

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

KEN K. WATANABE  
PRINCIPAL

KARA UCHIDA  
VICE PRINCIPAL

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**WAIĀKEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
180 W. PUAINAKO ST.  
HILO, HI 96720-5038

March 24, 2021

Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Senate Committee Chair on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 204  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC 35

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Judiciary Committee members,

I am writing to highly recommend the confirmation of Jeff Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit on the island of Hawai`i. Mr. Ng is an upstanding citizen of our community who serves both in and out of court. In the past 5 years, Mr. Ng has volunteered as a Junior Achievement presenter for Waiākea Elementary School. As busy as his schedule may be, Mr. Ng made time to share his life experiences while teaching lessons of entrepreneurship and the importance of making good decisions as a life-long learner. He is also a devoted and actively involved father and family member.

Mr. Ng is committed to our community and families in making it better and a safe place. He will be a welcomed edition to our Judicial Court system on Hawai`i island.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy L. Iwata".

Cindy L. Iwata  
Waiākea Elementary School  
Title I Coordinator

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 9:25:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa J. Kawachi	Testifying for Big Island Junior Golf Association	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting my testimonial support for JC 35 for the consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit for Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng. I have worked with Jeffrey as a fellow board member for the Big Island Junior Golf Association for several years. He has since become the current President of the association as I am the recording secretary.

He has led our organization with great leadership. He is always open to hear what others are suggesting to make our organization become more cohesive. We are currently in the midst of having events start up again after the pandemic has greatly limited our tournaments and club plays due to safety measures. Jeff has spearheaded this committee by producing waivers and drafting out projected plans to ensure our whole organization that our junior golfers can continue to play golf with others in a safe environment. He looks out for what is best for the well being of our members as well as the community that we work with to make our events successful.

I believe that Jeffrey can uphold the role as the District Family Court of the Third Circuit and will fulfill all his responsibilities in this position with great fairness. Please consider him for this position.

Thank you

**In that time I observed (positive skills & behaviours).**

**I particularly remember (success story).**

**One thing that I miss is (endearing positive quality).**

**I recommend (name) to work in (type of business/role) that (what they will val**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 4:38:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mr. Ng is highly intelligent, hardworking, diligent, even keeled and a dedicated public servant. In my personal opinion, he will be an outstanding asset to the judiciary, and I strongly urge the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary to confirm his nomination.â€â€

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



William N. Ota | wota@ota-hara.com  
Leighton M. Hara | lhara@ota-hara.com

737 Bishop Street, Suite 2860 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 532-1728 | Fax: (808) 532-1729 | ota-hara.com

March 23, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Senate

**Re: JC 35: Jeffrey W. Ng for Third Circuit, District Court Judge –  
Testimony in Support**

Dear Senators Rhoads and Keohokalole:

Please consider this letter my testimony in support of Jeffrey W. Ng's selection as a District Court Judge for the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have been a licensed attorney since 2002 and worked in private practice as an attorney specializing in litigation. Since 2009, my practice has focused almost exclusively on employment litigation with the Marr Jones & Wang law firm where I was a partner. Since 2015, I have been involved in general litigation as a founding partner of Ota & Hara, LLLC.

Mr. Ng and I go back to his early days in Hawaii during our first year of school at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I was fortunate to see Mr. Ng, not only adapt to the unique local culture of Hawaii but thrive in a competitive academic environment. While many of our peers desired the financial stability of associateships with large private firms, Mr. Ng's passion, then as it is now, was public service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ng as a law clerk for the judiciary following our graduation from law school, and thereafter he embarked on a stellar career with the Office of the Public Defender, both socially and professionally and I marveled at his leadership in organizing the county bar fundraiser as well as being a leader at his office. I am proud to say that he has grown into the type of lawyer that all 1L's should strive to be.

Mr. Ng has always been hard working, fair, civic minded, and compassionate. As a public defender, Mr. Ng spent his career assisting people who could not afford legal representation. He has also tried numerous jury trials to verdict. Mr.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
March 23, 2021  
Page 2

Ng's experience, personality, and demeanor will serve the public well and are qualities which will make for an excellent Judge.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in support of Mr. Ng. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Leighton M. Hara

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 5:53:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Mr. Ng is very pationate about our judicial system and the laws pertaining to family court. I know Mr. Ng as a leader, administrator, and parent. He is fair, impartial, and accomodates all. He is reserved and likes everyone. I serve on a board alongside Mr. Ng and know his character to be sincere as well as unique.

I recommend Jeffrey Ng to the honor of Third Circuit Court with no reservation. Indeed a great nominee for our system.

My Best,

Vince Kimura, President C.O.O. Central Supply Inc.

971 Kukuau Street, Hilo HI 96720

PH 808.938.7742

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 7:40:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in support of the nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the 3rd Circuit.

Jeff is a very purposeful individual who approaches any task with the intent to successfully complete his assigned duties and responsibilities to the best of his abilities. His current appointment as the Supervising Attorney of the Hilo office of the Public Defender requires that he supervise eight attorneys and four staff members. As the supervising attorney, it falls on Jeff to counsel, mentor, and support the attorneys assigned to the Hilo office.

This often translates into not only knowing the law, but also assisting the otehr attorneys to research, draft and develop motions to present to the court, as well as to advise and counsle their clients in order to protect their constitutional rights. All this, in addition to his managing his own caseload, which often tends to be the more serious cases that the office handles.

I think you'll find Mr. Ng to be a suitable candidate to fill the judicial vacancy in the 3rd Circuit.

March 24, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Jeffrey W. Ng  
Appointee for Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

I write in full support of Jeffrey W. Ng. I have known Jeff for more than 21 years. I first met Jeff in law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1999. We also began our careers at the Office of the Public Defender together in 2003. Having said this, I can attest to Jeff being a person of strong ethical and moral character. I can also attest to his intelligence and strong work ethic as a law student and trial attorney. Jeff has been an active leader in his community, coached youth sports, and has led our Hilo Office for the last few years. As a deputy public defender, Jeff tried the most difficult cases. I saw firsthand how he navigated through the challenges that face public defenders. I came away impressed by his patience, compassion, and zealous advocacy for his clients. I can say without a doubt that Jeff possesses all the necessary attributes to becoming an excellent Judge

Sincerely,

/S/ Alan J.T. Komagome

Alan J.T. Komagome  
Deputy Public Defender



**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 9:04:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in support of Jeffrey W. Ng, judicial nominee for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff since we were law students interning at the Office of the Public Defender nearly twenty years ago, and we also worked as Deputy Public Defenders for several years together. Jeff's commitment to defending the indigent is evident by his resume, and I can attest to the same. I have every reason to believe that he would apply that same commitment to serving in the judiciary and that he would be a tempered, even-handed, and fair judge. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Senator Karl Rhoads and committee:

This is a strong letter of support of Jeff Ng's nomination for District Family Court Judge in Third Circuit. I have known Jeff and his commitment to justice for at least 15 years plus. He regularly appeared before me in Circuit Court and before me as a Parole Commissioner. He is an excellent attorney, person and officer of the court.

Jeff is quite qualified via impeccable temperament, thorough preparation and crisp yet professional client rapport. He had the respect of court staff, counsel and jurors. Judges regarded him as effective even in difficult situations. I believe he will be a credit to the judiciary and the community. He has a wealth of coaching experience and a wonderful education via Michigan and Bronx Science.

While I am not given to long recommendations I find this easy to write and encourage Jeff's confirmation.

Best regards. Judge Michael A. Town(retired)

Sandra L.S. Freitas  
18-4233 North Pszyk Road  
Mountain View, Hawaii 96771  
P.O. Box 4603 Hilo Hawaii 96720  
(808) 756-5143 eslynn05@yahoo.com

March 24,2021

Committee on Judiciary  
Attention:  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Committee Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Committee Vice-Chair

Re: JC 35 Submission for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the  
Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee JEFFREY W. NG, Esq.

Aloha,

My name is Sandra Freitas and I have practiced criminal and family law in the Third Circuit Hawaii Island for the past twenty plus years. I feel honored to have this opportunity to write on behalf of Jeffrey W. Ng, Esq, and strongly support his nomination for Jurist of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

Jeffrey Ng has been a practicing attorney in the State of Hawaii for almost two decades spending the bulk of his practice of law defending the indigent charged with felony offenses in the Third Circuit. During his tenor at the Office of the Public Defender he has practiced law in all levels of the District, Family, and Circuit Court on the Island of Hawaii. He has handled just about every type of case a practicing attorney can handle and he has always provided exemplary services to his clients when doing so. Jeff has the ability to analyze his cases and present a very accurate assessment of the issues to his client, the state counsel, and the courts. This ability to present the issues so clearly to all involved is rare. It is not an easy task to convince any of the aforementioned groups let alone all of them. I believe that he is able to do this because he holds very good analytical and assessment skills and is able to address all of the issues and concerns of this legal group. This particular skill set will serve his well as a sitting Jurist.

Jeff Ng is a man of his word and is very well respected by his colleagues. Jeff has also demonstrated his dedication to this small community while serving on various committees and associations that help support groups on the Island of Hawaii.

It is my hope that he is confirmed .

Sincerely,

---

Sandra L. S. Freitas

March 24, 2021

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Chief Justice Nominee, JEFFERY W. NG

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing this letter to encourage you to confirm Jeffrey Ng as our District/Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

I have known Jeff for the last 9 years. I met Jeff in 2012 when I was sitting as a District/Family Court Judge in the Third Circuit. He appeared before me as Deputy Public Defender for 7 years until I retired in 2019.

Jeff has the integrity and moral courage to do well on the bench. I have witnessed him to stand up to the Court, opposing counsel and even his clients. All the while, doing it respectfully and courteously.

He has demonstrated his legal ability and experience repeatedly before me, by identifying both good and bad issues. He then presents arguments that are well thought out and wisely crafted to support his position.

I have also witnessed Jeff be compassionate to victims while still vigorously representing his clients. An extremely important quality for a judge, who must be fair and compassionate, traits that Jeff possesses.

His case management demonstrates his decisiveness and his judicial temperament is amazing as I have never seen him lose his composure in court. I have seen him stretch but never break even when he did not agree with my rulings.

I am confident Jeff will serve our community well as a District/Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit and encourage you to confirm him.

Respectfully yours;

Harry P. Freitas

Judge Derrick H.M. Chan (retired)  
111 Waokanaka Place  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
(808) 391-0819

March 24, 2021

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and Committee Members,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Jeffrey W. Ng's confirmation for the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

Jeff was my law clerk from 2002-2003. He was a focused, committed and dedicated young attorney. I respected his high level of professionalism and his no-nonsense approach to his law clerk duties and responsibilities.

After his clerkship, Jeff practiced as a deputy public defender on O'ahu. Presently, he is a supervising deputy public defender in Hilo.

Throughout his career, Jeff embraced his role as a husband, father and community leader. Jeff has been active in the Hawai'i Bar Association.

Jeff has strong legal and trial skills. Coupled with his dedication and respect for the courts and legal profession, he will make an excellent District Court Judge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [dhmc808@gmail.com](mailto:dhmc808@gmail.com) or (808) 391-0819 if you need additional information.

Aloha,  
/s/ Derrick H.M. Chan  
Judge Derrick H.M. Chan (retired)

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 10:07:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald,

It gives me great pleasure to provide a letter of support on behalf of Jeffrey Ng. I have known Mr. Ng for the past 9 years through various organizations and opportunities to work together.

Jeffrey Ng has dedicated his professional career to serving his community. From the time he graduated law school in 2002, through his current position as Supervising Attorney, Deputy Defender V, Mr. Ng has utilized his great skill and knowledge of the legal system to deal with some of the toughest cases and most challenging clients. His patience, dedication and calm demeanor make him easy to work with, but his steadfast commitment to truth, justice and passion for the work he does makes him a strong candidate for this Family Court Judge position.

As a dedicated and loving father, a trustworthy associate, and a respectful professional, Mr. Ng possesses strong characteristics that make him a viable candidate for this position. His service to the community, his active involvement with the Hawaii County Bar Association and his commitment to organized youth sports previously through Andrews Athletics Association and now as President of the Big Island Junior Golf Association demonstrates his goodwill in serving his community and his willingness to give of his time and expertise to benefit others.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ng on the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hawaii Golf Tournament when he was co-chair a few years back. Also, I was thrilled when he was willing to give of his time to do a presentation to my summer class of high school students, many of whom wanted to pursue careers in law. He was an excellent speaker and brought forth a candid discussion of the realities of law school and the skills needed to be successful in this industry. It's been a pleasure working with Mr. Ng on several of these projects.

As a higher education professional, I'm pleased that Mr. Ng has decided to pursue this opportunity. He believes strongly in supporting education and providing youth the opportunities to excel in positive, healthy environments. I believe this is vitally important as we all work collaboratively to ensure a safe community of productive citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of Jeffrey Ng for this Judge position.

Sincerely,

Grace M. Funai  
Professor

Hawaii Community College

The Honorable Ronald D Kouchi, Senate President  
Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senators of the Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: Jeffrey W. Ng  
Appointment to the District Family court of the Third Circuit  
JC35

Dear President Kouchi and members of the Senate:

I write to support the appointment of Jeffrey Ng for the position of District Family court judge of the Third Circuit.

Prior to my retirement, Jeff appeared before me on numerous occasions. He is an adept attorney, prepares for his cases and knows the law. At the same time, he is also reasonable and is willing to work with opposing counsel on reaching settlements which benefit both sides. He is a practical attorney who has client control and has the ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of his cases.

Despite having to deal with difficult clients, Jeff is always poised and I have never seen him lose his temper or treat anyone with disrespect. This trait, I believe, will help him on the bench. His calm demeanor and ability to remain so under any circumstance is an asset which will carry on to the bench.

Jeff is also well-liked by the court staff as he treats them with respect and courtesy. He is able to work with the large number of court personnel he comes into contact with on a daily basis.

Jeff also immersed himself into the local community by participating not only in law-related activities, but in community associations such as the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Big Island Junior Golf Association and the Andrews Athletic Association. These activities have given him the opportunity to interact with the community and to understand the local culture. As a District Family court judge, I believe these are essential qualities he can bring to the bench.

I believe Jeff would make an excellent District Family court judge and I urge you to confirm his appointment.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information. I may be reached by telephone at (808) 895-6006.

Very truly yours,  
Barbara T Takase  
Deputy Chief Judge, District Court, Third Circuit (Ret.)



March 25, 2021

Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Chairman Rhoads:

Re: Jeffrey W. Ng, nominee, District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, Confirmation Hearing scheduled for 3/9/21 at 9:45 a.m.

Please accept this letter in support of Jeffrey W. Ng's nomination for District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Jeff will make an excellent judge. He is patient, diligent, dedicated and committed to making the community a better place for families.

Jeff has served the people of Hawaii as a public servant for nearly 20 years. He has seen how everyday issues are addressed in the court system, by serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Derrick H.M. Chan. He has worked tirelessly as a frontline Deputy Public Defender to help resolve criminal matters and disputes in a fair and reasonable manner. After proving himself, Jeff was also entrusted with the responsibility of managing other attorneys and legal staff. In his "free time" Jeff has volunteered with youth organizations as a mentor and coach to positively shape the next generation of community leaders.

Based on my observations, Jeffrey W. Ng possesses the knowledge, experience, and tools to be an effective District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Jeff will make you and the people of Hawaii Island proud to have him as a judge. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brandon Gonzalez

March 25, 2021

RE: JC 35  
Appointment of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Honorable Committee Members,

I would like to offer my support for JC 35, the appointment of Jeffrey W. Ng, to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have been at the Office of the Public Defender for 25 years and am currently the supervisor of the Appellate Section. I worked with Mr. Ng from 2003 until he moved to the Hilo office in 2011. Between 2011 and 2021, I continued to work with Mr. Ng, albeit remotely.

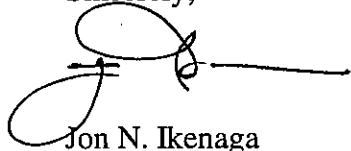
In my opinion there are several qualities that make Mr. Ng the ideal candidate for appointment to the bench – integrity, fairness and impartiality and legal acumen. Mr. Ng started out in the Appellate Section and worked his way through district and family court up to felonies. He is currently the supervisor of the Hilo office. Throughout the years, in his dealings with the courts, Mr. Ng has fostered a reputation for being a “straight-shooter” who practiced with integrity and treated his clients with respect. While being a zealous advocate for his clients, Mr. Ng never compromised his moral or ethical principles. I have no doubt that Mr. Ng will maintain the same high standards of behavior if he is appointed as judge.

The Neighbor Island offices of the Office of the Public Defender rely on senior trial attorneys to guide and advise the newer attorneys. Mr. Ng always made himself available as a resource for the new attorneys. Mr. Ng possesses many years of legal knowledge and experience that will serve him well on the bench.

In sum, I unequivocally support JC 35, the appointment of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone, (808) 586-2202, or email, [jon.n.ikenaga@hawaii.gov](mailto:jon.n.ikenaga@hawaii.gov).

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Jon N. Ikenaga

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 11:55:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have known and worked with Jeffrey W.S. Ng, as a Deputy Public Defender, for almost eight years and he has been a fantastic mentor and coworker. He has always been an attorney that myself, and others, can go to for help on any of our cases. His base of knowledge is extensive because he has practiced in both the First and Third Circuits. There is no 'dumb' question for Jeff. He is extremely patient, and his calm demeanor makes the sharing of his legal knowledge come across effectively and in a straightforward manner, which allows one to get right back to work. He has always been an asset to our office and to my continued career.

Jeffrey Ng is a lawyer that I would strive to be. He is trusted by fellow defense attorneys, prosecutors, and judges, because of his forthrightness and honesty. For lack of better words, Jeff plays by the rules. He is not afraid to do what is right and has always advised myself and others to err on the side of caution in difficult questions that come up from time to time in the handling of our extreme caseloads. Jeff's ability to know the correct issue and rule comes from his innate intelligence and legal knowledge. Jeff can go straight to the main issue in a case, or what is the correct action to take, due to his lengthy experience. Jeff's fairness, honesty, and legal knowledge is demonstrated in his court room dealings; I have witnessed Jeff equally advise both defense and prosecution on the correct legal procedure to aid in the flow of a court calendar when procedural issues have arisen.

Jeffrey Ng has the knowledge, skill, temperament, patience, integrity, and work experience to make a very good and fair Judge. Just as importantly, Jeffrey Ng has the personality, care for the community, and respect of his peers to make a great Family Court Judge.

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 12:33:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a retired Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii. I worked for approximately thirty years at that office. My last four years or so I have worked on cases with Mr. Ng in an adversarial capacity. As a prosecutor our mission was to seek justice with integrity and commitment. I worked with a lot of defense counsel. Some I could trust and some I could not. It is really hard to work on cases where you don't trust the attorney on the other side. Mr. Ng was one of the defense counsel that I could trust. As a prosecutor, my main concern when a defense counsel is appointed as a judge is whether he/she can be impartial and not be defense oriented. I believe Mr. Ng can be fair to both sides. And that is why I support his appointment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tracy K. E. Yanagi  
1392 Mona Loop  
Hilo, HI 96720  
March 25, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Committee on Judiciary Members,

My name is Tracy Yanagi. I am a retired Hawaii County Fire Department Fire Captain. I'm writing in regards to my SUPPORT for Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng, to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I've known Mr. Ng for almost 10 years; initially as fellow junior golf parents, and then as Big Island Junior Golf Association Board of Director Members. All board members and its officers are voluntary. He is currently serving as our Big Island Junior Golf Association President.

As our Junior Golf Association President, Mr. Ng has been very loyal and committed to the task; taking on the challenges of the position compounded by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He's been very resourceful and creative handling our association's difficult matters at hand. I've always known Mr. Ng as owning a calm and cool demeanor, always friendly, respectful and approachable. He's been very generous of his time, always helping out where help was needed. I believe Mr. Ng to be a dedicated and loving parent, who is always present in support of his son's activities.

I can say with confidence, as Third Circuit Judge, Mr. Ng will serve the community with all honesty, fairness, and compassion; working towards lawful resolutions that best serve all parties involved. Again, I SUPPORT Jeffrey W. Ng's judicial confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity to testify.

Tracy K. E. Yanagi  
808-936-4956

Taryn Tomasa  
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 586-2080

March 25, 2021

Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Judiciary Committee, Room 204  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
via email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC35 District Family Court of the Third Circuit,  
Judicial Nominee JEFFERY W. NG  
Hearing: March 29, 2021, 9:45 AM

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of JEFFREY W. NG to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Mr. Ng for well over twenty years, both professionally and personally. It is without hesitation that I submit this letter in support of his nomination. I believe that Mr. Ng possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this judicial position demands.

In the years that I worked with Mr. Ng at the Office of the Public Defender, he has always been a dedicated and diligent advocate for his clients. Mr. Ng is always prepared with a thorough understanding of the applicable law and authority, including matters involving complex legal issues. Mr. Ng also possess the ability to mediate sensitive and difficult cases to the benefit of all parties. Mr. Ng has also demonstrated keen leadership abilities by managing and supervising the Hilo Office of the Public Defender, an extremely busy office, while handling his own caseload consisting of the most complex and difficult cases.

I am also familiar with Mr. Ng as a father and a husband. Mr. Ng has always fostered strong family ties and practiced humility, kindness, and respect. While distinguishing himself professionally, he has also remained dedicated to his family. He is very involved in his children's lives and takes an active role in shaping their moral and emotional growth. He is an involved father with his son's and daughter's academic, athletic and extracurricular activities. Mr. Ng, and his wife Jennifer, are truly a remarkable team balancing family and professional life.

Mr. Ng possesses the character, intellect, and values make him a consummate judicial nominee. As I have practiced in district court, both in private practice and public service, and I have handled numerous appeals from the Third Circuit, I am familiar with the Hilo court system and judicial process. A successful judicial applicant for this very demanding position must possess the legal aptitude, judicial demeanor and practiced familiarity to handle the variety of legal issues, the incredibly high volume of cases, and the various members of the public and the bar that appear in the court on a daily basis. Based on my knowledge and experience with Mr. Ng, it is apparent that he has the ability, character, and dedication to be an invaluable asset to the State of Hawai'i as a judge.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Taryn Tomasa

HENRY P. TING  
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 25, 2021

*By <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony>*

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC35 - Nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng to serve as Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I have had the privilege of knowing Jeff as a friend and a co-worker at the Office of the Public Defender for almost seventeen years. Jeff is very bright and creative, and he shows his dedication to his work and commitment to justice every day. He has earned the respect of his colleagues and serves as a resource for other attorneys. I think Jeff has the necessary judicial temperament and have seen him treat the most difficult clients with patience and respect. The public would benefit greatly from having a judge with his intelligence and experience.

Jeff's commitment extends of course to his family, his wife and son and daughter, as well as to the community at large. His membership and participation in community organizations speak well of Jeff's values and commitment to public service and connection to the community.

For these reasons, I support the confirmation of Jeff as a Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit and ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry Ting

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 4:46:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Jeff Ng would be a great addition to the judiciary in the Third Circuit Court. He is fair and impartial. I believe he has the temperament and disposition to be on the bench. Even though he has been a Public Defender for most of his career, I believe he will be able to listen to both sides and rule from the bench fairly and without bias. I have known Jeff on a personal basis for approximately ten years and he is someone who can be trusted to do what is right and to represent the Third Circuit in an honorable manner.



**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 8:33:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Jeffrey Ng to the District Family Court for the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff since 1999 when we were "1ls" at William S. Richardson School of Law. We quickly became friends and have remained friends ever since. We survived law school together; clerked at the First Circuit Court upon graduation together (Jeff for Judge Chan and myself for Judge Marks); played many softball games together; and we even worked together for several years at the Public Defender's Office on Oahu. Although I left the Public Defender's office to work for my family's construction company and Jeff moved to Hilo to work at the Hilo Public Defender's Office, we still remained in contact with one another. Over the course of 20+ years, I have had countless opportunities to observe Jeff in both a personal and a professional capacity. I have come to recognize him as hard-working, loyal and principled. He is also articulate, smart, patient and down to earth. Without question, Jeff will serve the community well and will be an asset to the Third Circuit bench. I, along with my wife, wholeheartedly support Jeff to the District Family Court. Thank-you.



**Imanaka Asato**  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

March 26, 2021

Hon. Karl Rhoads  
Chairperson  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State of Hawai'i  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC 35 JEFFREY NG

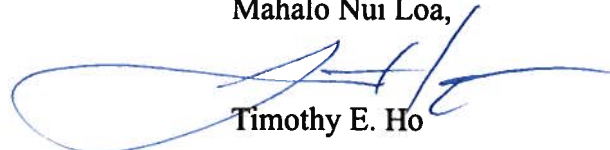
Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of Jeffrey Ng's judicial confirmation to the Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Jeff for about twenty years, first as a student of mine at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and later, as his supervisor at the Office of the Public Defender. As a student, Jeff was very conscientious, and always prepared at a high level for his exercises. As one of my deputies, I respected Jeff respected for his high degree of legal intellect and professionalism. Jeff is a problem solver, and not a complainer. As a friend, I can think of no one more supportive, loyal, and dependable than Jeff. When my son moved to Hilo to attend Pharmacy School, I asked Jeff and his wife Jennifer to be his emergency contact, and trusted them to look after him. I firmly believe that Jeff will treat all parties that appear before him fairly and respectfully.

I urge you to confirm Jeffrey Ng to the judicial position of Judge of the Family Court, Third Circuit. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on his behalf.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Timothy E. Ho

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:39:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

This communication supports the nomination of Jeffrey Ng for the position of District Family Judge of the Third Circuit Court in Hilo. Jeff is a good supporter of community involvement. He takes on different roles when he participates and is well liked by all.

Mahalo for your consideration of Jeffery Ng, he is a real community asset.

Sincerely, Tommy Goya

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:45:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Joel Nakamoto and I am submitting this testimony in support of the nomination of Jeffrey W.S. Ng to the position of Judge of the District Family Court, 3rd District.

My knowledge of Jeff is as a fellow board member of a youth sports organization on Hawaii Island. We are a working, all volunteer board that in normal times organizes and executes a full program of events for our members throughout the year (due to the pandemic, events are currently on hold and planning is occurring for their return). When I have worked directly with Jeff, I have found him to be dependable, knowledgeable, and committed to helping the beneficiaries of our program, our youth members. This commitment is best evidenced by his taking on the role of president of our organization a year or two ago. Finally, when our board is making important policy decisions, I hold Jeff's input in high regard, as it is usually relevant, informed, and makes sense. While I am not able to comment directly on his professional qualifications, I would assume that he puts as much or more of the above described effort and commitment into his job.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:54:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to you in support of Jeffrey W. Ng, who was appointed by Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Mr. Ng for the past 10 years. I first met him when I was a volunteer assistant coach for the Andrews tee ball team and Mr. Ng's son joined our baseball team. Mr. Ng was always a supportive parent and he quickly became one of the volunteer assistant coaches as well. He gave so much of his own personal time to help the other children on the team to not only become better baseball players, but more importantly, he helped to give them the self confidence to have goals in life and showed them that if they work hard, they can achieve anything that they set their minds to.

Being a Deputy Public Defender since 2003, and now a Supervising Attorney, has proven that Mr. Ng can handle the most serious of cases. Although he will never speak about the details of his work, I know that he takes his career very seriously while still working hard in the other areas and interests in his life.

My father-in-law was a former judge prior to having to retire when he reached the age of 70. I know that being a judge requires a lot of dedication and hard work and I know that Mr. Ng is definitely up for the challenge.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to write this letter to support Mr. Ng.

Sincerely,

Randy Oshiro



GINOZA REALTY 

Residential and Vacant Land Brokerage - Property Management - Development Consultant

March 26, 2021

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Judicial Nominee,

JEFFREY W. NG,

To the District Family Court of the Third Circuit Court

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Jeffery W. Ng, to The District Family court of the Third Circuit Court.

I am writing this letter as a personal reference for Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng. I first met Mr. Ng, during my term as president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i, in 2016.

Mr. Ng was a volunteer in our JCCIH Annual Golf Classic Tournament. The following year and the year after, Mr. Ng assumed the role of Chair. Working alongside Mr. Ng, I found him to be very reliable, conscientious, courteous and hardworking. His two years of being the tournament's chair, were very profitable. He always came in under budget...

His organizational skills were very evident as the meetings were always under the allotted time and he got everyone to buy in with his creativity in introducing new events.

I am recommending Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng, to be selected to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit because of his reliability and most of all his honesty and integrity, which are Only part of his many assets. He will definitely be an valuable addition to the Judiciary system.

I trust that this information will be of assistance and will be happy to provide further information, if required.

Sincerely,

Russell M. Arikawa, Realtor  
Ginoza Realtor, Inc.

March 26, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Re: JC 35 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT  
of Jeffrey W. Ng for Judge in the District Court of the Third Circuit**

To Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Committee Members:

I write in strong support of JEFFREY W. NG's confirmation as judge.

As an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender, Mr. Ng has spent the entirety of his 19-year legal career as a public servant. He has handled a variety of cases in First and Third Circuit Courts. He is a respected attorney, contributing member of the community, dedicated family man, intelligent, deliberative, approachable, and friendly. In short, he has the experience, character, and wherewithal to effectively serve as Hawai'i Island's next judge.

It is without reservation that I submit this testimony in favor of confirming Mr. Ng to serve as a judge in the District Court of the Third Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/ Danny B. Patel  
DANNY B. PATEL  
Attorney at Law

Catherine Gutierrez  
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. Ste. B-299  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 532-3229  
catherinegutierrezlaw@gmail.com

March 24, 2021

Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Judiciary Committee, Room 204  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in support of Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng  
to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Chair Karl Rhoades and Members of the Senate Committee:

This letter is being submitted in support of the nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng as District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I submit this letter in strong support of his nomination. Jeffrey Ng possesses the character, intellect, and professional experience to fill this judicial position.

I have known Jeff Ng for about 18 years in a professional and personal capacity. Through his 18-year career with the State Public Defender's Office, he has many years of trial experience with district, family and circuit court matters. Although he does not have experience with divorce proceedings, he has many years of experience practicing in family court. He has dealt with other family court proceedings, just as important as divorce and child custody/support issues, including, restraining order, juvenile proceedings, and abuse cases. Many of these cases are intertwined with divorce and child custody actions. As a criminal and family law practitioner myself, I know that the learning curve is less steep coming from the criminal law practice to the family law than it is in the reverse. He is more than capable to educate himself on what he doesn't know presently about family court proceedings which can be readily learned with some time and effort.

Jeff Ng is a wonderful father of two children, husband, son, uncle, brother-in-law and friend. He has the full support of his family, friends and colleagues in this judicial endeavor. He is also very experienced, compassionate, hard-working, and has the life experience to help him excel as a family court judge. I highly recommend him to you without any reservation. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,



Catherine Gutierrez



March 26, 2021

By Electronic Filing on 3-26-21

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

**Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng, for a term to expire in 6 years.**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Via Videoconference  
Hearing date and time: Monday, March 29, 2021, 9:45 a.m.**

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairperson, the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng as a judge to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

As a matter of introduction, I am a current member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and licensed attorney in Hawaii since 1981. I have worked in the Office of the Public Defender throughout Mr. Ng's employment as a deputy public defender and have worked closely with him since his move from our Oahu office to Hilo in December 2011. I had been Mr. Ng's direct supervisor at the Hilo office from that time until my retirement from the Office of the Public Defender in early 2020.

I have known Mr. Ng for a sufficient period, both working with him and as his supervisor in Hilo, to offer an opinion on Mr. Ng's qualifications and fitness to serve as a judge in our district court.

I submit that Mr. Ng possesses those qualities necessary for the position as a judge and thus, support Mr. Ng's judicial nomination. I am confident that Mr. Ng possesses the intelligence and wisdom, temperament, thoughtfulness and personal courage necessary to carry out the duties of a judge.

Mr. Ng has wide experience in the law and a well-deserved reputation as an excellent attorney and litigator. In the nearly eighteen years of his service with the Office of the Public Defender, Mr. Ng has represented clients in the district, family and circuit courts on Oahu and the Big Island. In that regard, Mr. Ng earned an unquestioned reputation as a dedicated and effective counselor and advocate for his clients – a reputation demonstrated during the time I was to supervise Mr. Ng in Hilo.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairperson, the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 26, 2021

Page 2

Mr. Ng in his time as a senior trial attorney with our office Mr. Ng was routinely assigned the most serious and difficult cases. Yet throughout, Mr. Ng. has proven to be a skilled and formidable advocate regardless of the seriousness or difficulty of the case. There was never an instance where I had cause for concern regarding Mr. Ng's level of commitment or legal expertise to his assigned clients.

Mr. Ng is skilled in cooperatively working with others. In addition to his duties in the representation of individual clients, I came to rely on Mr. Ng to shoulder certain administrative duties in our Hilo office, including the training and mentoring of recent public defender hires and attending and representing our office on certain administrative committees seeking to cooperatively improve the administration of justice on the Big Island.

Mr. Ng understands the responsibility to maintain and improve the administration of justice. In addition to his membership in bench/bar, alternate dispute resolution and restorative justice committees, Mr. Ng has taken great interest in issues concerning the legal profession in the community. To this end, Mr. Ng has assumed leadership roles within our local bar association and related service organizations, for example, serving as an active member and officer of the Hawaii County Bar Association, being involved as a mediator with the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, and through his membership in the Hawaii Access to Justice Foundation.

Mr. Ng's personal history enhances his abilities as a judge. Mr. Ng is a member of our community. He has lived and worked in Hawai'i since his graduation from law school. However, Mr. Ng also has had, in some sense, the advantage of growing up, going to school and living on the mainland. I believe that these experiences have added to Mr. Ng's appreciation of this state and our community.

Living here now with his young family, coupled with his experiences of his life, has allowed Mr. Ng broad view of life. Mr. Ng's life experiences enhance his ability to understand the problems and issues facing those who would appear before him.

Mr. Ng is a person of high character and commitment to duty. It is quite natural to surmise that this letter of support - my having been a criminal defense counsel for nearly thirty-five years - is based upon personal acquaintance or philosophical leanings. This would not be correct. Rather, this recommendation is based upon the certainty that Mr. Ng will without question be an exemplary judge, able to follow the law and judicial precedence, with the clear understanding that in only that way, is justice done, and respect for the courts maintained.

Mr. Ng is a man of character who will be a fair arbiter for parties appearing before the court, and will represent the judiciary well in its relationship with the community.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairperson, the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole and members of  
the Senate Committee on Judiciary

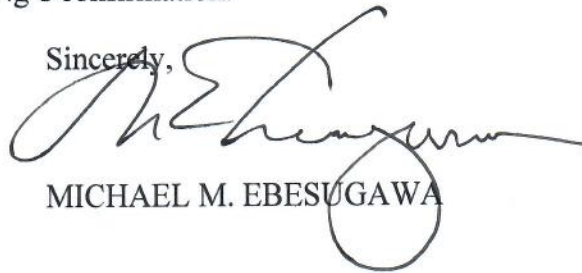
March 26, 2021

Page 3

Finally, Mr. Ng is very even-tempered. He is considerate in dealing with others. As a judge, Mr. Ng would exhibit a respectful demeanor to all who appear before him. He has the necessary patience to allow the parties to make their case. He has the respect and caring for people to really listen and hear their problems.

Thank you for the committee's consideration of this written testimony. Please consider this as a statement in full support of Mr. Ng's confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Ebessugawa", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

MICHAEL M. EBESUGAWA

mme

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 7:35:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the judicial nomination of Jeff Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I met Jeff through his membership and participation in the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii. I learned that Jeff is a thoughtful leader who invested the time to understand the organization's values, and the people in the organization.

As a judge, I believe that Jeff's character will serve our community well.

Aloha,

Stephen Ueda

President and CEO

Suisan Company, Ltd.

Michelle S.K. Oishi, Esq.  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 248  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
michelle@michelleoishilaw.com

March 26, 2021

**VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: JC35  
Letter in Support of Jeffrey W. Ng to Serve As  
District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit**

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in support of Jeffrey W. Ng and ask that you nominate him to serve as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff since 1999, when we were both part of the entering class at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Having known him for the last twenty years, I am confident that Jeff's strong character, temperament and work ethic will serve him well should he given the opportunity to serve as a family court judge in our community.

Jeff is a well-respected attorney here in Hilo. In addition to his reputation as a skilled litigator, he is also known for being timely, prepared and courteous. Jeff has an excellent grasp of the law and always takes to heart his duty as an Officer of the Court.

Jeff has served our legal community by volunteering his time by serving our Hawaii County Bar Association as President (two terms), Vice President, and Secretary. During his terms as president, Jeff helped to coordinate events such as Courts in the Community, led HCBA legislative efforts by providing testimony on critical Judiciary related bills and attended bar related events in Hilo, Kona and Honolulu representing the HCBA. Jeff continues to serve the HCBA as the chairperson of the annual scholarship golf tournament and has volunteered to assist again as the Vice President. He also continues his commitment as a member of the bench-bar committee for the Third Circuit.

In addition to his service to our legal community, Jeff has strong ties to our community at large. His wife, Jennifer, was raised in Hilo and has extended family living here. Jeff and Jennifer chose to raise their children in Hilo because of their family support as well as their appreciation of the small-town lifestyle that Hilo provides. Over the years, Jeff has consistently served as a volunteer in his children's schools, serves as President of the Big Island Junior Golf Association, and is an active apprentice mediator with Kuikahi Mediation Center.

Jeff is one of the most honorable people I know. He strives to always do what is right and fair and he can always be depended on to follow through on his word and commitments. He is a loyal friend and employee and is committed in all he does.

For the foregoing reasons, I believe Jeff would be a great asset to the Third Circuit and I respectfully offer this letter in support and ask that you confirm his nomination to serve as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Michelle S.K. Oishi

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 10:03:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of Jeffrey W. Ng’s nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I am Jeff’s brother-in-law, and have known him for well over 15 years. Jeff is someone that I look up to as a person and professional, and I have no doubt that he will serve the Hawai’i Island community well.

As a person, Jeff has all the hallmark traits of a quality judge. I say this as a former law clerk to a widely respected Circuit Court judge, who in many ways reminds me of Jeff. They are both calm, patient, thoughtful, and respectful. They also share a knack for being practical individuals, who have the ability to see the world through a clear, unclouded lens. In my opinion, Jeff—like my former boss—possesses textbook “judicial temperament”.

Jeff’s temperament is also what makes him a great family man. Jeff is a devoted husband and father, and a terrific brother-in-law/son-in-law to myself, my brothers, and my parents. We truly could not have asked for a better addition to our family. I believe Jeff’s qualities as a family man make him well-equipped to serve as a judge, particularly in family court. Sitting on the District Family Court bench, Jeff will face tough decisions that significantly impact families on Hawai’i Island, and I have full confidence that his experience and perspective as a family man—and the fact that he is just a quality person—will guide him in making decisions that serve the best interest of those involved. The Hawai’i Island community can rest easy knowing that Jeff is someone you can trust to approach these types of sensitive issues in a diligent, compassionate, and thoughtful manner.

As a professional, Jeff has excelled in his long-tenured career as a Public Defender, eventually rising to become the Supervising Attorney of the Hilo Office. While I have not worked with Jeff directly, I have witnessed his professionalism from the sidelines. One thing that is evident—Jeff is always prepared. One summer years ago, I lived with my sister and Jeff. During this time, there were multiple occasions when Jeff went into the office on a weekend to prepare for a trial, knowing full well that there was a near-zero chance the trial would actually take place. Nevertheless, he sacrificed his off-hours time to ensure that he was prepared, and did well by his client. I have heard similar stories

from friends who served as law clerks in the Third Circuit. They consistently recounted how Jeff was always the most prepared person in the court room. He was never late, never needed a continuance, and was always ready to go. This is the type of work-ethic and dedication you can expect from him as a judge.

In short, I believe Jeff's qualities as a person and professional will make him an outstanding judge. If confirmed, Jeff will be a tremendous asset to the Third Circuit bench, and the Hawai'i Island community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Jeffrey W. Ng's nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Toby Yamashiro



**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 1:14:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven R Nichols	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have know Mr. Ng since our law schoo days. He has always been committed to pubic interest and to helping people above all else. He is of the highest moral character and is extremely trustworthy. Mr. Ng has been a good friend He is a dedicated family man and is dedicated to his Big Island community. There could not be a better choice for District Court Judge on the island of Hawaii than Mr. Ng. He will do the bar association proud and he will serve his community with honor and dignity. I know that he will make a difference in people's lives and use the discretion that the judiciary has to help others.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask that you confirm Mr. Ng

Date: 3/27/2021

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC35, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng.

Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2020, 9:45 a.m.

It is a privilege for me to support Jeffrey W. Ng's nomination to be a judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I initially worked side-by-side with Jeff as a deputy public defender, handling felonies in the First Circuit Court. I was able to see first-hand Jeff's work ethic, compassion, and his commitment to his clients and public service in general. Jeff quickly distinguished himself with his academic prowess and skills as a trial attorney and advocate. Smart, practical, and unflappable, Jeff made the perfect choice to supervise the Hilo Branch of the Office of the Public Defender in 2012. He successfully led his office through the changing of leadership in Hilo when he was named supervisor and has helped navigate the office through the global pandemic. His attorneys in Hilo think the world of him, and quite honestly, Jeff will be sorely missed by our office. Jeff has the temperament of a judge and is patient and kind even when he is under stress and pressure. While Jeff is from New York City, and not a "native" of Hilo, Hawaii, I know that Jeff has developed a deep and profound love for the Big Island and its people. In Jeffrey W. Ng, the judiciary will be receiving a very fine lawyer and an outstanding person. I am honored to fully support his nomination.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lee S. Hayakawa

Assistant Public Defender

Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii

Law Office of

SHAUNDA A. K. LIU LLLC

Post Office Box 5841

Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

808.747.4264

liu.law.hilo@gmail.com

March 25, 2021

Aloha Members of the Senate,

I write to you in support of Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination of Mr. Jeffrey Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit Court. I have had the opportunity to work as opposing counsel to Mr. Ng for a few years. In every case he was always prepared, he knew the strengths and weaknesses of our case, he was always professional and able to communicate calmly and clearly to myself and others. It was particularly nice working with Mr. Ng because, unlike others, Mr. Ng would read and respond to communications timely. He is always calm, unflappable. I am confident that Mr. Ng will bring these same talents to the bench, if appointed.

Not only has Mr. Ng represented the best interests of his clients, he has dedicated his time and talent to many others in the community. He has served as HCBA president for a few years, coached keiki in baseball and shared his love of golf as president of the Big Island Junior Golf Association.

Mr. Ng has made a career out of serving the Hawai'i Island Community. He could have made a lot of money as a private criminal defense attorney, but instead he has served many years as Public Defender, a State employee, subject to furloughs and budget limitations. He has volunteered for various professional and community organizations on Hawai'i Island. I am confident that, if allowed the opportunity to do so, he will continue to serve this community by applying the law in a fair and unbiased way. I fully support the nomination of Mr. Ng as our next District Family Court judge.

Mahalo for your time,  
Shaunda A. K. Liu

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 8:31:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

From: Ronald Ibarra

Subject: JC 35 TESTIMONY

Purpose: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit , Judicial Nominee, JEFFREY W. NG, for a term to expire in 6 years.

Position: I strongly support the confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, JEFFREY W. NG.

I have known Mr. Ng for over ten years. I have worked with him on bar projects while I was the Chief Judge for the Third Circuit. Mr. Ng was very active in bar activities as President of the Hawaii County Bar. He organized events between the judges and attorneys. He has been very supportive of the Judiciary and was always responsive towards improving the legal system. Although he has not appeared before me as a lawyer, he has a reputation of being an excellent deputy public defender. He works well with his colleagues, and is able to resolve his cases efficiently, while considering the rights of his clients.

He is a hardworking man of integrity, with moral courage. He is fair and treats people with respect. Jeff has resided in the Hilo community while working as a deputy public defender. He and his wife have two children, who both attend public schools in Hilo. He is involved in community activities involving his children. He is well respected, not only among his peers, but also by members of the community.

Based upon my experience as a judge for 28 years, I believe Mr. Ng possesses the necessary attributes to become an excellent jurist. For these reasons, I strongly support this honorable committee to recommend confirmation of Mr. Ng as District Family Court Judge to the full Senate. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.



**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 8:50:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am writing to submit for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng. Mr. Jeffrey Ng was a volunteer in my third grade classroom last school year, teaching economics and business lessons through the Junior Achievement program. He also graciously volunteered his time to present to our the grade level during our Career Day, showcasing and inspiring students to pursue careers in law. More recently, Mr. Ng volunteered in the classroom through the Junior Judges program, sharing information about his career in law and encouraging students to make healthy choices.**

**Throughout my experiences working with Mr. Ng, he has always been well-prepared, knowledgeable and patient with all of my students. He was always eager to help students, encouraging and inspiring them to make positive choices for themselves now in order to better our community in the future. His lessons in the classroom reflected his dedication to our community and commitment to helping students.**

**As a public school educator of 16 years, I highly recommend Mr. Jeffrey W.S. Ng for the position.**

STATE OF HAWAII  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**Testimony of James S. Tabe, State Public Defender,  
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

March 29, 2021

JC1: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng

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

I fully support the confirmation of Jeffrey W. Ng, Judicial Nominee, to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Mr. Ng since 2003 when he joined the Office of the Public Defender. I worked closely with Mr. Ng while he was assigned to the Oahu Branch, and I continued to keep in regular contact with him when he transferred to the Hilo Branch in 2012. He has grown from a young inexperienced attorney to a well-respected member of the legal community. Mr. Ng is highly qualified to serve on the district family court bench. He holds himself to high standards of preparation and performance. He is well respected by the judges and the prosecutors for his professionalism, integrity, and legal knowledge. He not only has the intellect to grasp complex legal issues, but he also has the ability to articulate and explain his analysis in a thoughtful, thorough, and intelligent manner.

As the supervising attorney of the Hilo Branch, Mr. Ng has been an exceptional leader, manager, and mentor. Despite the pandemic, the budget cuts, and personnel shortages, the Hilo Branch through Mr. Ng's leadership continues to provide the Big Island indigent community excellent legal representation.

Because district family court judges preside over people dealing with very personal family matters on a daily basis, the judicial applicant must have the judicial temperament, demeanor, and character to be successful. I know that Mr. Ng will treat each individual -- including attorneys, litigants, and witnesses -- with dignity, patience, respect, and compassion. Indeed, many of the family court participants (i.e., spouses appearing for divorce proceedings, hopeful parents appearing for adoption proceedings, parents/guardians and children appearing before Child Protective Service hearings, minors and parents appearing before juvenile delinquent hearings) -- are unfamiliar with and are intimidated by the judicial system. Mr. Ng

will put them at ease. He will also be a positive influence on the children and teenagers who appear before him in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Mr. Ng possesses a strong work ethic, good common sense, and practical judgment -- qualities necessary for a district family court judge. Judges must also have the demeanor, character, and sensitivity to treat each individual -- including litigants, witnesses, and attorneys -- with dignity, patience, respect and compassion, as they have direct contact with the community on a daily basis and have the broadest reach and impact upon the public. Moreover, family court judges must be hardworking, efficient, and organized to deal with the voluminous and demanding workload. Having worked closely with Mr. Ng, I can say without reservation that he possesses such qualities.

Mr. Ng has the ability, the experience, and the qualities to be a district family court judge. He will certainly be an asset to the judiciary, and I am proud to support him for a seat on the bench.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.



Layne Funai 1080 Kilauea Ave. Hilo, HI 96720

Senate Committee of the Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Judiciary Committee, Room 204  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Letter in Support of Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Jeffrey W. Ng to serve as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff for approximately ten years and can say with all confidence that he has the intellect, character, and temperament necessary to be a fair and compassionate judge in our community.

Despite the demands of his legal career, Jeff is also very committed to serving our community. I currently serve as Second Vice-President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii, a Hawaii Island organization that promotes the general well-being of our community through business and personal relationships, advancing the values of Kahiau (“giving without expecting anything in return”) and “Okage Sama De” (“I am what I am because of you.”). Over the past three years, Jeff and I served as co-chairpersons of the Annual Golf Tournament, the major fundraising event for JCCIH. The fundraiser requires months of planning and many hours of coordination and communication and Jeff provides his time and energy without hesitation.

In addition to the JCCIH, Jeff also volunteers his time with the Big Island Junior Golf Association as President of the Board of Directors, and at Waiakea Elementary School as a Junior Achievement instructor. In the past, we both served as volunteer baseball coaches for the Andrews Athletic Association. Jeff has dedicated a considerable amount of his free time serving our community.

It is without reservation or hesitation that I offer this letter in support of Jeff and ask that you confirm him as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Layne Funai

Date: March 27, 2021

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 35, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng

Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2021, 9:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

It is my privilege to write this testimony in support of the confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng. I worked with Mr. Ng at the State Office of the Public Defender on Oahu for approximately five (5) years prior to his voluntary transfer to our Hilo office where he was eventually promoted to the position of supervisor.

I first met Mr. Ng when I was a second-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law as part of the Defense Clinic class. I observed several deputy public defenders conducting what seemed like over one hundred (100) interviews for clients with district court matters during one of the office's client intake days. Mr. Ng was one of two (2) deputy public defenders that stood out and made an impactful impression on me during my observations.

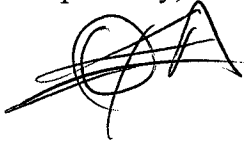
Mr. Ng was proficient in interviewing clients to obtain the facts of the case as well as thoroughly explaining the offense(s) for which they were charged and their legal rights. He was also proficient in performing case analysis and evaluation, and in providing clients with case resolution options. While I was observing, even though he was busy, Mr. Ng took the time to explain to me the client intake interview process and to answer my questions. Mr. Ng provided me with the practical perspective of what it meant to be a public defender and the skills required to provide a much-needed service to indigent clients.

During his time at our Oahu office, as his colleague, I observed Mr. Ng litigate multiple complex criminal cases with zeal and passion. He is a tireless advocate and fighter. He is knowledgeable in criminal law. I witnessed his composure and knowledge firsthand in the way he handled cases during motion hearings, sentencings, and jury trials. He was prepared for his court matters. Mr. Ng is a consummate professional who possesses great interpersonal skills. He works well with others and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

I strongly support the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, Jeffrey W. Ng, to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. He has the temperament and skills required to be an effective judge. Confirming Mr. Ng would reflect positively on our judiciary. You cannot go wrong in confirming someone who graduated from the University of Michigan. Mr. Ng is committed to

serving the people of Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Okechukwu' followed by a stylized 'A'.

Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi  
Deputy Public Defender  
State of Hawaii

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 11:27:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good morning to everyone! My name is Troy Sato and I'm submitting this written testimony in support of confirming Jeffery W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I am the golf swing coach for Jeff's son, and have known him for 5 years. Through these years I have seen him instill good values to his children. Golf ethics and values are truly important values to instill in families because they are not just about golf, but also about how you live your life. Honesty, hard work, trying your best, never giving up are just a few examples that I see Jeff teaching his kids. It is those types of values that Jeff has that will follow him with his confirmation. I think Jeff would make a wonderful judge and his decisions will be based on fairness, compassion, and integrity. I would like to thank you all for reading and listening to my written testimony, and have a wonderful day. Mahalo, Troy Sato

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

**RE: JC35 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2021-3**

From: Ha‘aheo M. Kaho‘ohalahala

I have worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai‘i for several years and have had numerous occasions of communicating with and observing Jeffrey W. Ng as a defense attorney and in his difference capacities as a representative of the East Hawaii Bar Association. In my experience working as opposing counsel with Jeff, he is a very skilled and experienced advocate and works hard for each of his clients. Jeff is also very fair and ethical both in and out of court and has always treated others with professionalism and courtesy. I have no doubt that his experience, professionalism and demeanor will allow him to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a Third Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ha‘aheo M. Kaho‘ohalahala

# TIARA S. MAUMAU R.

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254, Honolulu Hawai'i 96817 | (808) 586-2212 | Fax: (808) 586-2222

**March 28, 2021**

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: JC 35, Monday March 29, 2021, 9:45 a.m. **JEFFREY W. NG** Nomination for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

**Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Committee Members:**

I write in SUPPORT of Jeffrey W. Ng's nomination to serve as a judge in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. Mr. Ng's character, intelligence, and work ethic would make an excellent district court judge.

I have known Jeff for approximately seven years. While working together in Hilo at the Office of the Public Defender, I had the opportunity to observe him in trial, second chair him in complex pretrial issues regarding fingerprint analysis, and gain insight from his practice as a less experienced deputy. Jeff is a zealous advocate for his clients. He is a witty yet humble man of few words. When he does speak, his words count. His critical analysis of the law is precise and to the point. Even in challenging moments, he is patient and maintains level-headedness. Jeff is professional and courteous to all walks of life, and a mentor, who truly wants to see others succeed.

I have practiced criminal law as a deputy public defender for more than seven years on Hawai'i Island and now Oahu. Based on my experiences, I have no doubt, that if confirmed, Jeff has the integrity, intellect, and other qualifications necessary to be an excellent district court judge

Sincerely,

**Tiara S. Maumau R.**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 7:07:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in support of Jeff Ng's confirmation to the bench of the 3rd Circuit Family District Court. I have known Mr. Ng for over 20 years. I initially met him in law school when he was a first year law student and I was an upperclassman. Mr. Ng was a great addition to the law school community. He is intelligent, friendly, humble, hard-working, and funny.

When we worked together years later at the Oahu branch of the Office of the Public Defender, I got to see him in action at the office and in court. He was terrific at working with his clients to help them understand a confusing process at a very stressful time in their lives. These are qualities that will be very important in the District Family Court. Please confirm him to the bench.

Thank you,

*/s/ Sat K. Freedman*

March 28, 2021

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 35, TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF  
JEFFREY W. NG to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

HEARING: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 9:45 a.m., Via Videoconference.

I have been a practicing attorney for over 33 years and have worked with many Judges and lawyers. Based upon my experience, I firmly believe that Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng will make an excellent District Family Court Judge.

I first met Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng about 19 years ago before he became an attorney. While in law school, he was a very enthusiastic young man with an insatiable thirst for knowledge and strong desire to become a first-rate trial attorney. Even as a young law student he assisted me in trial preparation without hesitation, going beyond the call, participating in late night investigations and research. I was able to witness his great work ethic even back then. He has certainly followed through to become a first-rate trial attorney, and today I am not surprised that he has cultivated and gathered the tools necessary to become an excellent jurist.

As an attorney, I have personally worked with Mr. Ng for over seventeen years at the Office of the Public Defender. I directly supervised him while he practiced in our District Court Division in the First Circuit. Mr. Ng. worked hard, continued to improve himself, and developed into a seasoned trial attorney who is entrusted in handling the most serious felony cases. He is a team player and talented leader for our Big Island office and for the Office of the Public Defender. If selected, I have no doubt that he will be invaluable to the Judiciary as well.

Furthermore, Mr. Ng has supplemented his litigation experience and rounded out his skill set by serving on the Committee on Initiatives to Enhance Civil Justice with the Hawaii Access to Justice Foundation, becoming an Apprentice Mediator for the Ku`ikahi Mediation Center and Arbitrator with the Court Annexed Arbitration Program.

As a deputy public defender, Jeffrey encounters difficult people, with very challenging circumstances. Nonetheless, he handles people and challenges with respect, honesty, and reason—all attributes that would make him a very good Judge with excellent judicial temperament. Throughout his professional career he has demonstrated his care for people. All of this would not have been possible without his integral sense of family and very strong family support.

For all the reasons above, I offer my strong support for Jeffrey W. Ng. as District Family Court Judge.

William C. Bagasol, Esq. (Supervising Attorney, Felony Division, Office of the Public Defender.)



**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 8:56:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senate Committee On Judiciary, Chairperson Karl Rhoads and Members,

Letter In Support Of Jeffrey Ng as Third Circuit's District Family Court Judge

My name is Charlene Iboshi, am the retired Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County. I have known Jeff Ng since he started practicing in the Third Circuit. He has demonstrated that he has the qualities of being a fair, honest and knowledgeable judge.

He is a quick learner and a team player, as well as being a leader for different legal clinics and functions for attorneys. I have seen him grow into a community leader and leader for Access To Justice, not only as the deputy public defender and supervisor of the Public Defender's Office here, but as the President for the Hawaii County Bar Association.

I am the Hawaii State Bar Association, Senior Counsel Division, Hawaii Island Representative. In this role, I have called upon Jeff to organize volunteers for different legal clinics and initiatives.

The Chief Justice had many good candidates from which to select. The Judiciary needs judges who work well with the Judiciary leadership, especially during the challenging times ahead. I support Jeffrey Ng as the Chief Justice's selection.

Mahalo,

Charlene Iboshi. Esq.

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:14:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Titiimaea Ta'ase	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. My name is Titiimaea N. Ta'ase and I submit this testimony in strong support of JEFFREY W. NG's judicial nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff for over a decade now, first meeting him in my time as law clerk to The Honorable Richard W. Pollack in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Jeff was, at that time, a Deputy Public Defender on Oahu. He displayed the highest level of professionalism while at the same time being personable and likeable. I have since come to know his as a colleague as I too joined the ranks of the Office of the Public Defender and have known him to be a good and honest man who loves his family and works hard for his clients. I believe that those characteristics will serve him well in the capacity of judge in the Family Court. I strongly support his nomination and I urge this committee to confirm him.

Respectfully,

Titiimaea N. Ta'ase

**LATE**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 1:08:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill M Igawa	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

March 27, 2021

Re: Jeffrey

Ng

Judicial Nominee to District Family Court

Dear Hawaii Senate Judicial Committee,

I am writing in support of Jeffrey Ng who is a Judicial Nominee for District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

During the 2016-2017 school year, I had the honor of being his daughter's first grade teacher. Even with his busy schedule, he managed to volunteer his time to implement a program called Junior Achievement in my classroom. Throughout his lessons, I was able to observe his demeanor and how he was able to establish rapport with my students. He was always so patient, calm and compassionate. I continued to see him on campus volunteering in his daughter's classroom before the Corona Virus outbreak.

I am very confident that Jeffrey Ng would make an excellent District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit. He possesses the right temperament to fulfill the responsibilities of this position.

Sincerely,

Jill

Igawa

Grade 1

Teacher

Waiakea Elementary

School

Puainako

St.

Hawaii 96720

180 W.

Hilo,



**LATE**

March 25, 2021

Re: JC35 District Family Court of the Third Circuit Judicial Nominee JEFFREY W. NG

Hearing: March 29, 2021

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Karl Rhoads and Committee Members,

I write in support of judicial nominee Jeffrey W. Ng. Jeff will make an outstanding judge as he possesses tremendous knowledge of the law, work ethic and temperament. I have known Jeff for 15 years, beginning as a law student extern at the Office of the Public Defender on Oahu. The externship was my first working in any legal setting, and I was nervous to make a good impression. Jeff was one of the first people I met, and his disarming character immediately put me at ease.

Throughout the years we worked together, Jeff was always a valuable resource of knowledge without judgment. I always felt comfortable asking him even the simplest questions. Our work relationship quickly developed into friendship, and we keep in touch to this day despite living on different islands.

Jeff's demeanor will make him an outstanding judge. He is the most even tempered, humble, and unflappable person I know. He has a disarming quality, even to total strangers, which will be a tremendous asset to the bench. We coached together in a T-Ball league which, unfortunately, came with a few difficult parents. Jeff handled every situation with the same unflappable demeanor I am sure he will bring to the judiciary.

Jeff is an unquestioned choice for a position on the bench. He cares for and is active in the community. Litigants will feel heard, and he will exude (even through Zoom) compassion during these stressful times. I sincerely hope you give Jeff this opportunity to make the judiciary proud.

Sincerely,

/S/ Donovan A. Odo

Donovan A. Odo

**LATE**

---

TORKILDSON, KATZ, HETHERINGTON,  
HARRIS & KNOREK

---

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION  
120 PAUAAHI STREET, SUITE 312  
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3048  
TELEPHONE (808) 961-0406 • FACSIMILE (808) 961-3815

LINCOLN S. T. ASHIDA  
DIRECT DIAL: (808) 747-8317  
E-MAIL: [LSA@TORKILDSON.COM](mailto:LSA@TORKILDSON.COM)

March 28, 2021

Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC35  
*Consideration and confirmation of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of  
the Third Circuit*

Dear Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members:

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff professionally and socially for over ten years, have worked with him on the Access to Justice Commission's Civil Initiatives Committee, and believe I am able to provide a candid and balanced assessment of his professional and personal qualities that suit him for judicial office.

Jeff's successful work history is well documented. He accepted the responsibility of heading the Big Island's Office of the Public Defender, managing a staff of attorneys and support personnel island-wide. Under Jeff's leadership, his office enjoyed an excellent reputation in our legal community for exemplary legal service, and credibility with our courts. Jeff never asked any of his attorneys to do anything he was not willing to do himself; he often appeared in court in the most notorious cases on our island.

As a valued member of the Access to Justice Commission's Initiatives Committee, Jeff provided critical perspective and worked toward solutions to ease access to our courts by those in our community who were the most vulnerable and challenged. Jeff's experience as a public defender, together with his common sense approach, was invaluable to the Committee as we moved forward to provide innovative solutions for our Judiciary to consider.

What is most impressive about Jeff is his calm demeanor, even when faced with stressful circumstances in court. As an experienced attorney, Jeff has already demonstrated the "judicial demeanor" we attorneys expect in our judges.

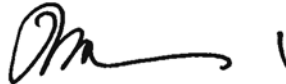
Honorable Karl Rhoads  
March 28, 2021  
Page 2

Socially, Jeff is always appropriate. He is a warm and loving husband and father. He understands social boundaries and there is no doubt he will continue to respect this when he assumes judicial office.

As a former deputy prosecuting attorney for the County of Hawai`i for 13.5 years, and the longest serving Corporation Counsel in the history of the County of Hawai`i, I had the privilege and honor of appearing before our State's very best judges. With all due recognition to the authority of this Judiciary Committee for consideration and consent of Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald's nominee, I unqualifiedly recommend Jeffrey W. Ng for your favorable consideration. Jeff possesses all of the professional and human qualities most admired in attorneys and judges in our profession.

Very truly yours,

TORKILDSON KATZ  
HETHERINGTON HARRIS & KNOREK  
Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lincoln S. T. Ashida', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lincoln S. T. Ashida



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

**Jeffrey W. Ng**  
**District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit (JC 35)**

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

FROM: Levi Hookano  
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 9:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Jeffrey W. Ng for the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

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

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

**OFFICERS**

Levi Hookano, President  
Shannon S. Sheldon, President-Elect  
Rhonda L. Griswold, Vice-President  
Russ S. Awakuni, Secretary  
Alika L. Piper, Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

Tristan S.D. Andres  
Steven J.T. Chow  
Craig A. De Costa (Kauai)  
Vladimir Devens  
Jessica R. Domingo  
William A. Harrison  
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)  
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao  
Carol S. Kitaoka (West Hawaii)  
Erin M. Kobayashi  
Jacob K. Lowenthal (Maui)  
Mark K. Murakami  
Paul W. Naso  
Ralph J. O'Neill  
Zale T. Okazaki

**YLD PRESIDENT**

Christopher P. St. Sure

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

P. Gregory Frey

**HSBA/ABA DELEGATE**

Leslie A. Hayashi

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu



- 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 to determine if the nominees is qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Ng on March 24, 2021 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Ng was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Ng 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 Mr. Ng 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

Nominee Jeffrey Ng is a skilled litigator with years of courtroom experience. He is known for his calm and fair demeanor, and his excellent communication skills. His interactions with clients and other legal counsel are reportedly always with respect and civility. He has a reputation for always being prepared and working hard to keep up with case law on a daily basis.

While acknowledging the steep learning he will be facing as he transitions to a seat on the Family Court bench, the qualities previously mentioned will be beneficial for all who appear before him and the Third Circuit court staff.

Mr. Ng has a proven track record of service to the Big Island community having served in various capacities with the Hawaii County Bar Association including President, a volunteer in the Hilo Self Help Center, the Courts in the Community projects, a mediator with the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and other community organizations focusing on youth athletics.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Mr. Jeffrey W. Ng to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

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

**LATE**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 6:53:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Judicial Comment for Jeffrey Ng

Aloha Judiciary Committee,

Jeffrey Ng would be an excellent choice for the District Family Court position. He has dedicated his career to public service and would do an excellent job if given the opportunity. Jeff has the ideal combination of judicial temperament, leadership, and commitment to public service. Since graduating from law school, he worked at the public defender's office, dedicating over a decade to helping those who could not afford legal services. During his tenure as a public defender here in Hilo, he has dedicated his free time to leading the Hawaii County Bar Association as its president. He has volunteered at countless community-oriented events like the self-help center, Junior Judges program, and the Young Lawyers division legal clinics. He has been a leader in the legal community and has effectuated positive change on a broader scale amongst attorneys and his clients. If given the opportunity of the judicial position, he would enhance our legal bench here on Hawai'i Island.

Jeff has the temperament that's well suited for the bench. His reputation in the legal community is one of the utmost honesty, trustworthiness, and integrity. As opposing counsel against him on many cases ranging from trial, preliminary hearings, contested hearings, and pretrial negotiations with the Court, he has litigated zealously advocated for his client. That passion has never been unprofessional or exceeded the bounds of inappropriateness. He is polished in court, quick on his feet, but respectful in listening to opposing counsel. His ability to consider the opposing counsels' position has helped in obtaining favorable outcomes for his clients. These qualities have served him clients well and would prove beneficial on the bench.

Jeff is a person of high character, and the community would benefit by having someone on the bench with his character. Amongst the Hawaii County Bar, he is one of the most trustworthy attorneys. His zealous advocacy has never been compromised to the point of untrustworthiness. As a judge, the community, including the attorneys, would have

confidence that when they set foot in his courtroom, they would have someone that would be fair and impartial. I urge this committee to pick Jeff. He has the character, temperament, and desire to make an excellent judge. Please give him that opportunity.

Very Respectfully,

Ryan Caday

**LATE**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:30:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in support of JC 35. I firmly believe that Jeffrey Ng possesses the integrity, ability, and temperament to serve our community as a family court judge of the third circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted

Herbert Mukai

**LATE**

March 28, 2021

**Via E-mail: [JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jeffrey W. Ng (JC35)

To Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Committee Members,

I write this letter in full support of the appointment of Jeffrey W. Ng to the District Family Court bench, as a District Court Judge.

I have known Jeff for almost twenty years as a colleague and friend. I first met Jeff when he was a law clerk and had the pleasure of working with him at the Office of the Public Defender. As a colleague, Jeff was always very bright, pleasant and reasonable. I witnessed him treating clients, witnesses and attorneys with the utmost respect and humility. As a friend, he is always caring, thoughtful and supportive.

Jeff has a wealth of knowledge and experience. He possesses a strong work ethic, and is well respected by his colleagues, attorneys and the Court. He is extremely qualified and possesses the appropriate demeanor to be judicial, objective and fair.

Jeff's personal life is one of dedication to his family and community. Public service has always been of great important to him. His years in public service have been invaluable to the people of the State of Hawai'i.

I am confident that Jeff would be an asset to the District Court. He has all the right attributes and abilities to be an outstanding District Court Judge. Without hesitation, I recommend him for the position.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Agsalda

**LATE**

**JC-35**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 8:55:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lily Chan-Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of the confirmation of Jeffrey Ng to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Mr. Ng for about two years. Since he participated in the Kuikahi Mediation Center basic training, I have partnered with him as community mediators on multiple cases. I found Mr. Ng to be a fast learner, picking up nuances of the process quickly. I also noticed that Mr. Ng was able to stay neutral, being impartial with both sides, while asking pertinent questions to get to the heart of the matter. In addition, Mr. Ng is community minded. Not only is he a volunteer at the Kuikahi Mediation Center, he also provided man-power at the Self-Help Center at the Hilo Courthouse. Therefore, I am confident that Mr. Ng will have the community's wellbeing in mind when tackling cases in the District Family Court. Thank you for your consideration.