



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

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

In Support to G.M. 787 DEJA OSTROWSKI

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Keohokalole, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports G.M. 787 in support of the re-appointment of Commission Deja Ostrowski.

Atty. Ostrowski has proven a valuable contributor to the Commission in terms of her expert knowledge in women’s rights and civil rights. Atty. Ostrowski has a strong racial justice lens and works actively on access to resources for women of color and Native Hawaiians.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that this candidate be confirmed.

Sincerely,
Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/21/2022 7:10:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohoalole, Vice chair
and honorary members of this Judiciary Committee

Please have the work that Deja has been doing continue to grow and work to set the precedent that she does. Deja Ostrowski holds true to all levels of the CSW and is a guide in a better society.

Please support Deja to remain on the CSW!

Thank you for your crucial work, Pahnelopi McKenzie

Aloha,

I am writing today as a concerned citizen. I have sat on the Committee on the Status of Women, Maui County for the past for years, and have termed out unfortunately. During these past four years I have witnessed how important it is to have good, fair, representation on the commission and I am gravely concerned with two of the nominees, and in adoration quite honestly if one of them. Both Marissa and Tamara come very amazing professional background and I commend them on their awesome work. I do however question that they are appropriate for the commission, and can't help but pray they are not being nominated to influence the commission in ways of what background they come from, which is very western trained individuals who are going to be completely pro-medical. While we love and appreciate western interventions and medicine when needed, I feel the lack of relationships and deeper understanding of the cultural, economic, and lack of health care options are issues women face often in Hawaii and feel like someone who had a better pulse on community in general in Hawai'i would serve us most. Deja is the best possible candidate as she is in the ground working for years within the realm of 'women's issues in Hawai'i' and has been known to be unbiased and accepting of the traditions of women in Hawai'i and so is more sensitive to our mission.

Please deeply consider that with the United States in a current health care crisis, what happens in the commission is crucial for healing the past, present, and future. We need w'hine that are strong, smart, and compassionate, embracing what is best for the good of all w'hine, and not just the elite, or authoritative voice.

Please support Deja when you vote this Friday, and do not just settle for the current nominees, but look deeply into wether they are w'hine that will serve the mission of the state's commission.

Me ka Ha'aha'a,
Ki'inaniokalani Kaho'ohanohano

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 7:41:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalia Hussey-Burdick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Deja Ostrowski's nomination for re-appointment to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. She is an exemplary person for this position: a smart, hardworking, compassionate, devoted feminist who has been actively advocating for the betterment of women & children for years. She has done an excellent job in her previous term on this commission, and I wholeheartedly encourage you to confirm her to this commission.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration,

Natalia Hussey-Burdick

Windward Oahu

Dina Shek
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

Hearing Date: Friday, April 22, 2022

**RE: Support for Nomination of Deja Ostrowski
to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women (GM 787)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in my personal capacity to support the nomination of Deja Ostrowski to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women. I first met Ms. Ostrowski when she was my law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law over a dozen years ago. To this day, she remains one of my most outstanding former students, always thinking critically about how the law can be used to benefit the most vulnerable members of society. Significantly, she seeks always to include their voices and their promise into the solutions she pursues.

Many years later, I was fortunate to hire Ms. Ostrowski as a Staff Attorney for the Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawai'i where she continues to demonstrate her dedication as a community lawyer and fierce advocate for people facing homelessness, mental health challenges, and domestic violence. I have also worked extensively with Ms. Ostrowski on justice matters for Micronesian communities in Hawai'i and across the U.S., tackling policy and community organizing work over the last decade. During the pandemic, Ms. Ostrowski has worked diligently for families and communities facing some of the worst health and financial hardships. She participated in policy work to improve pandemic relief programs while also engaging with and working alongside the communities most affected by those policies.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration,



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

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 8:59:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

LATE

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/22/2022 9:02:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne K. Fox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā kau kānāwai:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the Governor's nomination (GM 787) of DEJA OSTROWSKI to continue serving on the Commission on the Status of Women for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Deja is the perfect choice for this nomination, and I commend the advancement of her confirmation. I know her well and have worked with her for over a decade to make positive changes through advocacy, education, collaboration and program development.

Ms. Ostrowski will continue to be an invaluable asset to the Commission as it carries out its increasingly important kuleana. I urge you to support GM 787 and re-appoint DEJA OSTROWSKI to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully, me ka `oia`i`o.

Dr. Leanne K. Fox

Responses: Deja Ostrowski

1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission)? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Commission or if you were invited to apply.

As a current Commissioner who was appointed only six months before the pandemic, I applied again to continue my service. I would like to see how we can follow up the work of the commission as we transition out of pandemic related work.

2. What are some of your accomplishments as a member of the Commission and what would you like to accomplish during an additional term?

The Bridges not Backs Feminist Economic Recovery plan has garnered worldwide recognition including by the UN. We were successful in getting a bill for source of income discrimination in the Governors package in the 2020 legislative session and I hope to build on that advocacy in the future.

3. What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past?

The Commission took a thought leadership role in supporting the Bridges Not Backs economic recovery plan, in a way that was proactive and community centric and garnered recognition for Hawai'i as a feminist policy leader.

4. What issues do you believe that the Commission should address in the future?

I believe we should continue to address housing discrimination for women and families.

5. During your service on the Commission, were there possible conflicts of interests involving you that arose? How were those potential conflicts addressed? If you were to continue to serve, can you foresee any other possible conflicts involving you?

During my service there were no conflicts of interest. I could foresee that a former colleague could request funding from the Commission. We adopted new procedures and criteria for funding approvals. A Commissioner would be able to recuse themselves from the voting should a conflict arise.

6. Please provide a current copy of your resume, to be shared with Senate members and their staff.

See attached.