

JC-9

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:10:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer D. Lopez BSN RNV	Testifying for Department of Public Safety, Maui Community Correction Center	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

As the Health Services Administrator for the Maui Community Correction Center, I want to enthusiastically recommend Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. for the judicial office of the District Judge of the Second Circuit for the Island of Maui.

I have known Christopher in a professional capacity for 10 years of my career at MCCC-Health Care Services. He is fair, knowledgeable, and experienced. Christopher not only defends his clients in court, but also is an advocate for their medical and mental health needs. I appreciate Christopher's attention to detail and work ethic.

In one case, Christopher defended a client that needed surgery to remove a cancerous tumor. Christopher obtained a release of information from the client so we could share information. He consistently called to obtain updates on the patient's health status. Christopher also advocated to transfer the patient to Oahu for further evaluation and treatment. I was very impressed by Christopher's genuine concern for his client, all while pursuing justice in the case.

In short, I recommend Christopher Dunn to you strongly and without reservation to the office of District Judge. If I can be of any further assistance in your review of his application, please feel free to contact me.

Jennifer D. Lopez BSN RN

Neighbor Island Clinical Section Administrator

Department of Public Safety-Health Care Services

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F. 808.243.1295

JC-9

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 2:34:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Cain	Testifying for Law Offices of Cain and Herren	Support	No

Comments:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to support the nomination of Chris Dunn for Judge.

I have known and worked with Chris for a number of years now. Chris has a fantastic legal mind. I've always found Chris to be fair and honest. I feel as a judge he would make good and fair decisions. He is one of the brightest attorneys that I know.

As a member of the maui county bar I strongly urge the committee to vote yes on Chris becoming our much needed new district court judge.

Thank you.

David W. Cain

RICHARD D. GRONNA

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Member Hawai'i State Bar Association

Member State Bar of California

February 1, 2021

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: Recommendation of Christopher M. Dunn to the Second Circuit District Court

Gentlemen,

I am writing you in support of the nomination of Christopher M. Dunn as a Judge to the Second Circuit District Court.

I have known Chris from the time he started to work on Maui back in 2002. Chris first began to work out of the office with Phil Lownethal. I had the opportunity to get together with him on the occasions when I would travel from Oahu to Maui to attend Court hearings. More recently, since 2017, I have had the pleasure of sharing office space with Chris and Retired Judge John McConnell.

One of the traits that has impressed me the most about Chris is his demeanor and his ability to deal with his clients. It has seemed to me that when the Court has been faced with the most heinous of crimes and criminal defendants their first call when they are looking for attorneys is to Chris. He has always stepped up and represented some of the most difficult clients that have gone through the system. When most lawyers (such as I) would withdraw because of the difficulty is dealing with such persons Chris has been able to find ways to deal effectively with them and work the cases out.

One of the other notable traits that I have noticed is when he has had to deal with persons dealing with restraining orders. As you know these cases can be very contentious and difficult to deal with especially when emotions run so high. What impressed me was his ability to work with the parties to seek amicable resolutions.

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Page 2

Another aspect that I have found commendable is that he takes time and listens to his clients and the other parties. From his taking his time listening to all concerned he has come up with resolutions that both sides have found to be amenable and has worked.

Overall, having had the pleasure of sharing space with Chris I believe that he will make an excellent jurist and an asset to the Court. He speaks well of others, he is not condescending, he does not talk down to others and he treats everyone with mutual respect. He is respectful to the Court and most importantly to the Court Clerks and staff.

Your selection of Chris to be the next District Court Judge would be a great compliment to the Second Circuit District Court.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Richard D. Gronna
RICHARD D. GRONNA

RDG/rg

February 02, 2021

Hawaii State Senate

Re: Christopher M. Dunn, Esq.

Aloha!

My name is Margaret Murakami. I am currently a Senior Probation Officer and a former Maui Drug Court Officer for seventeen (17) years on the Island of Maui.

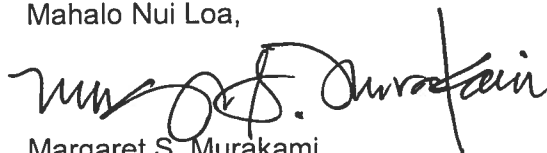
I have known Chris working in the capacity as a Probation Officer. Professionally, he is an outstanding defense attorney. Naturally wit, he is trust-worthy, compassionate and a level-headed man.

Just to give one of the many examples, in a 2014 case, Chris defended a client of ours from going back to prison. He respectfully asked the court to give this client one more chance to prove himself and remain on probation instead of being sentenced to his ten (10) year prison term. He consulted with me and made sure I would still be willing to work with this client again. The court granted this request. I continued to supervise this client thereafter. Today, this client is a skillful mason supervisor for a major construction company in Hawaii. He "runs" a crew of mason workers and interacts with project engineers daily to forward job(s) in the state of Hawaii and has remained clean and sober since 2016.

I am happy to report that in February of this year, this client's probation will expire, pau. This is just one example of how one hand gifted another. Chris saw the potential in this local Hawaiian male and was fair throughout the entire process as well as consulted with all parties involved in his case.

To reiterate, Chris is a great listener and a kind man. More attractively, Chris is a devoted family-man. Writing this letter has been an honor to recognize a "humble gem in our community."

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Margaret S. Murakami
Senior Probation Officer
Adult Client Services
140 Ho'ohana Street, Ste. 103
Kahului, Hawaii 96732
Tel: (808) 442-3861
Fax: (808) 442-3888



February 2, 2021

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in full support of Christopher Dunn as a District Judge of the Second Circuit on the island of Maui. I met Christopher in March 2020 when his daughter Mahealani Dunn registered for our after-school Ka'ehu Youth Enhancement & Mentoring Program. She is a gifted and talented student and has excelled in our program. Mahealani Dunn returned to Ka'ehu Bay for our Archaeology summer training and fall program. During that time, her father, Christopher Dunn, dropped her off and picked her up regularly from program and has been very supportive of her education and training.

Mr. Dunn is a regular at Ka'ehu and it is a unique situation to see a father involved and engaged daily with his daughter. Mahealani's father actively supported her throughout all 3 programs and is a good role model of how a father should interact with his children.

As a mother, it is refreshing to see Mr. Dunn active and supportive in his children's lives while taking on the responsibilities of his solo law practice. I am glad we have the fortune of working with the Dunn 'Ohana and we look forward to Christopher Dunn's further support for the Maui community as a District Judge.

Please support the Judgeship of Christopher Dunn and help bring good men with good family values to the Maui court system.

Mahalo nui loa

Ku'uleinani Maunupau
Executive Director, KAEHU

Benjamin E. Lowenthal
Attorney at Law
81 N. Market Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

February 1, 2021

Chair Karl Rhodes
Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole
Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Appointment of Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. to District Court

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

I write in strong support of Chris Dunn's appointment to be Maui's next District Court judge. I have known Mr. Dunn for many years. Mr. Dunn is an excellent attorney. He is committed to achieving for his clients the best possible outcome within the bounds of the law.

He has always treated everyone in the judicial system with respect and care. He will meet the demands of the District Court with the same efficiency, practicality, and decency that he has shown in his law practice. Mr. Dunn is a hard-working lawyer, who cares about our community and our legal system. That is why he has earned the respect of his fellow attorneys, judges, and court staff. He will make a wonderful addition to the bench.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this letter.

Very truly yours,

/s/Benjamin Lowenthal

Benjamin E. Lowenthal

JC-9

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 2:45:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wendy hudson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've known Chris Dunn since he began practicing on Maui nearly 20 years ago. He is a voice of reason. He has an excellent reputation for doing good work and is well liked by the court, staff, opposing counsel and other defense attorneys. He has a good grasp of the law, rules of evidence and trial procedures. He knows his way around a courtroom. He is a man of his word and is chock full of integrity. He puts the time in, does the work and is always prepared. **He'd be great in District Court.**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Senate of the State of Hawai'i

Lance D. Collins, Ph.D
Law Office of Lance D. Collins

Friday, February 5, 2021
Support for JC 9, Confirmation of Christopher Dunn
to the District Court of the Second Circuit

I write in support of the confirmation of Mr. Christopher Dunn to the District Court of the Second Circuit.

I have known Mr. Dunn for 16 years and believe he has all of the qualities necessary to serve in judicial office including integrity, legal ability, experience, intelligence, compassion, diligence and judicial temperament.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:05:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| William Sloper      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I have been working as an attorney on Maui since 1997 in both private and government service. I have had the pleasure of working with and against Christopher Dunn in countless cases over the last 20 years. I believe this gives me unique insight into the moral courage, integrity and fairness that Mr. Dunn possesses. Mr. Dunn will be a great asset to the community of Maui as a District Court Judge. There is no doubt that he will treat all who come before him with dignity, grace and fairness.

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:26:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pia Aluli           | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii State Senate,

My name is Pia Aluli born and raised in Hawaii and a resident of Maui county. I am writing in support for Christopher Dunn's nomination for the honor of serving as a District Judge of the Second Circuit on Maui. Having known Christopher for the past 15 years, I know him to be an honest, fair and compassionate person who would assume this position seriously, and definitely be an asset to the Maui circuit courts.

Sincerely

Pia Aluli

22 Hiipali Loop

Kula, HI. 96790



Peter A. Horovitz  
2073 Wells Street, Suite 101  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Phone 808.242.5700  
Fax 808.442.1255  
pah@mhmaui.com

February 2, 2021

Via Electronic Submission

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204

Hon. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231

RE: JC9; Christopher M. Dunn  
JC10; James R. Rouse

Dear Messrs. Rhoads and Keohokalole :

I write in strong support of the nominations of Christopher M. Dunn and James R. Rouse to positions as judges of the District Court and District Family Court of the Second Circuit. Both are excellent attorneys, and while I will miss being able to interact with them as counsel on various matters, they will each make excellent judges. As a practicing attorney on Maui for the past 19 years, I am particularly pleased that these positions are being filled by members of the Maui Bar. They each know our community, and I am confident they will serve it well for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Horovitz

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:53:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth S. Cuccia | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Chris Dunn definitely has the experience needed to handle the district court criminal calendar. I don't know about his civil experience outside of TROs but he is smart and I think he would work hard to learn about the civil calendar. He is one fo the most caring and hard working defense attorneys on the island. He always has a smile and is very respectful to everyone in the court house. I don't know a single person that has a bad thing to say about him. His knowledge of the law and dedication to his clients is bar none. He works to foster resolutions to cases but knows when a case has to go to trial. I think he would be a very fair judge and would learn to manage the flow of the calendar very quickly.

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:56:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Matt Daniells | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:



**Matt Daniells** <[mattdmaui@gmail.com](mailto:mattdmaui@gmail.com)> Mon, Dec 21, 2020, 5:03 PM

to Chris

To whom it may concern

I've known Chris Dunn for several years now. He's a good man, and a solid, reliable friend. He is dedicated family man, and athlete. I have nothing but respect and admiration for Chris. I feel that he would be a great judge. He's level headed, extremely intelligent, honorable, and fair-minded. I would trust him with my life and the life of my family. In my mind you couldn't find a better candidate.

Mahalo

Matt Daniells

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:21:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Wolfenbarger | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I am writing in support of Christopher “Chris” Dunn as a District Court Judicial Nominee for the Second Circuit. Since May 2017, I have been employed as a deputy public defender for the Office of the Public Defender – Maui Office; however, since 2010, I have been a practicing attorney.

I have known Chris for almost four years, and I am honored to call him a friend and colleague. Having practiced law for about ten years, I met a number of attorneys of different skill and intelligence. In my opinion, Chris is one of the most prepared and knowledgeable attorneys I have had the privilege of working with and seeing practice in the courtroom. He is always on time, and he makes sure his clients are kept informed of the proceedings and expectations. He has a way of arguing his cases (facts and legal arguments) in a way that the learned and lay person can understand. I would argue that this is something that is needed by a person sitting on the bench. As for Mr. Dunn’s temperament, I have seen him represent many criminal defendants who would make a “man of the cloth” act out with anger, and at times, I have been surprised as to how professional Chris remains with those difficult clients. This shows me that he would bring the same professionalism and character to the bench.

In order to give an example of how much I respect Mr. Dunn’s ability as an attorney, I can only write to you what I say to the criminal defendants who ask me what attorney they should hire or which attorney should they hope gets appointed to the cases that the Public Defender’s Office has to withdraw from because of a conflict of interest. I simply say, “If you get Chris Dunn, you will have hit the jackpot.”

It is difficult to sum up all of Mr. Dunn’s qualifications in one written testimony, but I hope this shows that I fully support Christopher Dunn.

Mahalo,

Jeffrey Wolfenbarger





OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER  
STATE OF HAWAII  
MAUI OFFICE

Allan J. ALMEIDA, Jr.  
Office of the Public Defender Investigator

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HAWAII STATE SENATE  
THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
HONORABLE SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
HONORABLE SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, VICE CHAIR

DATED: 02/02/21

Re: Letter of recommendation for Christopher M. Dunn for District Judge of the Second Circuit (Island of Maui).

Dear HONORABLE SENATOR KARL RHOADS,

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Selection Commission for Christopher M. Dunn for the position of District Judge for the Second Circuit.

I have known Christopher M. Dunn for over fifteen years. I first met Christopher M. Dunn while I was a deputy sheriff here on Maui. I have had the opportunity to watch firsthand Christopher practice law in circuit and district courts here on Maui.

Christopher M. Dunn would be a fine District Court Judge for the Second Circuit. I have observed many judges from my days as a deputy sheriff performing duties of custody supervision as well as bench trials. From my time in court, I have come to witness what "good judicial temperament" was. It was displaying the qualities of:

1. Intelligence
2. Listening
3. Compassion
4. Integrity
5. Experience
6. Education
7. Courage
8. The ability to communicate effectively.
9. Ethical
10. Character

In closing, I strongly feel that Christopher M. Dunn has all the experience, education, and mindset to be a fine Second Circuit District Court Judge. I hope that The Senate Judiciary Committee will review my letter of recommendation for consideration.

Yours truly,

/s/ Allan J. Almeida, Jr.

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:43:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Byron Fujieda       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation and appointment of Christopher M. Dunn for the position District Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have known Chris for many years in a professional capacity and know him as a responsible, well respected attorney in our legal community. I believe he is the perfect choice for this position as he has all the credentials, experience and wisdom to be a District Court Judge. Chris is also a person demonstrates kindness to others in any capacity and will exhibit excellent judicial temperament which is much needed and crucial to be effective within our judicial system. This State and the County of Maui will be fortunate to have Christopher M. Dunn as a District Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Byron Y. Fujieda

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney County of Maui

**ATTORNEYS:**

JAN K. APO  
JANKAPO@JANKAPO.COM

MARK D. RECK  
MARKR@JANKAPO.COM

NAOMI M. KUSACHI  
NAOMIK@JANKAPO.COM



**THE LAW OFFICES OF  
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MICHELLET@JANKAPO.COM

February 2, 2021

Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Christopher Dunn

Senate Judiciary Committee:

I submit this letter in total support of Christopher Dunn for the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

I am a practicing attorney on the island of Maui for the last 40 years and also served as a District Court Per Diem Judge for approximately 19 years. As a Per Diem District Judge, Christopher Dunn has appeared before me probably close to a 100 times over the course of his years of practice on Maui. On every occasion, he conducted himself with the utmost propriety and diligence. He was always well prepared and conducted himself in a professional manner at all times. His demeanor in confrontational and stressful cases was quite exemplary. I would support Mr. Dunn wholeheartedly for a position as a District Court Judge.

I have no social or professional relationship with Mr. Dunn aside from an occasional referral of district court cases to Mr. Dunn in his private practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my support and I am available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

**LAW OFFICES OF JAN K. APO**

  
JAN K. APO

# GRAHAM D. MOTTOLA

Graham Daniel Mottola

Attorney At Law

P.O. BOX 1567

Kihei, Maui, Hawai'i 96753-1567

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Mottolag001@hawaii.rr.com

February 2, 2021

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
Senate President  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Confirmation of Christopher Martin Dunn, Esq. to the District Court of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit

Dear Honorable Ronald Kouchi:

I first met Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. in 2002, when he rented office space from Philip H. Lowenthal, Esq., which happened to be the office space I had been assigned when I worked for the Law Firm of Lowenthal & August as an Associate Attorney. I know Christopher Dunn, Esq. received mentorship from Philip H. Lowenthal and having received 5 ½ years of mentorship from Philip H. Lowenthal, Esq. when I worked for Lowenthal & August, I know how invaluable mentorship from Philip H. Lowenthal is.

Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. has always been a pleasant person and has the necessary temperament to be a great District Court Judge. I also know Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. has the necessary skills to understand all of the legal knowledge necessary to be very well qualified as a District Court Judge the first day he sits in District Court and will not need to learn on the job as some previous District Court Judges have. I know Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. will take his responsibilities as a District Court Judge seriously and that he has demonstrated sound judgment in his professional life, devotion to improvement of the quality of justice, the mental and physical capacity to fulfill the necessary duties, incredible judicial temperament, reputation for having an excellent character of integrity and the highest standard of ethics and the intelligence necessary. Additionally, I know Christopher M. Dunn has extensive courtroom trial skills, knowledge of Hawai'i Rules of Evidence and Hawai'i Rules of Penal Procedure.

I fully support the confirmation of Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. to the position of District Court Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit for the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Graham Daniel Mottola

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:25:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob Lowenthal     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I write in support of the nomination of Christopher Dunn for either the District or Family law position. I've known Chris for well over a decade. He is one of the most even-tempered and reasonable people I know in the legal profession. He is courteous to everyone he comes into contact with, inside and outside of the courthouse. He has years of trial experience with skills to match, fluent in the rules of evidence, court rules, and court procedure. He will be able to effortlessly transition into the role as a Judge in either District or Family Court.

He has a great family who have deep roots in the community here on Maui. He is well known and well-liked, and has a reputation for being approachable and reasonable. I can think of no one better to assume the role as the newest District court judge here on Maui!

# LAW OFFICES OF JOHN O'NEILL

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E Mail: vineyardjmo@hawaii.rr.com  
Licensed in HI & MA

February 2, 2021

Hawaii State Senate  
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: **HEARING JDC 02-05-21**  
**BILL JC 9**

Letter of support for Christopher M. Dunn, Esq.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write in support of Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. for District Judge of the Second Circuit.

I have been a practicing civil litigation attorney on Maui for twenty-five years. I have been a solo practitioner for the last eight years, having previously been law partners with the Honorable Peter T. Cahill, Esq., now Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

I have known Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. professionally and personally for about six years. Professionally, I can add my support to his excellent reputation for fairness, diligence and honesty. He is very experienced and shows good judgment. Personally, I have always found Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. to be extremely courteous, generous and civic-minded. Our daughters are in the swim club together, so I have come to know his whole exemplary family.

I believe that Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. is very well qualified for District Judge and I wholeheartedly support him. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
John M. O'Neill

February 2, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Senate

I am writing this statement in regards to the nominee Christopher Dunn who applied for the Judicial Office of District Court of the Second Circuit (Maui).

Hello my name is Mercedes Obregon. I work with Judge Rhonda I.L. Loo as a Court Clerk. I been in this position for at least a good 7 years and have been with the Judiciary for a total of 20.

I have known Chris for at least 7 years or more. I have been working with him in the Courtroom and by phone almost on a daily basis. He comes to his hearings on time and is very knowledgeable as a defense attorney.

Chris is a very professional, well educated, efficient and a very respectful person. He is a highly qualified candidate for any Judge position and would be a great asset for the Judiciary, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

/S/ Mercedes M. Obregon

Mercedes M. Obregon  
Courtroom Clerk to  
Judge Rhonda I.L. Loo  
2145 Main Street, 4th Floor  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: (808) 244-2955 main line  
(808) 244-2961 fax line



February 2, 2020

Dear Senators,

Today I have the great privilege to write this letter of support for Chris Dunn.

My name is Chris Pagdilao and I am born and raised here on Maui; I am a certified athletic trainer with the Department of Education, working at my Alma Mater, Maui High School. I am a 1998 graduate from there and went on the Pacific University in Forest Grove Oregon, where I graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor's of Science with an Emphasis in sports medicine of which I got certified that summer and have been practicing Sports Medicine in the Secondary school settings ever since.

I am an avid waterman and athlete, and paddled a little bit of 6-man outrigger canoe for Lae Ula Canoe club in my adult life, but was a wrestler all through high school and college. Through the canoe club scene, I have been able to meet and get to know many local watermen here which have all had impacts on my life in one way or another.

I am a firm believer that "Life begins in the sea" is how Chris Dunn and I use Mother nature to enjoy our life here on Maui. I have been fortunate to have met and paddled with Chris since 2004. We have shared many waves, Maliko (coast downwind runs), and inter island crossings together whether it be doing it competing against each other or as I would be helping to escort paddlers across Maui to Moloka'i. Our relationship is a great one because we have been able to do a lot of fun stuff together, yet rely on each other in and out of the water just as great friends do. I have been fortunate to have seen his children grow up over the years, which makes me definitely feel like family.

Chris has great knowledge and passion for what he does as a lawyer here on Maui. He is a great asset to the community here on Maui, in my opinion. His poise and overall character in and out of the courtroom is amazing. I believe he would be able to do well as a District Judge of the Second Circuit (island of Maui).

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me either via email or cell.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Pagdilao ATC  
Certified Athletic Trainer Maui High School  
808-357-0651

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 2:21:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joshua Kent         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of Christopher M. Dunn's appointment to the District Court of the Second Circuit's bench. During my last five years as a Deputy Prosecutor on Maui, I have had the privilege to get to know Mr. Dunn professionally. Despite the adversarial nature of our professional relationship, I found Mr. Dunn to be respectful, honest, and reasonable towards his opponents, while remaining a patient, compassionate, and powerful advocate for his clients. He practices law with integrity and has the experience and temperament that would make him an asset on the bench. I respectfully ask you to confirm his appointment.

Mahalo,

Joshua W.C. Kent

Ryan Anderson-Teshima  
150 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793  
ryanteshima@gmail.com

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Senate  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Letter in Support of Christopher M. Dunn as District Judge for the Second Circuit**

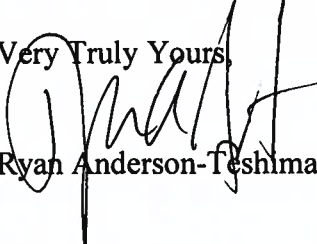
Dear Senator Rhoads,

I am Ryan Anderson-Teshima and I write to you with whole hearted support of Christopher M. Dunn as District Court Judge for the Second Circuit. I am a Maui boy and graduate of H.P. Baldwin High School. I earned my undergraduate degrees from the University of Southern California and law degree from Southwestern Law School, both in Los Angeles. I practiced law in California before returning home to Maui in 2008 to clerk for the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza. I am a former Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui, and since 2011 I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui.

Over the past ten years, I prosecuted many criminal cases where the defendant was represented by Chris. Through these cases together, I had the opportunity to observe qualities in Chris which I believe will make him an outstanding District Court Judge. Chris zealously advocates on behalf of his clients in staunch protection of their Constitutional rights, but remains reasonable and realistic in negotiations. Chris has the ability to see a case for what it is, and has incredible insight as to how a jury may also view a case. This led us to reach a settlement in almost all the cases we had together; settlements which benefited his clients while also giving the State and the victims a sense of justice. A very recent case involved the tragic death of a wheelchair bound man who was struck by a truck driven by Chris's client. Due to Chris's advocacy and creativity, we were able to settle the case where his young client avoided jail, was able to continue his trucking business, and would do community service to promote safety awareness for wheelchair-bound pedestrians.

Despite being able to settle the cases we had together, I know that Chris does not shy away from trial. A couple of years ago, I was able to observe a murder trial where Chris represented the defendant. Although the jury found the defendant guilty, Chris was able to display his mastery of trial work and the litigation process. When asked by friends and acquaintances who I would recommend as a defense attorney, Chris was at the top of my list.

Based on Chris's advocacy, creativity, and trial experience, I believe that Chris will make an excellent District Court Judge. Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and for considering Christopher M. Dunn as District Court Judge for the Second Circuit.

Very Truly Yours,  
  
Ryan Anderson-Teshima

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 2:50:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Heather Wolfenbarger. I am a Deputy Public Defender on Maui. I am writing in support of Christopher Dunn's nomination for the District Court judicial vacancy in the Second Circuit.

I have known Mr. Dunn as a highly esteemed member of our legal community for the better part of 20 years. I have been a public defender for nearly a decade. In that time I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Dunn in Court many times and to work on cases together for clients we've had in common. Mr. Dunn is a top notch attorney. He is intelligent, hardworking, and very dedicated to his clients. He is widely regarded as one of the best attorneys in our community. He has a wealth of experience handling some of the toughest, most high profile cases in the Second Circuit. He always conducts himself with the utmost professionalism and aplomb.

In short, I believe he is an excellent candidate for the bench. I have no doubt that he will bring his obvious skill, experience, and knowledge into the job and will serve admirably as a District Court judge. I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Mahalo,

Heather Wolfenbarger

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 3:03:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in favor of the consideration and confirmation of Christopher M. Dunn to the District Court of the Second Circuit .I have know Christopher for many years and can attest to his upstanding character ,as well as his caring and respectful attitude.I am positively sure that he will be a great asset to the Judiciary.Mahalo for your consideration,respectfully,

Patrick E Brault

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:41:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank Zajac         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 6:44:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Hayakawa      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads and the Judiciary Committee:

For over 30 years I have practiced Criminal and Family Law. I first met Chris Dunn well over 10 years when an experienced Maui attorney recommended him as a co-counsel for a Maui case. Since that initial call, Chris and I have consistently worked on cases together over the years. Chris has become the “go to” Maui criminal defense/TRO attorney for myself and many other Honolulu attorneys. I quickly learned that Chris has the respect of the 2nd circuit Judges, but even more impressively, the respect of the 2nd Circuit Court staffs. Chris is a very skilled trial attorney who has a proven record of working effectively with prosecuting attorneys and fellow private counsel to resolve and/or litigate cases in a fair and efficient manner. I have complete confidence that Chris will have an excellent judicial demeanor and that he has an understanding of and ability to effectively handle the 2nd Circuit District Court calendar. I believe strongly that Chris would be a terrific addition to the 2nd Circuit bench.

Respectfully,

/s/ David M. Hayakawa

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:08:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Peter Konohia       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To The Hawai'i State Senate Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing in support of your District Court Judge Nominee Chris Dunn.

I am a Database Manager for VSE Technical Services and the database team lead on the TMDS/MSAT project for the DoD.

I have known Chris for about 15 years. Our families know each other. He is a good and honest man. I know his wife and kids and they too are also good people.

He would be an excellent District Court Judge because he is even-tempered, thinks logically, and is able to solve complex problems. He is honest and fair. I trust Chris.

Please consider him for the District Court Judgeship.

Sincerely,

Peter Konohia

547 Halemalu Place

Wailuku, HI 96793

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/peterkonohia/>



**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:13:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Konohia    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in support of your District Court Judge Nominee Chris Dunn.

Currently, I am the Kaiser Permanente Diagnostic Imaging Supervisor of the Neighbor Islands.

I have known Chris and his family for roughly 15 years. Chris is someone I can trust, he is honest, logical and calm under pressure. Chris is a hard worker, yet he finds time to enjoy family time and the ocean.

Please consider Chris for the District Court Judgeship.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Konohia

547 Halemalu Place

Wailuku, HI 96793

[jdkonohia@gmail.com](mailto:jdkonohia@gmail.com)

808-283-3489

Quentin A. Cuttie  
P.O. Box 403  
Haiku, HI. 96708

Hawaii State Senate  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Chris Dunn

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate

My name is Quentin Alikea Cuttie. I have had the privilege to work for the Hawaii Judiciary since September 4, 2018, as a Senior Probation Officer with Adult Client Services, Second Circuit Court. Prior to my employment with the Hawaii Judiciary I was blessed with the opportunity to work for Aloha House Inc. for nineteen (19) years. I have experience working in various levels of treatment and populations. It is through both my personal and professional experience that I continue to utilize my experience to assist individuals from returning to relapse and recidivism.

I have known Mr. Dunn since 2006. Initially, I met Mr. Dunn through paddling canoe together and had the opportunity to team up with him on several long distance canoe races. The one that comes to mind would be the Queen Liliuokalani Canoe Race in Kona. This particular race is 18-miles long and is known to be a flat (water) and hot race. Through this race a person endures a lot of challenges and at times a person's unpleasant characteristic's surface throughout the race. However, this was not the case with Mr. Dunn. I experienced an individual who was well prepared, calm, consistent, strong, and did his part to insure the crews objectives were carried out. My experience with Mr. Dunn is that what he displays inside of the canoe corresponds with his conduct outside of the canoe.

Over the past two (2) years as a Probation Officer, I have also been able to see these same characteristics and professionalism carry over into the courtroom. I have observed him carry out the objective of defending his clientele and I 'am confident that he will continue these traits as a District Court Judge.

I cannot imagine a candidate more deserving of this honor, and I am pleased to add my support to his nomination.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Quentin Alikea Cuttie, CSAC, ICADC  
Senior Probation Officer  
Second Circuit  
Adult Client Services Branch

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:09:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Sing        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Christopher Dunn for the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

I am a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense who has appeared in the District, Family, Circuit, and Federal Courts, on a regular basis over the past 23 years. I am familiar with the histories, procedures, and personalities of the courts of all circuits.

Mr. Dunn is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. He has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical "in the trenches" experience as a private attorney. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Christopher Dunn.

I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the position of District Court Judge should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns at 537-1529.

Very Truly Yours,

*/S/ Richard H.S Sing*

Richard H.S. Sing

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:49:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Madhuri Vijay       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support Christopher M. Dunn's confirmation as Judicial Nominee for the District Court of the Second Circuit. My name is Madhuri Vijay. I am a resident of Makawao, and I am a novelist by profession ([www.madhurivijay.com](http://www.madhurivijay.com)).

I am also a teacher, which is how I first came to meet Christopher Dunn. I began working with Chris's wife, Pualani Enos, at Maui Hui Malama more than five years ago. Since then I have also come to know both of Christopher's two sons, Oliver and Dylan, having taught them in a creative writing class through Maui Hui Malama last year.

Perhaps the best way to judge a person is by how he teaches his children to conduct themselves in the world. On this metric, Chris could not have better spokespersons than Oliver and Dylan, who are mature, polite, kind, funny and humble. Despite being teenagers, they have a strong work ethic, they never dissemble or lie, and they are quick to apologize when they make an error. Knowing Chris and Pua, this is no accident. Dylan and Oliver are they way they are because they have excellent and consistent role models in their parents.

Chris has always struck me as a deeply thoughtful, considerate and rational person. Even during arguments over the dinner table, he never gets passionate or illogical. He always takes the trouble to understand the viewpoints of everyone involved, and then takes the time to consider those viewpoints carefully and seriously before deciding what he thinks. It is a rare and admirable quality, and if he displays it so well in his personal life, then I can only imagine how vividly it will manifest when he is behind the bench as a representative of the legal system. All of this is to say that, in my opinion, Christopher M. Dunn will make an excellent, balanced judge, and I wholeheartedly support his confirmation.

Thank you, in advance, for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Madhuri Vijay



P.O. Box 749  
Kula, Hawai'i 96790

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February 3, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Judiciary Committee Chair  
State Capitol Building, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I am writing in support of Christopher M. Dunn who is nominated to fill a vacancy in the district court in the Second Judicial Circuit.

I have known Chris since the early 2000s here on Maui. I worked with Chris on many criminal cases as co-counsel. I was a deputy public defender and he was privately retained or court appointed counsel. Some of our cases involved serious felony charges and a myriad of complex defense issues including pretrial motions and defenses presented at trial.

Chris was an experienced courtroom litigator who did not shy away from difficult cases and oftentimes took the role of lead counsel. His pretrial motions practice was excellent and was equally effective in front of juries. He was very knowledgeable with the Hawaii Rules of Evidence and the substantive criminal law.

Chris will bring a wealth of experience to the bench. More impressively, Chris will bring calm and reasoned understanding as a judge. His decisions will be well reasoned, compassionate and from a genuine place of understanding. The trait that stands out the most is Chris' calm demeanor and his ability to remain calm notwithstanding the chaos that surrounds him. Wailuku District Court can at times be chaotic due to its high volume and all its demands. Chris will be able to effectively manage and navigate the volume of district court.

Chris has the intellect, demeanor and patience to make an outstanding district court judge for the community of Maui and I hope you consider his nomination strongly.

Sincerely,

Adriel C. S. Menor

PAUL R. MANCINI\*  
JAMES W. GEIGER  
THOMAS D. WELCH, JR.

**MANCINI, WELCH & GEIGER LLP**  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

305 E. WAKEA AVE.,  
SUITE 200  
KAHULUI, HAWAII  
96732-2417

OF COUNSEL  
ROSALYN LOOMIS  
JEFFREY UEOKA

TELEPHONE:  
(808) 871-8351

\*A LAW CORPORATION

FACSIMILE:  
(808) 871-0732

February 3, 2021

Committee on Judiciary  
c/o Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of Confirmation to District Court of the Second Circuit Court,  
Judicial Nominee Christopher M. Dunn for a Term to Expire in Six Years: JC9

Dear Senator and Committee Members:

I understand that Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald has submitted for consideration and confirmation to District Court of the Second Circuit the appointment of Christopher M. Dunn for a term to expire in six years.

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Christopher M. Dunn to a District Court for the Second Circuit Court.

Chris has the temperate, intellectual ability, and the pragmatism that are critical to effectively serve as a District Court Judge. In my experience he has the knowledge and understanding of the varied layers of the Maui community to be an excellent judge. I believe his education and legal experiences speak for his high qualifications for the position, but more importantly, Chris knows the people of Maui and knows the Maui values and complexity of the community to be a significant asset to the judicial branch of our government.

I am confident that Chris will be a valued member of the Judiciary and will represent the Judiciary with the highest degree of professionalism that could be expected of any of its members. I ask for your favorable consideration for confirmation to the District Court of the Second Circuit.

Very truly yours,



Paul R. Mancini

PRM:ta

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:57:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wendall DeVera      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To Senate Committee

I have known Christopher Dunn for over 10 years. Both professionally and personally. Personally I have competed and paddled (outrigger and 1 man canoes), along side Mr. Dunn. I have found him to be very competitive and still friendly at the same time. I have also observed what a good family man he is in the paddling community. I see that he trains hard, but he also has time to take his family out on the water with him, whether it be surfing or paddling, which to me indicates he is a very good family man. I also see him and his family volunteer for many paddling events that involved the club his daughter and son paddle for ,(Lae ula O Kai).

Professionally Mr. Dunn frequents the two business's that I have here on Maui. Maui Marking Device and Tri Paddle Maui. I have been in both business's for a combined 59 years, (40 in MMD and 19 in TPM). Being in these two business's for that long of a time I have been a pretty good judge of character with different individuals that frequent our establishments and I find Christopher Dunn's character very admirable. When he comes into our shop he is always friendly and professional and also jokes. What I do admire about his character is how ethical he is. I would sometime ask him about something that I read about in court cases and the only reply he would share with me is what I would have read in newsprint or hear on the radio.

I have not had a need for a Lawyer in my 70 year life, but if I were to need one I would surely ask Christopher Dunn for his assistance and I am sure that if he could not help me he would suggest a suitable Lawyer for me to contact.

I believe he would be an honorable addition to the judgeship he is being considered for.

Mahalo

Wendall DeVera





**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:07:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jamal Aruri         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that I write in support of Attorney Christopher Dunn's application for a District Court judgeship. Attorney Dunn's life experience, knowledge of the law and ability to interact well with others would be a significant addition to the District Court.

Chris has been a friend, colleague and trusted advisor since 1996, when we started our careers practicing criminal defense law in Lowell, Massachusetts. He immediately impressed me, as well as the other lawyers, with his skill and poise in arguing cases, demonstrating the presence of a seasoned practitioner, rather than a new lawyer. I got to know Chris even better when we formalized a law partnership in 1999 that remained in place until he moved to Maui in 2002. We shared not only office space and support staff, but the aspirations of young lawyers trying to meet the rigorous demands of a busy practice, a young family, and a whole lot of inexperience in both areas.

I have witnessed Chris' lawyering skills hundreds of times during his tenure in Massachusetts. Whether he's arguing bail for a defendant or litigating a serious and complex criminal case, Chris passionately and effectively represents the interests of his clients, without regard to whether he is court appointed or privately retained. His respect for constitutional safeguards is clearly evident in his skilled advocacy and the dignity and respect he affords to his clients and their rights. He has a very good command of the relevant law, his memoranda are superbly written and thoroughly documented, and his meticulous preparation is patently obvious to anyone who has observed him in the courtroom. While many outstanding lawyers share these same traits, what often sets Chris apart is that his zeal and vigor on behalf of a client rarely, if ever, interfere with his unconditional respect for opposing counsel, the Court and its staff.

Having done trial work for quite some time, I often wonder what are the most important attributes of a good judge? Is it honesty, integrity and commitment to justice? Is it intellect, knowledge of the law and analytical tools? Is it temperament and respect for those who appear before you, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status or one's position in life? Is it perseverance or patience, decisiveness or reflection, compassion or accountability? It is difficult to say which of these is most important, but when I think about the best judges I've encountered, these are the qualities that come to mind. Chris Dunn possesses all of these qualities. I say this without hesitation and with the understanding that I know only a handful of lawyers for whom I could say the same.

Chris is someone who is impressive, but isn't out to impress, who is serious but doesn't take himself too seriously; he is someone who has a sense of humor, not a sense of self-importance.

Perhaps Chris's greatest asset is that he is much more concerned with understanding what a person is saying than formulating a response. Whether he's listening to the concerns of a client, the position of his opponent and/or the Court, Chris doesn't try to talk over people. While this quality has unfortunately escaped many of us in this increasingly stressful and high paced field, the willingness to listen not only defines who Chris is, but also serves to enhance the persuasiveness and credibility of his position in response. This skill extended to his presence in the office as well. Whether it involved patiently listening to a difficult problem a colleague was encountering at work or home, or a concern of our administrative assistant, Chris was always the go-to-guy for great advice and a workable solution.

Despite the demands of a very heavy case load, Chris always made a point of prioritizing family and community. I was obviously disheartened when he informed me of his decision to relocate to Hawaii in 2002, but could not help but admire his remarkable selflessness, evidenced by his respect and unending support for his wife Pualani's deep commitment toward fully embracing her Hawaiian heritage which dictated such a move. It was no surprise to hear that Chris became personally engaged in supporting and embracing the struggles and accomplishments of the dispossessed and disenfranchised indigenous population, most notably as a Board Member of Hanona from 2016-2020.

I have no doubt that once you are finished reviewing Attorney Dunn's legal credentials, as well as his temperament and commitment to a level playing field for everyone, you will arrive at the conclusion that his vast talents and unimpeachable character will make him an outstanding addition to the Bench.

Very truly yours,

Jamal T. Aruri, Esq.

## CARY VIRTUE

Attorney at Law, HSBA # 8717

1931 E. Vineyard St., Suite 201  
Wailuku, Hi. 96793

Tel: (808) 244-7640

E-Mail: [carymvirtue@msn.com](mailto:carymvirtue@msn.com)

February 2, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee  
For Hawaii

Re: Chris Dunn, Judicial Candidate  
For Maui District Court Judge  
Bill #. JC 9

To Whomn It May Concern,

Chris Dunn is an exceptional criminal defense attorney, and would be a welcome addition as a District Court Judge for the Second Circuit on Maui.

He is fair, knowledgeable, even-tempered, and treats his clients with respect – always putting them first. In the fourteen years I have known and observed Chris Dunn practice in district and circuit court, he has been respectful and courteous to the judges, prosecutors and fellow defense attorneys.

I have seen him go out of his way to help his clients to the best of his ability regardless if it's a private client, or a court appointed client. He also has offered to assist, and share his legal experience, with other attorneys, as well as new judges who may be inexperienced in criminal law.

As a District Court Judge, I know that Chris Dunn will be impartial, and listen attentively to each side, before making a decision. I know with his calm temperament that he will work well with the other members of the judicial bench.

In short, I highly recommend Chris Dunn as a District Court Judicial candidate.

Sincerely,



Cary Virtue  
HSBA # 8717



COMMITMENT | OPEN COMMUNICATION | RESPECT | EXCELLENCE

February 2, 2021

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
Senate President  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409  
415 S. Berentania Street  
Hololulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement in support of the appointment of Christopher Dunn for the position of District Court Judge.

I am the CEO/President of a third Generation Family Business in our 78<sup>th</sup> year in business. Our primary business is providing school bus services to school districts and their residents. We employ 3500+ individuals, operate in four states (PA, DE, NJ, NY) in the Mid-Atlantic region, and pride ourselves in our family values and putting the needs of our employees and customers first. I was asked to provide a context of my background but what is more relevant is Chris and his character.

In 1988, Chris and I met as freshman year roommates at Skidmore College in New York. I learned quickly that Chris was someone I could count on to help me with one of my courses, give me a ride to airport during a snowstorm, or provide advice on any number of scenarios. My most memorable impression of Chris was his parents and their dedication to their family. Chris' father was a schoolteacher during the day, and worked a full-time job loading trucks in a warehouse at night, all in an effort to help pay for Chris and his sister go to college. Chris mirrored the same dedication throughout his college years working hard in pursuit of a career in law.

Chris met his wife, Pualani, during our first year of college. Determined to pursue a career in law, both Pualani and Chris graduated from law school incurring student loan debt. Yet, despite this debt, Pualani pursued a non-profit career and Chris public interest law exemplifying a deep commitment to seeking justice in their respective communities. Upon graduation, Chris worked hard to establish a successful law practice in Boston, MA. In 2002, he and Pualani decided it was best for their family to relocate from the Boston area to Maui to be closer to Pualani's family. Chris, again, dedicated to the best interest in his family, worked hard to learn a new area of the law and grow his own practice in Maui. Together they are proud parents to three children and spend their days enjoying the outdoors, especially paddling and surfing. Chris maintains a successful balance and dedication to both his law practice and his family.



COMMITMENT | OPEN COMMUNICATION | RESPECT | EXCELLENCE

During our college years, we formed a tight group of friends who remain close and meet-up annually for a long weekend back in Saratoga, NY. Despite living in Hawaii, Chris endures the long travel and expense to be integral part of this tradition.

Throughout our thirty-two years of friendship, I have witnessed Chris exemplify high standards of integrity and dedication in both his professional and private life. Overall, Chris is not one who is quick to judge, diligent with his reading and research on topics, and he is patient and determined when making important decisions and rendering advice. I cannot think of anyone more suitable for the position of District Court Judge than Christopher Dunn.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for Chris.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake A. Krampf".

Blake A. Krampf

**ALBERT S. ALBRECHTSON III  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

909 Anohea Way  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Ph. (808) 344-1019  
Fax. (866) 308-9798

Licensed in Hawaii & California  
E-Mail: [asalbrechtson@aol.com](mailto:asalbrechtson@aol.com)

February 3, 2021

Hawaii State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Christopher Dunn, Esq. Appointment to Second Circuit Court District Judge

Dear Senate Members:

I have been licensed to practice law in Hawaii since 1983, and have been an attorney in good standing since that time to the present. I have practiced in the area of Criminal Defense and Civil Litigation in both Hawaii and California, where I am also licensed. I am writing this letter in support of Christopher Dunn, Esq. for appointment to the position of District Judge of the Second Circuit.

I have known Mr. Dunn for over ten (10) years as part of the Maui criminal defense bar. It has been my pleasure to work with Mr. Dunn as co-counsel on several cases, discussing both common and novel legal issues with him. I have had dozens of opportunities to see him in action in court hearings, trials, and in negotiations and discussions with fellow attorneys on both sides of the bar, and with local judges.

In my over 37 years of practice, I have observed and worked with and against many attorneys, both in the civil and criminal practice areas. Through that experience one learns about the signs of skill, devotion to task and competence, temperament and character of individuals. I have the highest opinion of Mr. Dunn in all of the above qualities, both as it relates in comparison to other attorneys, and as it relates to judicial qualification. I believe Mr. Dunn has the necessary qualities to understand and apply the law competently, to give all parties fair and equal treatment, to compassionately carry out the duties required of our judges, and to instill public confidence in our system of justice.

Sincerely,



Albert S. Albrechtson III  
ASA/ca

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:13:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| sharon i. balidoy   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Welina me ke aloha,

For the past 35 years I have been a social worker here on Maui. My first years out of college with the State and the majority of my time with a private non-profit organization. I have know Chris Dunn and his family for over 12 years. I know of his reputation in the attorney, legal world (he is sought after) and I also have had a window into his family life and his world outside of court. It is to his character that I am submitting this letter of support for Chris.

As a canoe paddling coach I have seen many youth and parents come and go. Chris is a supportive father. A man who shows up for his children. He makes time for one-on-one sessions with each of them, to help them improve, and to provide opportunities for growth. He encourages them to do their best, to put their best effort forward and he also teaches them that winning is not the only thing that matters. Together, with his supportive wife, they have instilled and modeled the values of honesty and integrity, of taking responsibility for ones actions or omissions, and they have genuine aloha for others.

I truly believe that Chris Dunn will be an excellent choice as a District Judge for our Island. I trust in his ability and in his accountability. I think that he will be fair and just.

Mahalo nui,

Sharon I. Balidoy MSW



LAW OFFICES OF  
SETSUKO REGINA GORMLEY, LLC

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P.O. Box 6220, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96733 • Telephone/Fax: (808) 463-3744  
Email: [ginagormleylaw@gmail.com](mailto:ginagormleylaw@gmail.com)

December 29, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Christopher Dunn, JC 9

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee:

I strongly support Chris Dunn for the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit. I have known Chris Dunn for 12 years professionally. I first met Chris Dunn when I was clerking for the Honorable Shackley F. Raffetto. As a law clerk, I was able to witness Chris Dunn in the courtroom as a criminal defense attorney. He always exhibited professionalism, dedication to his clients, and competence.

Chris Dunn is extremely knowledgeable about the law, has exceptional speaking skills, is honest, calm, compassionate, and an all-around good person. It would be an honor to have him serve as District Court Judge.

Respectfully,



Setsuko Regina Gormley

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:20:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pamela Shults       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Christopher Dunn is an outstanding advocate. He is a steller choice for the Second Circuit bench. One of his more winning attributes is that he always takes time to help and advise when asked by a colleague. He has always shown himself to be a supporter of the underdog. Chris has a judicial temperament, well suited to the courtroom. It would take a great deal to ruffle his equanimity and control. Most significantly, he has a firm commitment to justice, in the broadest sense. As an attorney within the Second Circuit, I am delighted with the opportunity to have him on our bench.

Pamela B. Shults 4145

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:39:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Souza          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I have known Chris Dunn for at least fifteen years and found him to be very upstanding, kind, and a very well mannered guy. In the past few years I've had the opportunity to work with him and found him to be very knowledgeable and compassionate about law. He treats his clients fairly with the utmost respect and always at a professional level. I always felt like I could refer family or friends to him knowing with confidence that he would represent them to the best of his ability. I also found integrity to be one of his strong points. I truly support Christopher Dunn on this appointment and know in my heart that he would be an asset to Maui's judicial process as judge in the District Court of the Second Circuit.

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER – MAUI OFFICE  
81 NORTH MARKET STREET – WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TELEPHONE: (808) 984-5017

*Bradley J. Sova*  
*Deputy Public Defender*

February 3, 2021

Hawaii State Senate (31st Legislature, 2021)  
The Senate Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair  
Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: Recommendation Letter for Christopher Dunn for Second Circuit District Court Judge.

Honorable Senators,

I am honored to write in support of Christopher “Chris” Dunn as the next District Court Judge for the Second Circuit. I first met Chris when I started practicing in the District Court in September 2017. As a Deputy Public Defender, you are in the courtroom every day. You see everyone who comes into the court, including all the private defense attorneys in the community. Over weeks and months, you get a clear understanding of those attorneys and their practice.

In my time in District Court, I saw Chris appear with dozens of clients. I saw him go to bat and fight for his clients with professionalism to them, to the court, and to his adversaries. I saw how everyone in the court inherently trusted him, even when they did not like what he had to say. More importantly, I came to understand why they trusted him. In every appearance, it was clear that Chris knew the law, knew how the court worked, and knew what he needed to do to try and get the best results for his clients. I saw even greater trust and respect for Chris when I began to practice in the Circuit Court. I saw the unshakable but humble confidence Chris had, even with the most difficult cases and arguments, and I saw how it translated into an inherent trust in his knowledge and professionalism.

My experience with Chris is not just as a passive observer. As I came to understand the full depth of his knowledge and experience, I began to seek him out when I had questions about the court, the law, and my practice. He was always generous with his time and never in any way hesitant to share his knowledge. In time, he also came to me with his questions, demonstrating humility and a commitment to grow in his knowledge, practice, and service to the community. I am a better attorney for knowing him, and our courts are better because of him.

Although often overlooked, the importance of the District Court cannot be overstated. It is the most common venue in which our community accesses and interacts with the justice system. To truly provide justice, these courts require jurists whose knowledge, fairness, and dedication cannot be questioned. The District Court will have such jurist in Chris Dunn.

Mahalo,



Bradley J. Sova, Esq.

Maui Physical Therapy  
84 Central Ave  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Tel: 808-244-5988

February 3, 2021

To whom it may concern:

My name is Eric Rohozinski. I am a Maui resident since 1990 and owner/president of Maui Physical Therapy Inc established in 1993. I provide physical therapy services to my community of all walks of life. My wife is a third generation local born and raised from Nuuanu. She works with me and my staff. Both myself and especially my wife have networked and have been acquainted with many attorneys and judges on a personal level on both Maui and Oahu.

I am very excited and pleased for our community that Chris Dunn has applied for a judgeship here on Maui. I believe he is the perfect candidate for this position. Personally I have known Chris at least seven years. We meet every Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays to paddle OC-1. Our offices are both in Wailuku and we meet for coffee frequently. My son had the opportunity to shadow Chris at his office and in the courtroom. My son said to me, "the legal system works and it is logical after all".

When it comes to Chris and the way he approaches things, whether personal or professional, it is done in a logical, sound manner, with great clarity. I have such admiration for Chris' ability to articulate so well the language to find the words to explain things. He has the ability to read into a situation, evaluate, and then come back with a really good response. He is never inflammatory in his remarks or physical posturing. He is somehow able to find the middle ground that is equitable to both sides. I find this a very rare ability in a person. He definitely has the ability to control the situation in a good way. This is my experience with Chris. I do hope Chris gets this judgeship, it will benefit our community greatly.

Sincerely,



Eric Rohozinski, RPT

February 3, 2021

Joseph Toma, Attorney at Law  
475 S. High St.  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Telephone: (808) 281-3150  
email: [joettoma@gmail.com](mailto:joettoma@gmail.com)

Re: JC-9; Christopher Dunn; Judicial Candidate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit

Honorable Chairman Rhoads & Members, Senate Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Christopher Dunn for appointment to the Maui District Court bench. Chris has distinguished himself on Maui as a trial attorney with an abundance of jury trial experience, he has a strong grasp of the rules of procedure and evidence.

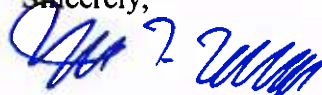
I believe that Christopher Dunn would make an excellent judge. Since his arrival on Maui in the early 2000's I have often observed him in court, and he is intelligent, cool and level headed, and always strongly advocating for his clients. For the past several years I saw him work as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney often taking assignments in representing the worst clients charged with the most serious criminal offenses such as murder and other serious class A felonies. It takes a very special lawyer to take on such assignments while also providing an exemplary effort on a rather thankless job. He has excellent trial skills.

Chris has an honest and straight forward nature, and I have no doubt of his ability to exercise the necessary judicial temperament and judicial integrity in carrying out his duties as judge.

I believe that the chief justice correctly selected the best two candidates for the Maui district court in Mssrs. Dunn and Rouse.

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

Sincerely,



Joseph Toma

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 3:38:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Damir Anver Kouliev | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a Maui-based attorney who has been in private practice for over 13 years. I'm also the Immediate Past President of the Maui County Bar Association.

I have know Mr. Dunn as a fellow defense attorney since 2018, and I have observed his dealings with judges, prosecutors and defendants, defined by equanimity, poise, patience and precision. He genuinely seems to treat everyone with the same respect. Needless to say, his temperament is perfect for the judiciary.

And although he is busy, like we all are in this field, he has been generous with his time and expertise if I had ever needed guidance.

Hence, it is without reservation that I provide support for Mr. Dunn's Confirmation.

Mahalo,

Damir Kouliev, Esq.

Aloha Honorable Senate Members:

My name is John Harrisson, and I am Program Director for Research and Analysis at the Maui Economic Development Board (located at the Kihei Tech Park). I am an American citizen, having been born in the U.K. and I hold degrees in Economics from Oxford University and the University of Sussex in the U.K. I have resided in the U.S. for 43 years and lived on Maui for the last 23 years. I have also held a Hawaii real estate license for 20 years.

I am writing to support the nomination of Christopher M. Dunn as 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit District and Family Court Judge.

I first met Chris about 15 years ago when I represented him and his wife in a real estate transaction. At the time, Chris had an infant and they were looking for a larger house for their family. Chris stood out among my clients for his appealing qualities of friendliness, directness, intelligence and obvious integrity. Since then my ex-wife has maintained a friendship with Chris through canoe paddling, and I have followed both his career and that of his educator wife through work and case reports in the media.

In late 2019, my younger son encountered legal troubles and we had no hesitation in asking Chris to represent him. The case is now concluded, and throughout the process, those same qualities I had experienced previously came to the fore. As difficult as the case was for our family, Chris was exemplary in his clarity, compassion, communication, and foresight. He provided us with the information we needed in a timely and professional manner. We were consistently impressed with his presence in court, and in our personal interactions. Even before his nomination, it struck me that Chris would make an excellent judge – one of my oldest college friends, also a lawyer, is a judge in the Long Beach, CA judiciary and both share these same admirable qualities.

I believe that Chris's 25-year experience as a trial lawyer and his track record in private practice make him eminently qualified for the Judgeship. He will undoubtedly uphold the law and Constitution with integrity, intelligence and courtesy and do so with his innate common sense and good judgement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can offer any further information. Thanks you for the opportunity of testifying on Chris Dunn's behalf.

John Harrisson

(808) 276-7899



**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:51:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Raaphorst      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To : Hawaii State Senate  
From: Mark Raaphorst  
On February 3th, 2020

My name is Mark Raaphorst. I have resided on Maui since 1986. For the last 37 years I have been a surfboard shaper and industry entrepreneur. With that, my wife of 15 years and community work with the homeless my roots in this community are deep.

I met Chris through our mutual appreciation for the ocean culture. This started about 10 years ago when we both joined the Maui outrigger canoe club La'i Ula O Kai. We see each other regularly in and out of the surf and at social gatherings.

On some occasions I have consulted with Chris for preventative legal advice. I have always appreciated his honest and no-nonsense path he laid out for me. He is a straightforward, honest and a reliable advisor. I know I can depend on him when I ask for an honest opinion.

I feel his honesty, expertise and straightforward but tempered delivery would be a great asset to the district court. As a community we would be lucky to have him sit on the bench.

Feel free to contact me through email or phone for further inquires.

Sincerely,  
Mark Raaphorst  
(808)463-4656

February 3, 2021

To the Hawaii State Senate,

I am writing to you to voice my strong recommendation of Christopher M. Dunn, Esq. to be nominated as District Court Judge of the Second Circuit (island of Maui) in February of 2021. My name is Ka`iulani Galon. I have lived on Maui since 2000 when I chose to move to where my father was born and raised. As a woman of Hawaiian ancestry, it felt important to come back to the islands from which my native heritage began. Prior to living on Maui, I was born and raised in Southern California, went on to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire where I attained my bachelor's degree and completed the Teaching Certification Program before heading on to New York City. In Manhattan, I first worked as a paralegal until finding a job at a public school in Harlem. There, I chose to focus my attention on teaching a diverse gifted and talented class of second graders for three years. This teaching experience, in addition to the exposure to so many ethnicities celebrated in the city, gave me motivation to move to Hawaii.

After coming to Maui, I used my education and experience in various positions at non-profits that directed service toward local youth and adults. My professional efforts throughout my career work to create social change through trauma informed care and resiliency projects. In two past management positions, one as a Domestic Violence Intervention Program Manager, and the other, as a Director of a Safe Home for Male Teens, I was often in court on a monthly, sometimes weekly basis. It is here that I interacted with Mr. Dunn professionally, where he defended mutual clients at court hearings. Though Mr. Dunn has never represented me directly, the observed demeanor I witnessed toward our shared clients was of the highest standard. The clients we both serviced had no money, little understanding of the court process and had highlighted disparities from the general population. Yet still, Mr. Dunn treated each with a respect and equality they deserved from our justice system. As an advocate for those who often admitted doing wrong, but still needed representation for a fair hearing, it was a relief to see that they were in good hands when Mr. Dunn defended them. His articulation of the facts to any individual in the courtroom were precise, clear and comprehensive. If a client needed better understanding of what was being said, Mr. Dunn used his words to clarify in way that was effective and specific, while still emulating respect. His professional appearance matched the way he articulated and presented himself to both the Judge and each of his clients. I was very impressed that there was a consistent respect shown to each, though both had much different status and power. Since I did not always see this expression of equity and justice in legal representation, I remained partial to Mr. Dunn's legal expertise if my clients ever had a choice.

For all these reasons, I believe Mr. Dunn would make an excellent District Court Judge for Maui County. Without hesitation, I believe he would be an incredible asset in a judgeship position for the Hawaii legal system. His contribution to our legal proceedings will not only be an advantage to our leadership, but to each plaintiff or defendant that may come before him in a court of law. To see him hold all his clients' rights to such high esteem only demonstrates his ability to be just to what would be asked of him in any position. Though currently I do not do direct service, my present position at Maui Department of Health supports the need for system change. My efforts now look to reaching all young Maui County keiki and their families to attain a more collaborative impact on system efficacy and inclusion. With my skill set to build our best impact on systems, hopefully this provides you reason to believe my input to recommend this honor to Mr. Dunn as a most meaningful one.

After coming to Maui, I used my education and experience in various positions at non-profits that directed service toward local youth and adults. My professional efforts throughout my career work to create social change through trauma informed care and resiliency projects. In two past management positions, one as a Domestic Violence Intervention Program Manager, and the other, as a Director of a Safe Home for Male Teens, I was often in court on a monthly, sometimes weekly basis. It is here that I interacted with Mr. Dunn professionally, where he defended mutual clients at court hearings. Though Mr. Dunn has never represented me directly, the observed demeanor I witnessed toward our shared clients was of the highest standard. The clients we both serviced had no money, little understanding of the court process and had highlighted disparities from the general population, yet Mr. Dunn treated each with a respect and equality they deserved from our justice system. As an advocate for those who often admitted doing wrong, yet still needed representation for a fair hearing, it was a relief to see that they were in good hands when Mr. Dunn defended them. His articulation of the facts to any individual in the courtroom, were precise, clear and comprehensive. If a client needed better understanding of what was being said, Mr. Dunn used his words to clarify in way that was effective and specific, while still emulating respect. His professional appearance matched the way he articulated and presented himself to both the Judge and each of his clients. I was very impressed with that there was a consistent respect shown to each though both had much different status and power. Since I did not always see this expression of equity and justice, I remained partial to Mr. Dunn's legal expertise if my clients ever had a choice.

From a personal perspective, I have known Christopher Dunn for over 20 years. Our initial connection was personal, through my sister with whom he met his Freshman year at Skidmore College. He was brought home to meet the family from his hometown in the Boston area to ours in the San Diego area shortly after their relationship began. From there, he quickly became a part of our `ohana, with marriage making it official some years later. I will briefly speak on Mr. Dunn's behalf from a personal perspective, as I would more like to highlight my interactions/observations with him professionally. Both I am extremely proud of, so felt it important to mention my personal connection as his sister-in-law as well. In an effort not to overshadow his professional accolades, I believe both aspects I'm sharing make him a most suitable choice for Judgeship on Maui Island.

The most primary trait I'd like recognized in Mr. Dunn is the meaning behind his intentional choice in my sister, Pualani Enos, and life decisions because of this choice thereafter. Christopher grew up in a white middle-class East Coast environment where white male privilege is prevalent. He grew up in a traditional family with traditional gender roles where his father was the primary bread winner and his mother was an amazing support in the home as a caregiver and partner. His path could have surely followed that pattern, with a choice in a girl of a much similar background to his own. Instead, he chose a young, smart part-Hawaiian woman with a very determined spirit. One who was sure to make a career path for herself equal to the importance of his own. In addition, his first legal practice was started in the Boston area after graduating from George Washington University Law School where he and my sister both attained law degrees. In his young adulthood, it would have been equally easier and reasonable to convince my sister to stay in the Boston area with the comfort of already started careers, friends, and his family nearby. Instead, they both took the leap to move to Maui, Hawaii to raise their own family and start their careers, essentially, again. In my opinion, these decisions are very reflective of a man of high character. Leaving all the comforts he grew up around, Mr. Dunn made the choice in a woman and life that would allow personal growth that can only come from stepping out of comfort zones and being challenged by difference around him. He is an example of how stepping down from privilege can have the most promising of outcomes. He now has a beautiful, diverse family who are being raised with a perspective of cultural pride and high intellectual standards.

For all these reasons, I believe Mr. Dunn would make an excellent District Court Judge in Maui County. Without hesitation, I believe he would be an incredible asset in a judgeship position for the Hawaii legal system. His contribution to our legal proceedings will not only be an advantage to our leadership, but to each plaintiff or defendant that may come before him in a court of law. To see him hold all his clients' rights to such high esteem only demonstrates his ability to be just to what would be asked of him in any position. Though currently I do not do direct service, my present position at Maui Department of Health supports the need for system change. My efforts now look to reaching all young Maui County keiki and their families to attain a more collaborative impact on system efficacy and inclusion. With my skill set to build our best impact on systems, hopefully this provides you reason to believe my input to recommend this honor to Mr. Dunn as a most meaningful one.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Ka`iulani Galon  
Early Childhood Systems Program Specialist  
Maui Department of Health, Family Health Services Section  
54 S. High Street, Room 415  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
[Kara.galon@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:Kara.galon@doh.hawaii.gov)  
808-870-1852

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:33:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Davida Sambrano | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Feb 3, 2021

To Hawaii State Senate:

My name is Davida Sambrano. I am writing to you to support Mr. Dunn in becoming Judge of District Court on Maui. I have known Mr. Dunn for over 6 years, when I first met him through my now daughter-in-law in 2013. I have lived on Maui for about 40 years after moving here from Oahu where I was born and attended high school. For my first years here, I worked as wait staff at Pioneer Inn and then until August of this past year, worked at the Lahaina Safeway for the last 33 years. As a loyal and dedicated worker, family and community member on Maui, my recommendation for Mr. Dunn comes from this perspective..

As I have seen Mr. Dunn raise his three children with kindness, fairness, positive discipline and as a solid provider, I have nothing but love and respect for him. The professional way Mr. Dunn carries and expresses himself is the perfect match for what I'd look for in a judge. I have served on juries multiple times (8 I think!) and have seen the court process first hand many times. Mr. Dunn's way of communicating, calm responses and thoughtful questions are exactly what a community member needs from a judge. He has a way of explaining things that would help all in the courtroom to be clear of what is expected of them and better understanding of what is being asked of them. I can't say enough about the aloha I have for Mr. Dunn and what this would mean to our family and community. As I am a straight forward, shoot from the hip personality, my recommendation for anyone in this position you can be sure is honest and credible. We are praying our words, as my husband also took time to email you, are received with great consideration. We are wishing you a happy new year to you and your family.

Mahalo for taking the time to read my words,

*Davida Sambrano*

Mother of 2

Grandmother of 7

Safeway retiree after 33 years

Maui resident for over 40 years

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:39:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregg Okamoto       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha State Senate,

My name is Gregg Okamoto. I am currently a Captain with the Maui Police Department. I met Chris about six years ago when our children started outrigger canoe paddling together at our club. We got along well from the beginning as we had a shared interest in the sport and culture as well as similar values regarding family. Over the years we became closer as our common bond was our children and also paddling as we would race together as well as support our children during their practices and races. What I admired about Chris is how he would put his children and family before his wants and needs when it came to our own races.

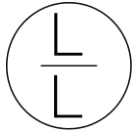
With Chris being a private attorney, we also would occasionally work together albeit on opposite sides of the legal system. This working relationship would not affect our friendship as we would never let one influence the other.

In my opinion, Chris would make an excellent District Court Judge. He has always had the best interest of his clients however would also hold them accountable for their actions. He would never make excuses for them and would approach things objectively. He has always maintained a high level of integrity and professionalism.

I've observed Chris to always be level-headed and with a calm demeanor both in his personal and professional life. He has never let emotion influence his decision making and would never react as opposed to analyzing. He always takes a practical and morally sound approach to problem-solving and can be trusted to do the right thing. This has earned him a reputation in the community not only as an attorney but also a contributing member.

It is my honor to testify on his behalf.

Aloha!



February 3, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
State of Hawaii Senate  
State Capitol, Room  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Via Email to: [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: Nomination of Christopher M. Dunn for the District Court of the Second Circuit**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Christopher Dunn for the Second Circuit District Court Judgeship. I have known Chris for nearly ten years. He was the first attorney on Maui to offer me legal work after graduating from law school and he has since remained a steadfast mentor.

I continually strive to match his standing as an even-tempered, compassionate, and knowledgeable advocate. He is the consummate professional and focuses his energy on being a solid attorney for his clients and a dedicated husband, father, and water-adventurist.

Chris would unequivocally serve with integrity and honor and it is my most sincere hope that he is confirmed as the new Second Circuit District Court Judge. Thank you for the opportunity to write on his behalf. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Erin Lowenthal, Esq.



# EMPIRE USA, LLC

1801 CENTURY PARK EAST, SUITE 2400  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067

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STEVEN HARTUNIAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

February 3, 2021

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

Re: Hearing on Confirmation of Chris Dunn as District Judge of the Second Circuit  
(Island of Maui)

Dear Senators:

I am the owner of a large apartment complex in Lahaina, HI, as well as other properties located outside of Hawaii. Last year, my family and I retained Chris Dunn as legal counsel for a matter in which we were involved. In short, based on our experience, I enthusiastically support Mr. Dunn's confirmation as District Judge of the Second Circuit.

During the significant time we spent working with Mr. Dunn, we found him to be exceptionally bright, both in terms of his knowledge of the law and his common sense approach to handling our matter. Mr. Dunn also exhibited an outstanding work ethic, dedicating sufficient time to work with us and often taking time after hours and on weekends to meet and work with us.

Mr. Dunn also has a terrific demeanor which enables him to make substantial gains in dealings with other parties and attorneys. On our matter, this attribute enabled him to accomplish things which a typical attorney could not achieve.

Mr. Dunn also showed a high moral character in handling our matter. This was exhibited in many ways, including his desire for everyone involved in our case be treated fairly.

There is no reason to doubt that Mr. Dunn will serve with honor as a District Judge of the Second Circuit. I would be pleased to provide any additional information which is needed by your Committee in its consideration of the confirmation of this outstanding individual.

Sincerely,



Steven Hartunian

SH:lp

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:54:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Matthew S. Kohm | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am submitting written testimony in support of the confirmation of Christopher M. Dunn for the position of judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit. I am an attorney in the Second Circuit where I have practiced criminal and civil litigation since 1995. I have also practiced appellate practice and have perfected more than 100 appeals and argued appeals, about 9 or 10 cases before our Supreme Court. I mention the appeal cases because I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Dunn as a trial attorney, to see that he is smart, hardworking, very knowledgeable in evidence, criminal procedure, motions and pre-trial matters.

I have handled some of his felony cases on appeal before the ICA and/or Supreme Court. This has given me insight to his case handling and legal abilities. Mr. Dunn keeps a good, calm, and earnest demeanor while representing his clients, and it is my observation that he is a strong advocate without letting matters get personal. He is a good communicator that from my perspective, has respect from both government attorneys and the defense bar. Mr. Dunn has strong character to handle the tasks and needs of a district court judge and will be great at handling the case load and preliminary hearing matters. I do not socialize with Mr. Dunn, but know him through work and the community. It is my observation that he is well regarded. Mr. Dunn is a thoughtful, conscientious, and very capable attorney. I believe this will translate into a great judge and someone who will be able to be up to speed quickly, and understand the attorneys and public that will come before him.

It is submitted that Mr. Dunn has the personality, intelligence and qualifications for this position and I would urge you to confirm him for the District Court Second Circuit.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony and if the Committee has any questions I am happy to elaborate.

Matthew S. Kohm Bar # 6103

808-249-8968

1335 Hiahia St, Wailuku, HI 96793

February 4, 2021

Bill JC9

Testimony in Support of Confirmation to the District Court of the Second Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Christopher M. Dunn.

To Whom it may Concern:

I have grown up on the Island of Maui and am deeply involved in our community's long-term success, both personally and professionally. I am a single mother of two wonderful Keiki, and after my husband's sudden and unexpected death am now a solopreneur. I am currently the Managing Partner of Nailena Consulting Group, a specialty advisory firm committed to helping small businesses and non-profits implement business strategies that drive results. Over the past two decades I have provided senior financial leadership to large and small companies at various growth phases. My experience encompasses public and private companies, primarily within the agricultural, real estate, hospitality, and wellness industries. I am deeply committed to the long-term development of our community on Maui.

After my husband's sudden and unexpected death, I have re-engineered my life and have established my consulting firm with offices in South Lake Tahoe and on Maui. Regardless of our locale I remain deeply committed to our Maui community's long-term success.

I luckily have not required Christopher's professional legal services, so I will not speak to that effect. Still, I have had the pleasure of knowing him and his wife for the last ten years through our many community organizations that we are involved in. In recent years I have had the opportunity to work directly with Christopher Dunn and his wife professionally to help them with organizational strategies in their business. I was thoroughly impressed with Chris's intelligence, temperament, and open-mindedness to try new approaches. He was open to learning new methods if it would provide him with better results. I have experienced gender inequality and male professionals who are hesitant to listen to or rely on a female's point of view throughout my career, especially in the financial arena. I was impressed with Chris's openness to me as the messenger. I have personally experienced men walking out of the room because they were too proud to take advice from a woman. Chris is the complete opposite; this is an endearing personality trait that we should celebrate in a Judge. It is shameful that we are still struggling with gender inequality in this day and age, and it is refreshing to work with men that are full supporters of equality and focus on the work at hand regardless of gender and race.

As a family man, I have watched Christopher be a full partner with his wife as they have simultaneously grown their careers and are raising their three children. They do it as a team; it is a powerful example for our community. Chris is a dedicated father and supportive husband. He is a role model for the modern-day relationship that celebrates the marriage partnership. He takes his role as a father seriously, he shows up and supports his children with their sports and activities, and most importantly, he leads by example when it comes to kuleana for our community as a whole. While Christopher is not kanaka maoli, his wife and children are, and he embraces their culture. Their children have attended immersion school and participate in hula hālau. He clearly understands the importance of ensuring the strong development of his children's identity as kanaka maoli and helping to cultivate a love for family and education and an understanding of responsibility to our community.

I strongly support Christopher M. Dunn's appointment to the District Court of the Second Circuit. The Maui Community would greatly benefit from his leadership.

If you should require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kalani Ho-Nikaido". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kalani Ho-Nikaido

Phone: 808-463-7909

Email: [kalani@nailenaconsultinggroup.com](mailto:kalani@nailenaconsultinggroup.com)

February 4, 2021

Re: Maui District Court – Christopher M. Dunn

To Whom it May Concern,

I have the great pleasure and honor of recommending Christopher M. Dunn to the Maui District Court.

I met Mr. Dunn in 2005 while clerking at the Law Office of Philip H. Lowenthal. Mr. Dunn was helpful, patient, and shared his knowledge of the law. Not all lawyers take the time to respectfully interact with law clerks, but Mr. Dunn did, to his immense credit. Outside of work, Mr. Dunn could not have been more gracious. He introduced me to his friends and family and welcomed me to the community.

From 2011 to 2016, I worked at the Law Office of Philip H. Lowenthal. Mr. Dunn shared office space with Mr. Lowenthal. For five years, I interacted with Mr. Dunn on a nearly daily basis. I can say, without any reservation or hesitation, that Mr. Dunn was diligent, compassionate, thoughtful, and considerate of his clients. He was professional, always well prepared, and always zealously represented his clients. He commanded respect in the courtroom but was humble. He tried everything from small DUI cases to the biggest, most high-profile cases on the island, maybe in the state.

I have known Mr. Dunn for more than fifteen years. I know his family, his friends, and I have witnessed just how much the Maui community respects and admires Mr. Dunn. Whether surfing, paddling, golfing, or in the courtroom, people gravitate to Mr. Dunn. He is a dear, lifelong friend who I always counted on, in any circumstances, under any conditions.

Mr. Dunn exhibits all of the necessary characteristics to be a successful District Court Judge. He commands respect, he is respected, and he understands the law and how it impacts the community. He will listen carefully to the parties' arguments but rule with all appropriate speed. Mr. Dunn would make an outstanding District Court judge.

Respectfully,

Samuel G. MacRoberts

**JAMES S. TUBE**  
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**DEFENDER COUNCIL**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-254  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
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**APPEALS SECTION**  
TEL. No. 586-2080

**DISTRICT COURT SECTION**  
TEL. No. 586-2100

**FAMILY COURT SECTION**  
TEL. No. 586-2300

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

**LEE S. HAYAKAWA**  
ASSISTANT  
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**KAUAI OFFICE**  
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**MAUI OFFICE**  
81 N. MARKET STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TEL. No. 984-5018  
FAX No. 984-5022

February 2, 2021

Dear Sirs/Madams of the Hawaii State Senate,

This letter is in support of nominee Christopher Dunn for the open District Court Judge position. I am the supervising attorney of the Maui Office of the Public Defender. I have known Chris Dunn for over fifteen years as a "private" defense attorney on the public defender conflict panel on Maui.

Chris Dunn has always been extremely eloquent, professional, knowledgeable in the law and court procedures and generally a very good addition to the defense bar on Maui. I highly recommend him for the judicial office of the District Judge of the Second Circuit Court position.

Thank you for your consideration of Chris Dunn for this position as District Court Judge on Maui. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Danielle.L.Sears@hawaii.gov](mailto:Danielle.L.Sears@hawaii.gov) or (808) 984-5013.

Sincerely,

*Danielle L. Sears*

Supervising Attorney  
Maui Office of the Public Defender

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:00:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandon Segal       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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

I write to offer my strong support for the nomination of Christopher Dunn to the District Court, Second Circuit judicial position.

I have been employed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with Maui County for over seven years. During this time, I have worked extensively with Mr. Dunn in an adversarial role in both District Court and Circuit Court, including motion practice, evidentiary hearings, and trials.

I have the utmost respect for Mr. Dunn's integrity, trustworthiness, and can attest to his even temperament. Mr. Dunn has been completely professional during our interactions, and I consider him a good colleague and important member of our legal bar in Maui.

I believe that Mr. Dunn would be a great judge, who would lead with fairness and compassion. He has the intelligence, written and oral legal skills, and experience to perform the duties of District Court judge exceptionally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Mahalo,



Brandon Segal

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

County of Maui

**LATE**

Aloha Hawaii State Senate,

As I start to assess 2019 and plan ahead for our new year I look at the parts of our community that are pillars to our survival amongst this chaos we've endured ,Chris Dunn has been one of those pillars. I've worked in the nonprofit world for over 25 years and have helped to empower people from all walks of life that have endured some of life's severest traumas. Many of them have come from intense circumstances as children, growing in to adults suffering trauma and mental illness. Unfortunately this often leads to times when they are in the criminal justice system. I have had attorneys who have worked with clients of mine, as their defense attorney, but still treat them like they are less than. Chris shows his care for human kind in general. He is capable of seeing beneath the often layer of protection some of them hold over their persona's to survive and treats them with respect and kindness, often giving wisdom and resources for them to seek so they don't need to see him as a defense attorney again. He has compassion for all parties involved and has fought for fairness across the board both in work and in the community.

As Senators I can only imagine the pressure on your shoulders in every decision making process that comes across your desk and in front on the community, a level of pressure not many could understand and thrive in. Chris' ability to handle equivalent levels of pressure while still being kind and respectful to everyone whether direct or indirect has been consistent from him since he started practicing. He is a well respected man across the community who would deliver strong and honest leadership as a judge if allowed to do so.

I highly recommend Chris as a District Court judge here on Maui, not just for Chris' goals, but because I know the community he will serve deserves him as their judge.

Mahalo for your time,

Chelsie Evans

February 4, 2021

Hawai'i State Sentate

RE: Christopher M. Dunn

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Judicial Nominee. I am writing regarding Christopher Dunn's nomination to the District Court/ Family Court bench in the Second Circuit.

I have known Christopher Dunn for many years. I have been employed by the Judiciary for 39 years and work in the courtroom in Circuit Court. I have been working directly with judges for almost 33 years. Having worked with so many judges in the Second Circuit and a few neighbor island judges while sitting on the JIMS Civil committee, I feel that I have pretty good judgment on what is expected of a great judge as I have seen many great judges that have made the Judiciary proud.

In all my dealings with Mr. Dunn, he has always been very well prepared and zealously represents his clients. His arguments to the Court is always very well thought out. He is very candid with the Court and does not make excuses for his clients. It is refreshing to see that these days, as I've seen attorneys who are less candid with the Court about their clients involvement in cases, and it's all about the win.

Mr. Dunn gets along with the opposing counsel which makes the proceedings go very smoothly. He is well respected by the Court staff and likewise by many attorneys. He is always very willing to assist the Court and we can always count on him when we are in a bind.

I believe that his intelligence, honesty, temperament, work ethic and common sense would be an asset to the bench. I believe that he will be a fair judge in deciding his cases and he will be able to make decisions as he knows his rules and case law very well.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (808) 264-7800.

Sincerely,

Susan Gushiken

**LATE**

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:52:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Sauer       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Barbara Sauer**

**Attorney At Law**

**4955 Makena Rd, E202**

**Kihei, Hawaii 96753**

**(808) 875-9499**

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads

Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

Via Hawaii State Legislature email

**RE: Christopher Dunn's Appointment to Second Circuit District Court**

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Committee Members

This letter is to urge the confirmation of Christopher "Chris" Dunn to the Second Circuit District Court.

I have known Chris since approximately 2004. Most recently we had client in common. Chris was defending her in a felony criminal case. I represent her in her Child Protective Services case. Chris was always available and open to discussing our mutual client and the impact of the criminal case upon her prospects of being reunified with her children. He obtained a very favorable resolution for her. It enabled her to be released on probation, so she was able to start the process of reunification with her children.

Chris is very well respected in the Maui legal community and always on the top of my list when I am asked for a criminal defense referral. Having practiced law for five plus decades I have observed many attorneys and can say without reservation Chris is a credit to the profession.

Chris has a calm steady demeanor combined with a keen intellect. He has a reputation for being well prepared, respectful and courteous to the Court, counsel and clients. Chris is a credit to the profession. These qualities combined with his humility and subtle sense of humor make him imminently qualified to serve as a District Court Judge.

If appointed I expect he will excel in this position and probably be elevated within the Judiciary over time

Senator Karl Rhoads

Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

February 3, 2021

Page 2

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If I can provide additional information or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Barbara Sauer*

Barbara Sauer

**LATE**

**JC-9**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:01:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Lu             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

To the Honorable Senate:

The canons of judicial ethics for Massachusetts encourage sitting judges to recommend suitable judicial candidates. On that basis, I provide this statement of support for Christopher M. Dunn.

Mr. Dunn served as a "second-seat" in numerous criminal trials, and as something of an "understudy" generally, from 1997 to 2002, and as a constant presence in my former felony criminal defense trial practice. He was the second seat in numerous complex state Superior court criminal cases, including the trial defense of a double murder, Commonwealth v. John LeBlanc, 407 Mass. 70, (1990), and the defense of a police officer charged with aggravated rape. Our offices adjoined each other and we tried and litigated countless criminal cases.

This was an intense crucible in which to observe Mr. Dunn and I found him to be very bright, hard-working, and most importantly, compassionate. I recommend him enthusiastically and without reservation.

I am happy to provide any further information you might need.

Sincerely,

John (Jack) T. Lu







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

**Christopher M. Dunn**  
**District Court Judge of the Second Circuit (JC 9)**

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: Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Christopher M. Dunn for the position of District Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

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

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

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## Testimony of HSBA

JC 9

Hearing on February 5, 2021

Page 2

- 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. Dunn on January 26, 2021 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Dunn was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Dunn 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. Dunn 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

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

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