

THOMAS D. FARRELL

Attorney at Law, LLC. Certified Family Specialist*

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS D. FARRELL
IN SUPPORT OF JC29, NOMINATION OF MARIA F. PENN
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hon. Karl Rhoads Chair
April 23, 2025 9:15 a.m.

Good Morning Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Maria Penn to move up from per diem to a full time Family Court Judge. I strongly urge your favorable action.

I have known Ms. Penn for over ten years.

I first encountered her as opposing counsel in family court matters, before she became a judge. In that capacity, I found her highly competent, honest, reasonable, and professional. She also served as a volunteer settlement master, helping parties to settle their divorce cases without a trial. When she was appointed a per diem family court judge, I knew that she would hit the ground running on day one, and that she had all the qualities we look for in a judge.

Since then, I have appeared before her in innumerable hearings, as well as some rather complex trials. I don't always get what I want, but I have never felt that I didn't get a fair shake in her courtroom.

In short, I believe that Ms. Penn will do well on the Family Court bench and I hope that this committee will recommend that the Senate confirm her nomination.

I note that there are two other nominees who are also being considered by your committee this morning. I am not acquainted with Ms. Vidinha or Mr. Unga, and that is the only reason I have not submitted testimony on their nominations. My lack of testimony should in no way be construed as opposition to these nominees.

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700 Bishop Street, Suite 2000, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone 808.535.8468 ♦ Fax 808.585.9568 ♦ E-mail tom@farrell-hawaii.com

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