarding the status of women in our state.

6. What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Commission should address in the future?

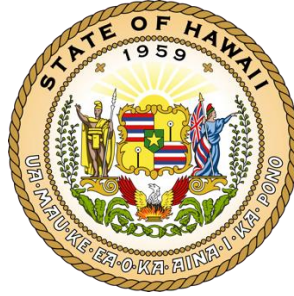
I am impressed by the recent trafficking public awareness campaign launched by the Commission. The campaign handled a very delicate subject matter and made it relevant and accessible to our community. The Commission's leadership and advocacy around paid family leave legislation has been impactful, and this issue should continue to be a priority for the Commission in the future.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests that could arise. I work providing indigent legal services to clients at a community health center. Should conflicts of interest arise, I would be careful to recuse myself from any voting or other discussion.

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

My community work and experience with legislative advocacy combined with my demonstrated commitment to public interest will make a good match for the Commission. In particular, my experience working with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, as well as indigent clients, will be an asset to the Commission in fulfilling its statutory mandate.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Prepared for the Senate Committee on Judiciary

In Support of GM711

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

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports** the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Deja Ostrowski to the Commission. Ms. Ostrowski is currently a public interest attorney at Medical-Legal Partnership Hawai‘i. Previously, she served as the public policy advocate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Ms. Ostrowski has spent her professional career in the service of indigent and marginalized women, specifically from Micronesian, Native Hawaiian and Thai communities. Her expertise would be a valuable asset to our agency. Accordingly, we ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. Ostrowski to the Commission.

Sincerely,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus



## GM711

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEJA OSTROWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

April 10, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Room 016

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM711, which would confirm Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

Ms. Ostrowski is an excellent selection for the Commission on the Status of Women, and we are confident that her work with the Commission will exemplify its mission to improve the status and well-being of women and girls and to work toward gender equality within the state and nationally. The Commission was established to advocate for strong policy to improve the well-being of Hawai'i's women and girls, to assist the State with implementation of policy changes, to develop supportive programs for women and girls, and to serve as an informational resource for Hawai'i's women and girls on a broad range of issues. Deja Ostrowski has committed her legal career to the public interest; she has a noteworthy work history in the fields of health and human services, including direct representation of domestic violence victims. She has also advocated on a myriad of issues impacting low-income women and girls, including chronic disease, homelessness, affordable housing, and positive family lifestyle choices. More specifically, Ms. Ostrowski has focused her work in underserved communities, working directly with and on behalf of Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Native Hawaiian individuals and communities. During her time as a Public Policy Advocate for OHA, Ms. Ostrowski was instrumental in developing and analyzing OHA's policy recommendations for the 2018 publication of "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wāhine Well-Being"; this publication will inform the Commission's work in the years ahead with its voluminous and relevant data regarding Native Hawaiian women and girls. With her vast legal, legislative, and administrative experience, Ms. Ostrowski will bring to the Commission a strong voice for the women and girls of underserved communities, and in favor of improving access to social services and achieving equity across Hawai'i.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM711 to confirm Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important gubernatorial nomination.

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/6/2019 4:46:48 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats is proud to support the confirmation of Ms. Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms.Ostrowski is an attorney by background, with expertise in public policy, civil rights investigations and civil law. Her background is particularly valuable for the work of the Commission, in addressing the problems of and seeking improvement for gender-based disparity and injustice. We Democrats are confident that Ms. Ostrowski will do well in this role, and are thankful for Governor Ige's nomination.

Please vote in favor of confirming Ms. Deja Ostrowski.

Thank you,  
Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair  
Oahu County Committee, Oahu County Democrats

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/5/2019 3:57:10 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Kaono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law student who has had the privilege of working/volunteering with Deja at the law school's Medical-Legal Partnership, I whole-heartedly support her nomination to join the Commission on the Status of Women. I strongly urge the members of the Senate's Judiciary Committee to support Deja's nomination.

Respectfully,

Ashley Kaono



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**Dr. Vidalino S. Raatior**

Email: vidraatior@gmail.com | Phone: 808.430.2017 | Website: www.raatior.com

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

From: Dr. Vidalino S. Raatior

RE: Support for GM 711 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEJA OSTROWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Hearing: Monday, April 10, 2019, 10:00 am, Conference Room 016

It is an honor to write this testimonial in strong support of “GM 711 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEJA OSTROWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.” I have known Ms. Ostrowski for the five years I lived, worked, and attended doctoral studies in Hawai'i. She has been using her legal background to serve the needs of not only Native Hawaiians, but other people especially women who are unjustly treated. As a father with a 13 year old daughter I would want a strong and intelligent woman like Ms. Ostrowski to advocate for her needs and the needs of women today and tomorrow. She possesses the combination of intelligence, humility, strength, and commitment to justice that serves the entire community.

Thank you for your support of Ms. Deja Ostrowski, for the commission on the status of women.



**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/6/2019 1:27:18 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the nomination of Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women. I am the founder and principal attorney of Blue Ocean Law, a boutique international law firm based in Guam that services clients throughout the Pacific region. I am also a lecturer in law at the William S. Richardson School of Law (University of Hawai'i-Mānoa), where I teach Pacific Islands legal systems.

I have known Deja for about twelve years, and I have no doubt she'd be an asset to the Commission. In our many engagements over the course of that time, I have been consistently impressed not only with Deja's hard work and dedication, but with her intersectional approach to advocacy, both for her clients and the public interest. Her understanding and use of legal process coupled with her commitment to community empowerment, particularly the advancement of native hawaiian and indigent families, women and children, make her a deserving candidate of the seat she seeks to fill.

The fact that Deja is smart, creative, passionate, and principled is one thing. The fact that her entire body of work to date evinces a sincere dedication to the principles of justice--social, economic, racial and gender justice--is quite another. In sum, she combines all the attributes necessary to advance the good work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Julian Aguon

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/5/2019 4:43:21 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael L Inouye	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I can think of few women more qualified than Deja Ostrowski to serve on the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. She has been a dedicated advocate for women's rights and liberation, particularly for indigenous women and women of color. She also is more well-versed on the housing crisis in Hawaii than anyone I've ever met, which she rightly sees as a feminist issue. While having a granular understanding of systemic problems is important, what distinguishes Deja from your average policy wonk is that she offers concrete solutions based on years of her own research. I strongly support Deja's nomination for commissioner on the Commission on the Status of Women because beyond being exceedingly qualified for the position, she is a brilliant, passionate, persistent champion for real and lasting change.

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/7/2019 12:03:14 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Nicole Woo](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of GM 711 (Deja Ostrowski)  
**Date:** Sunday, April 7, 2019 5:15:12 PM

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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing date: April 10, 2019  
Hearing time: 10:00 AM  
Hearing room: 016

Re: In Support of GM 711 (Deja Ostrowski)

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

I'm writing in support of the gubernatorial nomination of Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women

Over the past few years I've gotten to know Deja in a professional context and found her to be exceptionally intelligent, knowledgeable, and thorough in her work. She also has demonstrated a strong passion for her work and commitment to the betterment of the people -- especially women -- of Hawai'i.

I'm certain that Ms. Ostrowski would serve as a Commissioner as she has in all her other professional roles: with excellence. I urge you to confirm her nomination.

Mahalo,

Nicole Woo  
Downtown Honolulu resident  
Policy analyst at Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice (for affiliation purposes only)

Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
10AM, Conference Room 016

**Testimony in support of GM711, confirmation of Deja Ostrowski to Commission on the Status of Women**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Ostrowski's knowledge and experience on issues impacting the lives of women will aid in the Commission's continued legacy to improve the lives of all women in Hawaii. Ms. Ostrowski's work on inequality regarding housing, health care and economic policies makes her an ideal commissioner and I look forward to her addition strengthening the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Deja Ostrowski.

Kathleen Algire-Fedarczyk  
Member, Honolulu Committee on the Status of Women

**ALYSSA-MARIE YUKIKO HULALI KAU**

66-908 Alena Loop • Waialua, Hawai'i 96791 • (808) 218-9455 • [amkau@hawaii.edu](mailto:amkau@hawaii.edu)

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

Re: GM 711, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Deja Marie Ostrowski, Commission on the Status of Women

April 7, 2019

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I would like to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** for Deja Ostrowski to be confirmed to the Commission on the Status of Women. As a dedicated public interest lawyer, Ms. Ostrowski is deeply passionate about empowering women and in inspiring systemic policy change for the benefit of underrepresented groups, including Native Hawaiians and Micronesians. Ms. Ostrowski's institutional knowledge as a policy advocate and attorney combined with her commitment to effecting change through grassroots organizing, trans-ethnic alliance building, education, advocacy, and direct action is a critical voice that will be welcome on the Commission.

I know Ms. Ostrowski through her work a Public Policy Advocate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA") when I was her legal extern and learned a considerable amount under her tutelage. Despite her overwhelming work load, Ms. Ostrowski takes the time to mentoring young women. She is dedicated to making room for leaders, commentators, and experts who are Native Hawaiians, immigrants, and women who already exist and are relied upon. Ms. Ostrowski currently mentors law students to address legal needs for low-income patients and encourages students to pursue social justice oriented careers and to follow the "Richardson" way, despite the limited resources, lower pay, and emotional labor that often comes with public interest law.

Ms. Ostrowski's depth of thought and analysis, ability to digest and convey complex factual circumstances and legal and policy positions with clarity, and skill in coming up with innovative ideas to address longstanding issues of housing insecurity, criminalization of poverty, and commercial sexual exploitation have been evident in my dealings with her. She employs an interdisciplinary approach to ensure that people and communities that have been steamrolled, marginalized, devalued, and exploited are prioritized and valued in our policies and approach. Her strong work ethic, community organizing skills, and keen legal knowledge is evident in the extreme care that she has for each policy she analyzes and each case she works on. In her approach to redesign the systems that underrepresented individuals are forced to engage with, she translates her empathy into concrete policy changes that allows for capability building and empowers individuals to access legal, medical, and basic health services that are often out of reach. It is for these reasons that Ms. Ostrowski is revered in the community and remains highly respected amongst her colleagues.

With this knowledge, Ms. Ostrowski has been instrumental in achieving resolutions for her clients through keenly perceptive analysis of facts, thorough research, and explications of the practical implications of a course of conduct. This attribute allows her to make determinations,

**ALYSSA-MARIE YUKIKO HULALI KAU**

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not in a theoretical vacuum, but with a balance of real life considerations. For example, Ms. Ostrowski negotiated with the City and County of Honolulu to adopt Bill 58 in 2018, which passed baseline modest affordable housing requirements for large developments, including for properties along the rail route. Her negotiations with the City allowed for addressing the need for more housing for local residents with limited land space, while holding the City and developers accountable for ineffective in-lieu fees that allowed for local working families to be priced out of their own hometowns. Ms. Ostrowski also highlighted the clear nexus between housing instability (women's ability to acquire and maintain housing) and domestic violence, sexual assault, and commercial sexual exploitation. Her expertise and experience with housing policy have made her a key voice for creating a housing system that better serves underrepresented women and prioritizing low-income women and families.

In conclusion, the Commission on the Status of Women would benefit significantly from the perspective of someone like Ms. Ostrowski who has succeeded in differing legal and policy environments. Moreover, her extensive background in bringing justice to indigent and underrepresented communities will continue to allow her to bring a unique and much-needed perspective to the Commission. Ms. Ostrowski has a long personal history of advocacy on behalf of the underrepresented and in the promotion of equity and access to justice. She possesses the qualities required and expected of all commissioners: intelligence, integrity, diligence, and compassion. I enthusiastically support the nomination of Deja Marie Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alyssa-Marie Y. H. Kau

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 11:47:06 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Akiemi Glenn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of Deja Ostrowski's nomination to the State Commission on the Status of Women. Through the years that I have known Deja she has demonstrated an engaged commitment to her vocation as an attorney working in the public interest, combining both keen analytical skills in research, policy, and the law and a deeply held commitment to underserved and marginalized people of Hawai'i, especially women.

Deja's career has included advocating for human trafficking victims, supporting unsheltered people gaining access to governmental support and services, conducting leading-edge research that reinterprets the actual functioning of Hawai'i's social service provision to our communities, and authoring significant policies to support Native Hawaiians through her tenure at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Deja is also deeply involved in lending her legal expertise to community efforts, such as legal clinics for Hawai'i residents who wish to apply for US citizenship, community fora investigating homelessness policies, and working as a certified interpreter. While these issues affect many people, the brunt of negative impacts of trafficking, houselessness, lack of access to services, and the ongoing disenfranchisement of Native Hawaiians disproportionately fall on women and Deja has made advocacy for women specifically a priority as she serves as a community resource and expert on those specific impacts.

Deja has a special commitment to Hawai'i and brings a passion and zeal borne out of a deep conviction to pursue justice. She has demonstrated over and over that she is committed to rigorous research and investigation and is always compelled to learn more about the situation at hand. Therefore, she has developed a priceless aptitude to envision a more just and equitable society in practical, actionable terms. The Commission on the Status of Women —and all of Hawai'i—would benefit from Deja Ostrowski's confirmation to this important body and I reiterate my enthusiastic support for her nomination.



**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 1:05:20 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Trisha Kajimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Deja Ostrowski for the past six years in the context of social justice advocacy coalitions and know her to be a thoughtful, ethical, and experienced advocate with extensive knowledge of the issues facing marginalized people in Hawaii. I believe she makes an excellent commissioner and support her nomination. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 1:33:56 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Parasco	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I have known Deja Ostrowski for more than 6 years. She is a brilliant attorney and advocate for vulnerable populations, including women, Native Hawaiians, people with disabilities, and people experiencing houselessness. Her knowledge, experience, and moral compass will complement the Commission and further its mission of bettering life for all womxn in Hawaii. Please support her nomination.

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**GM 711, Deja Ostrowski**  
**April 10, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Rm 016**

Aloha e ka Luna Hoomalu Rhoads, ka Hope Luna Hoomalu Wakai, a me ke Komike Hookolokolo,

I write in **SUPPORT** of Deja Ostrowski's appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women. Professionally, Deja has shown herself to be intelligent, hardworking, and principled. Through her career choices, Deja has consistently demonstrated her commitment to community and her sincerity in advancing and empowering women. As a former public policy advocate and public interest litigator, Deja brings to the Commission unique legal skills; I am confident her presence and participation on the Commission will greatly benefit and advance the Commission's essential purpose to improve the status and well-being of women and girls throughout Hawaii.

Mahalo a nui for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Me ke aloha,

Sabrina Rose Kamakakaulani Gramberg

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 3:42:08 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the nomination of Deja Ostrowski for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. I know her personally and of her commitment to public interest law, the community and the rights of the underserved. She will make a Commissioner. Mahalo for the chance to submit my testimony of support.

April 8, 2019

To: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Fawn Jade Koopman

Re: Testimony in Support of GM711, Relating to the Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEJA OSTROWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of GM711, for the consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, Deja Ostrowski.

I cannot imagine a stronger candidate than Deja Ostrowski for a position on the Commission on the Status of Women. Deja has dedicated her career to advancing the rights of women and families in Hawai'i as an attorney, a community organizer, a policy advocate, and a feminist. She has the unique experience of working with a multitude community groups across a broad spectrum of issues, and is an impactful and passionate advocate in all of the work that she does. Deja also has the ability to inspire others to become organizers for social change, and in doing so, Deja has already improved the lives of so many.

If confirmed, I have no doubt Deja will work tirelessly to ensure Hawai'i is committed to empowering women. I recommend her without reservation.

Thank you,

Fawn Jade Koopman

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 4:09:45 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit my STRONG SUPPORT for the nomination of Ms. Deja Ostrowski to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. In the nearly 15 years I have known her, Ms. Ostrowski has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. Her passion, critical analyses, and always thoughtful reflection on issues affecting our communities, including areas of intersection between gender, race, and socioeconomic disparities has made her a role model and mentor to so many of us in the local and national social justice arenas; I can say with complete confidence that Ms. Ostrowski is a true and unsung hero and that her appointment to the Commission will elevate the Commission and its work to the substantial benefit of all who call these islands home.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to ADVISE AND CONSENT to the nomination of Ms. Deja Ostrowski to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you,

Wayne Tanaka

Dina Shek  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

**RE: Support for Nomination of Deja Ostrowski  
to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women (GM 711)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support the nomination of Deja Ostrowski to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women. I first met Ms. Ostrowski when she was my law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. She remains one of my most outstanding students, always thinking critically about how the law could be used to benefit the most vulnerable members of society. Many years later, I was fortunate to hire Ms. Ostrowski as a Staff Attorney for the Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawai'i where she continues to demonstrate her dedication as a community lawyer and fierce advocate for people facing homelessness, mental health issues, and domestic violence. I have also worked extensively with Ms. Ostrowski on justice matters for Micronesian communities in Hawai'i, tackling policy and community organizing work over many years.

Ms. Ostrowski is a dedicated attorney, a deeply connected community partner, and a longtime advocate for women, always focusing on helping vulnerable women to realize their own power. She demonstrates a depth of knowledge, critical analysis, and a passion for equality, gender equity, and community justice, making her an ideal candidate to serve as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for her nomination to this important Commission.

Please vote to CONFIRM Ms. Deja Ostrowski's nomination to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dina Shek  
Associate Faculty Specialist, William S. Richardson School of Law  
Legal Director, Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawai'i  
(affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 1:49:40 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bow Mun Chin	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I have known Ms. Ostrowski since she was a student in Law School. I have followed her career and know her to be extremely intelligent and competent. Just as important, she has shown me she is very dedicated to public interest law, as well as being deeply rooted in our communities and passionate about empowering women. I support her nomination.



**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 4:33:59 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis Ostrowski	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Ms. Ostrowski has been involved in public interest law for many years and cares deeply about empowering women in Hawai'i. I fully support her nomination.

:: Leanne Fox ::

**LATE**

April 9, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 016

**STRONG SUPPORT: GM711**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, DEJA OSTROWSKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Aloha,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM711** which would confirm Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Ostrowski is a particularly appropriate selection for the Commission on the Status of Women, and I am confident that she will reflect the Commission's mandate to improve the status and well-being of women and girls while working towards gender equality, within the state and nationally. I have worked with Deja Ostrowski for a number of years in professional and academic capacities, namely when she was a Public Policy Advocate at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Her expert policy analyses and community-based advocacy approach has garnered numerous publications, invited speaking roles, and awards of distinction around the world. She was a core team member for the 2018 publication of *Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wāhine Well-Being*, which is utilized by the Commission to stay informed on relevant issue data impacting Native Hawaiian women and girls. Deja has a noteworthy work history in the fields of health and human services to include serving as an important advocate against chronic diseases, homelessness, housing shortage, and family lifestyle choices. Namely, working with Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Native Hawaiian clientele, she is a strong voice for underserved minorities and equity across Hawai'i to improve access to social services.

The Commission was established to assist in legislative advocacy and implementation, to develop programs for women and girls, and to serve as an informational resource for Hawai'i's women and girls on a broad range of policies and issues. **Deja Ostrowski's expertise as a public interest lawyer will certainly work toward ongoing achievements and significant actions by the Commission during her tenure.**

Today, Native Hawaiian women and girls are born into and are raised along a backdrop of historical, social, and political trauma. Specifically, land alienation, language shift, ethnocide, cultural appropriation, cultural devaluation, population decline, and economic disadvantage, among others. Although historical, these past occurrences presently influence, inform, and situate the experiences, success, and well-being of Native Hawaiian wāhine everyday. With Deja's competence, I look forward to the Commission continuing to advocate on behalf of all women and girls, especially those facing the greatest inequities and disparities.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to **PASS GM711** to confirm Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on the Status of Women. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important gubernatorial nomination.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Leanne K. Fox*

Letter of Support for GM711

**LATE**

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 10:03:19 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamaile Maldonado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Deja Ostrowski is a sincerely passionate advocate for women and girls, especially belonging to minority ethnic groups and from underserved communities. She brings with her over a decade of service to this community and expertise in access to public services and policy analysis; she also brings genuine enthusiasm and commitment to positive change. I can't think of a better person to help the Commission meet its goals in the years to come.

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 10:46:48 AM

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

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jocelyn Doane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Deja Ostrowski to the Commission on Status of Women, who will bring a strong advocacy voice for women of color and vulnerable populations. I urge you to support her appointment.

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 5:14:45 PM

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

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Tochiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support Deja Ostrowski's appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women. She is a clear headed and compassionate champion for the needs and the strengths of women in our community. I first met Deja when she was a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, while I was Associate Dean for Student Services. Deja was well respected at the Law School. Since then I have observed her tireless commitment to our community. She has a vision for a prosperous and equitable Hawaii that will serve all of us well.

**LATE**

**GM-711**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:17:17 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to strongly support the nomination of my friend Deja Ostrowski. Deja is a strong and articulate advocate for women's issues, poverty and houselessness. I believe her passion, intellect and commitment to public service will greatly benefit the Commission on the Status of Women.

Aloha

Kevin