



**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, INTERIM OF 2008**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
JC1

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Friday, November 14, 2008 TIME: 10:30 AM
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016
Deliver to: State Capitol, Room 219. 1 Copy

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General

Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Vice Chair Clayton Hee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in regard to the consideration of Melvin Fujino for Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit. We fully support Mr. Fujino for this position and recommend that he be confirmed.

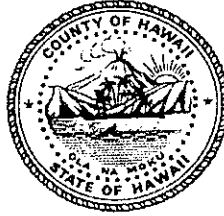
Mr. Fujino has served with the Department of the Attorney General as a Deputy in the Criminal Justice Division since January 2007. During that time, in addition to handling a full criminal case load, Mr. Fujino has served as lead in two areas in the division. He has led the Asset Forfeiture Unit, which addresses and determines administrative forfeiture of assets seized by state and county law enforcement throughout the state. Mr. Fujino also has served as lead deputy for the Department's Surveillance Review Unit which, prior to submission to the court, reviews applications by county and state investigative or law enforcement officers for the interception of wire, oral or electronic communications. The Surveillance Review Unit recommends approval or disapproval, which is submitted with the application to the court.

Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Fujino served for approximately fifteen years as a prosecutor with the Hawaii County Prosecutor's office. For about six of those years, he was Supervisor for the West Hawaii Office of the Hawaii County Prosecutors Office. During his tenure as a prosecutor, he also served as a Community Oriented Prosecutor, a position through which he worked with the community to identify crimes that affected their quality of life.

In sum, we believe Mr. Fujino will be a fine District Court Judge and support his confirmation.

JAY T. KIMURA
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

CHARLENE Y. IBOSHI
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

November 7, 2008

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Prosecutor's Office in Kona. I have known Melvin Fujino for about twenty years. I worked with him for fifteen years while he was at the Prosecutor's Office. I have also worked with him on several projects for the office and for the community.

Melvin Fujino will be an excellent District Court judge because he is very organized and decisive. He will look for ways to streamline the process and make the system work more efficiently. He has the ability to make hard decisions. As a supervisor he treated us with respect and treated us fairly. For example, he had to assign cases and different tasks. He took the time to determine how many times we had gone to court for a court calendar or what our caseload was so that the assignments would be fair. He treated each of us equally and he took each of our circumstances into account when he made decisions. He will make an unpopular decision in order to solve a problem. In addition, he will make a timely decision and not wait just because he knows that someone might not like what he decides.

Melvin is knowledgeable about the law and the issues. He knows the Rules of Evidence well. He has had jury trial experience and has

Senator Brian Taniguchi

November 7, 2008

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prosecuted murder cases and difficult and complex cases. He has dealt with constitutional issues in marijuana cases. He sees the issues and thoroughly researches them. He takes pride in being well-prepared for court. The volume of cases in District Court will not be a burden to him. He will take the challenge and devise a manageable system to deal with the volume of cases. His ability to quickly spot the issues and make a decision will help him get through the calendars.

Melvin will attack a project and see it through to its completion. If others on the committee do not do their part, he will step in and get the project completed. He takes action and moves the project along. He has the ability to work with others and to motivate others to do their jobs. He was the major force behind the investigation into the mismanagement of the housing projects in Kona under the jurisdiction of Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii. He is actively involved in many community projects.

Melvin willingly volunteers his time to speak at schools and other community events. He has gone to Kealahou Intermediate and Konawaena Middle School and Konawaena High School to be a judge for school projects, speak at career fairs and classes, and help with the mock trial team. He is well liked by the teachers and students. He easily relates to and gets along with people in the community.

Melvin gets along well with his peers and the staff. He has a good sense of humor and is well liked. He is a hard worker and through his leadership our office functioned properly and efficiently.

Melvin Fujino has the temperament and ability to be a District Court judge. If you have any questions please call me at 324-1016.

Sincerely,

Carol S.W. Kitaoka
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



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

MELVIN H. FUJINO
Judge, District Family Court of the Third Circuit

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair

Hearing: Friday, November 14, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Melvin H. Fujino for the position of Judge, District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

In evaluating judicial nominees, the HSBA Board utilizes a modified version of the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. These Guidelines include the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service, collegiality and writing ability. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "highly qualified," "qualified," and "not qualified."

The HSBA Board has recently reviewed the policies and procedures utilized in developing its positions on judicial nominees and has included in its procedures the use of a standing subcommittee of HSBA Board members to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members; the subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the complete materials submitted by the nominee and members and conducts an interview of the nominee. These revised procedures are available for review on the HSBA website at <HSBA.org>.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the vote of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Melvin H. Fujino to be qualified for the position of Judge, District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Melvin H. Fujino

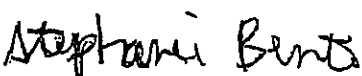
I support the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District/Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I had the privilege of working with Melvin for 17 years at the Prosecutor's Office. As a deputy prosecutor, Melvin was very knowledgeable, diligent and efficient in his work. He is a hard worker and his work was always done in a timely and professional manner. He was always punctual, dependable and reliable. Melvin always tried his best in whatever given to him. He is very creative and has good ideas and suggestions which he expresses with ease. He has the ability to gain the confidence and backing of others in whatever he does. He is also a quick thinker and has a good sense of humor. People gravitate to Melvin. He is a leader and a team player and was helpful to both his fellow deputy prosecutors and the clerical employees.

As a supervisor, Melvin was usually strict but fair and backed up his employees. He had the ability to cut to the chase when the need arose and was also an effective moderator in group discussions/meetings. He had good rapport with his employees and with the many contacts among the various agencies we dealt with.

I believe Melvin Fujino would be a great asset to the island of Hawaii as a District Family Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bento

Legal Clerk III

Office of the Hawaii Prosecuting Attorney

Teri J. Botelho

P.O. Box 194
Paauilo, Hawaii 96776
Mobile Phone (808) 896-2752
Home Phone (808) 776-9972
e-mail: kelikini@earthlink.net

October 3, 2008

Chief Justice Ronald T. Y Moon
Supreme Court of Hawaii
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Sir:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Melvin Fujino for the honored position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit Court. I have known Mel professionally and personally for eight years. It is my privilege to refer to him in social circles as one of my greatest friends.

Professionally, I have observed Mel at work as a County of Hawaii Deputy Prosecutor when I was employed as a Deputy Sheriff at the Kona Courthouse. Later, I had the opportunity to work with him again when I was employed as an Investigator V for the State of Hawaii at the Office of the Attorney General.

Mel has always displayed the highest degree of integrity, responsibility, and ambition. He is definitely a leader rather than a follower. Mel is also a most dependable team player. His good judgment and mature outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to his endeavors.

Finally, Mel would be an asset to any organization, and I am happy to give him my wholehearted endorsement.

I would like to thank you for your attention and for taking the time to consider Mel for the District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit Court.

Respectfully Yours,



Teri J. Botelho

From: Peter.Bresciani@hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 1:34 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino Friday, November 14, 2008

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Peter Bresciani

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I am the supervising attorney for the Office of the Public Defender in West Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Fujino for almost 17 years. For approximately 13 years, he was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney while I was a Deputy Public Defender. I have had social contacts with him since he moved to Oahu to be a Deputy Attorney General.

I believe that Mr. Fujino would be a good judge. He and I had many battles over the years. In those cases, Mr. Fujino was knowledgeable about the law and the facts of the case. While I often disagreed with his opinions they were not unreasonable and were grounded in a proper prosecutorial perspective. Moreover, no matter how hotly the case was contested, Mr. Fujino was always able to separate out the professional and the personal. He did not permit short lived animosities over a case to spill over into other cases or amicable relationships with opposing counsel.

One incident in particular from my dealings with Mr. Fujino is worth recounting. At the time Mr. Fujino was the supervising attorney for the Kona office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I was the *de facto* supervising attorney for my office. Two of the junior members of our offices were trying a non-jury case. Somehow during the course of the trial the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney became aware of some discovery that ought to have been turned over to the defense but was not turned over. It was also not turned over after the deputy became aware of it, I believe, during the trial. After the trial, the deputy prosecuting attorney related the facts to Mr. Fujino. As a result of that conversation, Mr. Fujino had the deputy prosecuting attorney disclose the discovery and the circumstances surrounding it coming into the possession of the deputy to the attorney in my office. An appropriate motion for a new trial was then made. This episode to me illustrates Mr. Fujino's fairness and willingness to play by the rules even when it results in some embarrassment or difficult questions.

I urge you to select Mr. Fujino as the new District/Family Court Judge for the Third Circuit.
Aloha nui


Peter Bresciani

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11/10/2008

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Armina Ching, Esq. 
703 10th Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

DATE: November 12, 2008

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Mr. Fujino since 1982. We attended the same law school. He is an honest person, with a great sense of humor. He was well liked by faculty and his peers. After law school, we kept in contact. I was so proud of his achievements at the Prosecutor's Office on the Big Island. He was assigned to supervise many of the attorneys in his office and he had to make difficult decisions daily. Mr. Fujino is "down to earth" and he has all the qualities to make a successful jurist. He is smart, outgoing, open, honest, and friendly.

From: Dawa Debina [dawadebina@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 7:21 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Confirmation Hearing - Melvin H. Fujino - Friday November 14, 2008

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Angela M. Debina

RE: Confirmation Hearing - Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Melvin Fujino for a number of years. Melvin is organized, efficient, extremely competent and has an excellent rapport with people from all walks of life. His communication skills and his ability to treat people with fairness are excellent. In addition, he is very responsible, well respected and makes sound decisions.

I highly recommend Melvin for the position of Family Court Judge. He will be a valuable asset to the judicial system.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angela Debina
P.O Box 754
Holualoa, HI 96725
(808) 987-4619

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Barbara DeFranco, Executive Director Paleaku Peace Gardens
83-5401 Painted Church Rd.
Captain Cook, Hi 96704
808 8976-5509

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

[State reasons for support, limit to single page if possible]

I respectfully write this letter concerning Mr. Melvin Fujino who is being considered for District Family Court Judge of the third circuit. I worked with him for several years while acting as a community facilitator for the County of Hawaii and he was then the deputy prosecutor in charge of the Kona office. I continue to stay in touch with Mel even though he is now in Honolulu. Mel brought so many skills to the table. He knows how to keep things on track and inspires the best from his coworkers. I find him to be straight forward, with a generous spirit that allows laughter and encourages others to be all they can be. He has a good heart, a sharp mind and his discipline keeps him in top physical shape. He assesses situations quickly and reads people accurately. I know him to be fair and open-minded. I know him to be a dedicated and hard working individual. He manages stress well. He seems at ease with all kinds of people and is skilled at defusing a tense atmosphere. He played a key role in the rejuvenation of our Neighborhood Watch program and putting in place the Kona community prosecutor program. As a member of the steering Committee for Hawaii County Resource Center he commandeered grant monies for our anti drug campaign and worked with the community to implement new management at Ka Hale Kahaluu and thus upgrading this housing project.

Thank you for considering Melvin Fujino. He would be an excellent choice. The position would enable him to serve Hawaii in even a greater capacity.

Lance M. Goto
P.O. Box 4526
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

November 12, 2008

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Twenty-fourth State Legislature
Third Special Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

BY EMAIL TRANSMISSION TO JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov.

**RE: JC 1 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
District Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, MELVIN
H. FUJINO.**

Date: Friday, November 14, 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Copies: 1

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I, Lance Goto, am writing in an individual capacity, in support of the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, MELVIN H. FUJINO, to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I am currently a deputy attorney general working under Attorney General Mark Bennett. I have been with the Department of the Attorney General since 1997, and have also worked for the two prior Attorney Generals, Earl Anzai and Margery Bronster. All the while, I have worked in the area of criminal prosecutions. Prior to 1997, I worked for twelve years as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. In that office, I worked under Prosecutors Charles Marsland, Keith Kaneshiro and Peter Carlisle. I have practiced in the area of criminal law for over twenty-three years.

About two years ago, Mr. Fujino moved from the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office in Kona to the Department of the Attorney General. Mr. Fujino took over many of my responsibilities, including prosecutions and the supervision and management of the state asset forfeiture program, as I took over legislative responsibilities for the Criminal Justice Division. I have worked closely with Mr. Fujino and feel very confident in supporting his confirmation.

Mr. Fujino has practiced law in Hawaii for many years. He is very experienced and knowledgeable on the law and procedure. He also has strong litigation skills. Just as importantly, he is adept at communicating with others and working well with them. His

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
November 12, 2008
Page 2

extensive experience as a supervisor has helped him become very capable in dealing with people in all kinds of difficult situations. With all of his experience, Mr. Fujino will be a strong, capable and fair judge.

Mr. Fujino will be a great addition to the District Court, and the people of Hawaii will be very fortunate to have someone with his abilities and character serving on the bench.

I respectfully request the committee support Mr. Fujino's confirmation.

**PETER A. HANANO
P.O. BOX 51
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793**

November 13, 2008

THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2008
STATE OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY OF PETER A. HANANO,
IN SUPPORT OF JC1, FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
OF MELVIN H. FUJINO, JUDICIAL NOMINEE

The Honorable Chairpersons and Committee Members:

My name is Peter A. Hanano, and I am writing in support of Melvin H. Fujino's nomination and confirmation as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Currently, I am the First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui. Since Mr. Fujino's employment with the Department of the Attorney General, I have had numerous opportunities to work with Mr. Fujino. Based upon these opportunities, I strongly believe that Mr. Fujino has demonstrated several qualities which make him an excellent candidate for District Court Judge.

First, Mr. Fujino is very knowledgeable with regard to the criminal laws of this State. His experience as a Deputy Prosecutor and as a Deputy Attorney General undoubtedly provides him with a solid criminal law background. This valuable experience will be extremely helpful when handling district and family court criminal matters.

Second, Mr. Fujino has the necessary judicial temperament needed as a judge. During his involvement with our Department, Mr. Fujino has always been very even tempered. His general disposition always appears to be one of calmness.

Third and final, Mr. Fujino has always been very diligent in assisting our Department with any issues or questions that were referred to the Department of the Attorney General. Even under

extreme time deadlines, Mr. Fujino was somehow able to adjust his busy schedule in order to accommodate our last minute requests for assistance.

Accordingly, based upon all of the above, I strongly support Melvin H. Fujino's appointment as District Court Judge for the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ISHIDA & YAMADA L.L.P.

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

PENTHOUSE 5, CHARLES R. KENDALL BLDG.
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Telephone No. (808) 521-4576
Fax No. (808) 538-6676

LANE T. ISHIDA
EDSEL M. YAMADA

OF COUNSEL
DAWN N.S. CHANG

November 13, 2008

Via Fax 586-6659

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
FROM: Lane T. Ishida, Esq.
RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Mr. Fujino since we were undergraduates at the University of Washington in 1977. Over the last 30 years, I have always known Mr. Fujino to be an honest, diligent, fair, and compassionate. He exemplifies the qualities and the demeanor you want in a judge.

Mr. Fujino also has been a law clerk, a prosecutor and a deputy attorney general for many years. He has the experience and knowledge to properly run a courtroom.

I am certain that Mr. Fujino will be an asset to the Judiciary.

Steven L. Rinesmith
Cathy Lee Sekiguchi
Frank T. Kanemitsu

RINESMITH & SEKIGUCHI
LLLC

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737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2775
HONOLULU, HAWAII. 96813-3283

TELEPHONE: (808) 534-4950
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November 13, 2008

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Melvin H. Fujino to the District Court of the Third Circuit

Honorable Senator Taniguchi and members of the committee:

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Melvin since we both served as law clerks to the Honorable Philip T. Chun in 1988. I have remained in close contact with Melvin both professionally and personally since that time. I have also had the opportunity to interact with Melvin in social settings and other non-legal endeavors.

Based upon my personal knowledge of Melvin's character and abilities, I believe I am well suited to comment on Melvin's qualifications as a Judge. I believe that Melvin possesses the intelligence and legal ability required as a Judge. I believe Melvin's temperament and demeanor are well suited if appointed as a Judge. I also consider him an extremely fair, thoughtful, loyal and moral individual. Further, I believe his skills honed as a prosecutor will be of considerable assistance when serving on the bench.

I believe Melvin would make an excellent judge and I strongly support Melvin's confirmation for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

Sincerely,



Frank T. Kanemitsu

Amador P. Joaquin
1735 Dole Street, Apt. 103
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: (808) 938-5466
November 12, 2008

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Appointee Melvin H. Fujino, Esq. for District Family Court Judge
for the Third Circuit Court

Senators Taniguchi and Hee:

I am honored to be writing this letter on behalf of Melvin H. Fujino, Esq., appointee for Judge at the District Court of the Third Circuit by the Honorable Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon. I have known Mr. Fujino for the past 17 years, as a friend and as a colleague in the legal field.

In 2002-2003, I was the Judicial Assistant to Third Circuit Court Judge Ronald Ibarra and have personally worked with Mr. Fujino. At that time, Mr. Fujino was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Kona. I found Mr. Fujino to be very professional, well informed and very well liked by his colleagues. He understands the meaning of court rules and more importantly he understands the law. As a prosecuting attorney, Mr. Fujino was on call 24/7 with the Kona Police Department. He was always available to answer any legal question that a police officer may have had concerning a situation. In the community, Mr. Fujino was an invaluable volunteer that served as a board-member on several non-profit organizations. I believe that Mr. Fujino also served as one of the individuals that were instrumental in the establishment of Drug Court on the Big Island.

Mr. Fujino will make an excellent District Family Court Judge. He is passionate about his work and he loves and cares about people. He is a true public servant in our State judicial system. As a former family law paralegal, I see Mr. Fujino as an individual that understands and holds family values close to his heart. Though, he may know a lot of people on the Big Island, he is a professional in every aspect and together with his high moral ethics and utmost respect for the law, he will make fair decisions on any case and will be able to deal with the many issues that will come before him as District Family Court Judge. I submit this letter in support of Mr. Fujino's appointment by Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon.

Yours truly,

Amador P. Joaquin

November 10, 2008

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and Member of the Committee:

Subject: Confirmation hearing – Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I had the pleasure of working with Mel Fujino in the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for 8 years. In my capacity as the Business Manager, he was my primary contact for administrative matters (fiscal, facility, equipment, management information systems, etc.). Mel was prompt, responsive, objective and cooperative. He has a unique facilitative style that was very effective in his role as Kona Office supervisor and as a community oriented prosecutor. He was respected by the staff he supervised, his colleagues and the community he worked with. Mel could always be counted on to get the job done, big or small.

I have every confidence that as judge for the Third Circuit, Mel will fulfill his duties to the utmost of his abilities. I proudly endorse his confirmation and welcome the opportunity to provide further information if necessary.

Sincerely,



Nancy T. Kelly
(808)934-3315

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jay T. Kimura



RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Melvin H. Fujino for many years and he possesses the necessary education, legal skills and administrative experience to contribute to his community as a District Court Judge.

I believe that he can be fair, impartial and carry out his duties with the highest level of humility, compassion and professionalism.

I highly recommend that Melvin H. Fujino be confirmed.

DEREK R. KOBAYASHI

TOPA FINANCIAL CENTER
745 FORT STREET · SUITE 1500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 523-6060 · FAX (808) 523-6030
INTERNET: dkobayashi@sil-law.com

November 13, 2008

Via Email: JDLEstimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino as Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit

The Honorable Chair Brian Taniguchi and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Melvin H. Fujino to the position of Judge of the District Court, Third Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

I have been in private practice in the State of Hawaii for about 18 years and came to know Mr. Fujino when he was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii, about seventeen years ago through my practice as an attorney in the Kailua-Kona office of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. I had cases against him representing defendants in criminal matters and have always known him to be a highly capable prosecuting attorney and adversary.

Mr. Fujino has also been generous with his professional time and assisted me when I coached the Konawaena High School Mock trial team. I am an adjunct professor of law and Mr. Fujino also assisted me with mock depositions and provided guidance and instruction to law students in my Pretrial Litigation course at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

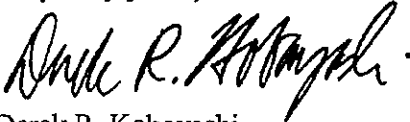
In my experience, Mr. Fujino is always thoroughly prepared and diligent as a practitioner. He has an exemplary understanding of the rules of evidence and trial practice and undoubtedly will apply that understanding in all matters presented before him as a District Court judge. Mr. Fujino is courteous and professional towards counsel and litigants, even during the most trying of hearings and conferences. He has an even and pleasant demeanor that will serve him well from the bench.

In sum, Mr. Fujino will be a valued asset to the District Court of the Third Circuit. I am convinced that he will be a diligent, hard-working, and much appreciated addition to the judiciary.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Page 2

For all of these reasons, I strongly support Mr. Fujino's appointment as Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Very truly yours,



Derek R. Kobayashi

DRK:bjm

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: June T. Kunimoto

**RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit. He would be an excellent choice for this position. I feel that he is very well qualified for this position and he has positive characteristics that are necessary for this position. The following reasons that make him an excellent candidate:

Qualifications:

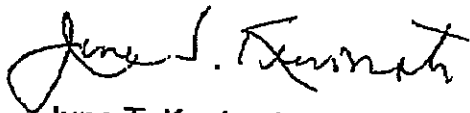
- He has worked in the community for years and has gotten the respect from the community and the various governmental and non-governmental agencies.
- He is level headed and is able to assess the total situation and is not afraid to utilize his skills in this area to make sound decisions.
- He listens well to both sides of the arguments and has shown to have good judgments that people respect.
- He understands the local culture.
- He is able to put people at ease versus causing people to be angry and combative.
- He is calm, understanding and caring that shows in his interaction with a wide variety of people and situations.

Character:

- He is honest in his dealings with people.
- He is consistent and his personal values play a part in making sure that everyone is treated with respect and with fairness.
- He is prompt to meetings that I have been present even when he comes from Kona to Hilo.
- He is totally involved in being a part of the solution and never a part of the problem-he is very solution oriented.

For the above reasons I support the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely Yours,



June T. Kunimoto
Retired District Health Officer, Hawaii
State Department of Health

From: Simeona Ahuna [simeona78@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 11:21 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Simeona A. Mariano, Esq.
91-1045 Makahani St.
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 368-2937
simeona78@hotmail.com

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have the pleasure of working with Mr. Fujino at the Department of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division. Mr. Fujino has been my immediate supervisor since I started my position as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i in December of 2007. Mr. Fujino has provided me with a wealth of guidance and knowledge in my prosecution of criminal cases, including help with charging decisions, answering motions, structuring plea offers and preparing for jury trials. Mr. Fujino is able to effectively assist me because he brings to the table prior prosecutorial experience, he is well versed in the law and he engages me in legal discussions. I have learned a lot from Mr. Fujino because he continues to challenge me in my job as a prosecutor and offer support as a fellow colleague.

In the last trial I completed, Melvin H. Fujino was instrumental in helping me prepare for and try the case. He was able to keep me focused at a time when I felt very overwhelmed and near defeat. Mr. Fujino was able to help me organize my thoughts, prepare a trial strategy and build my self esteem. With his guidance, I tried the case with much more confidence and determination. I learned even more from Mr. Fujino in that he provided constructive criticism regarding my courtroom demeanor, examinations and arguments, after he observed the trial. The entire experience has helped me to better handle other cases and situations I'm faced with.

As a prosecutor, he is passionate about his job and the justice system. Mr. Fujino has dedicated numerous years prosecuting wide range of cases on The Big Island and continues his work for the government at the Department of the Attorney General on Oahu. As a public servant, he has worked in a number of different arenas outside of the courtroom, including community prosecution, special task

forces, committee chairperson, and conference trainings. Mr. Fujino is a team player in that he is able to offer suggestions while listening to the ideas of others and carefully assessing issues at hand.

In the time that I have known Melvin H. Fujino, he has also become a friend and a mentor. He treats me with respect and dignity at the office as well as outside of work. I have been fortunate to form a friendship with Mr. Fujino that I cherish and enjoy. In that respect, I can further attest to Mr. Fujino's outstanding characteristics of reliability, determination, compassion and humility. He is willing to help others with work and personal issues. He has become a mentor that I have great respect and admiration for because he has offered advice and guidance to help me develop myself personally and professionally.

I believe that Melvin H. Fujino is well qualified for and most deserving of this job and he would be an exceptional addition to the State of Hawai'i judicial bench and justice system as the District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Simeona A. Mariano, Esq.

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From: Matsui, Kili [Kili.Matsui@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 9:16 AM
To: testimony
Subject: FW: I am submitting this letter on behalf of Melvin Fujino

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Date of Hearing: November 14, 2008
Conference Room 016

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

To: Subject: I am submitting this letter on behalf of Melvin Fujino

I am submitting this letter on behalf of Melvin Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit Family Court judgeship (Hamakua, North and South Kohala). As a former Big Island Drug Court Probation Officer, I had the pleasure and privilege of having Mr. Fujino guide me through a very challenging period of my stint with B IDC Court as I had no immediate supervisor for a number of months commencing with my second day of employment. At our initial contact, at one of the B IDC planning meetings for Hawaii County, he graciously offered his help, and instructed me to contact him any time I had a question. His willingness to share with me, the background history of the establishment of the B IDC and the judicial dynamics, helped me navigate and comprehend the intricacies of the individual, shared and transferred cases between East and West Hawaii Drug Courts. I thought him to be astute and perceptive in recognizing my anxiety with this new arena, and for being without immediate supervision. He exhibited a genuine concern for the probationers and our responsibility towards these individuals, as mandated by the court system. I found his respect for the system and the people it ultimately served as gratifying.

I am grateful for his assistance, his patience, and his ability to be so accommodating for a rookie probation officer. I would eagerly support Mr. Fujino for this District Court of Third Circuit Family Court judgeship.

Respectfully yours,

Kauakilihuneonalani (Kili) Matsui SW
Family Health Services Division
Children with Special Health Needs Program
741 Sunset Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: 808 733-4966
Fax: 808 733-9068

From: Richard Minatoya [kauailawyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 9:45 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino; Committee on Judiciary and Labor, November 14, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Richard Minatoya. I am a deputy prosecuting attorney for the County of Maui, but am submitting this testimony in support of MELVIN H. FUJINO's confirmation as a private individual.

As the supervisor of the Appellate & Asset Forfeiture Division of the County of Maui Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Fujino on numerous occasions. I found Mr. Fujino to be an able and conscientious attorney. I truly believe that he has the necessary legal skills to serve as a district/family court judge. I also believe that personally, Mr. Fujino has the right temperament to serve on the bench.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of MELVIN H. FUJINO to be a judge for the District/Family Court of the Third Circuit without reservation. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Richard K. Minatoya

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Mark K. Miyahira

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit. I believe that Melvin Fujino is a highly qualified candidate and that he would make an excellent addition to the Circuit Court.

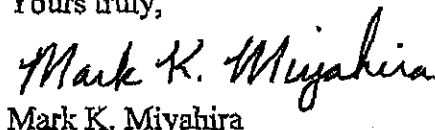
I have known Melvin Fujino since 2003 because of the work that he has done in the Community Prosecution Program, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii County. I have also worked alongside Melvin Fujino since he joined the Criminal Justice Division in the Department of the Attorney General.

In his work in the Community Prosecution Program, Melvin Fujino had to work with many different groups and individuals to forge solutions to problems that are plaguing our communities. He has demonstrated his high level of experience, intelligence, dedication, and wisdom in helping our communities to find new solutions to old problems.

I believe that Melvin Fujino used those same qualities in working towards improving the Criminal Justice Division and that he will be able to use his high level of experience and wisdom in serving the people of Hawaii County.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 586-1160. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Mark K. Miyahira

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Lisa Nahoopii
County of Hawaii
Data Systems Department
75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Ste 109
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I am writing a letter in support of Mr Fujino as a District Family Court Judge. I have been associated with Mel during his time as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the County of Hawaii as well as his time as Deputy Attorney General with the State of Hawaii.

I originally met Mel while he was on the Hawaii County Resource Committee which involved agencies from the County, State and private sectors. His meetings were always very well facilitated and organized. Since then, I have attended many meetings where Mel was present or facilitating. I was always very grateful when he was in charge as I knew my time in that meeting or project would be time well spent.

More specifically, Mel coordinated a "Communities Working Together Conference" at the Hilton Waikoloa of which I gave a presentation pertaining to "Emergency Preparedness at the Community Level" during one of the many workshops he arranged. The conference brought many individuals, groups and agencies together of which continues to have a positive relationship long after the conference ended. He is articulate when dealing with the public and explaining difficult legal matters. He has the ability to convey clear and concise details in the most complex situations.

There are very few people of whom I feel is driven by a true desire to make communities a better place through serving the public in a governmental capacity. It would be an honor to have Mel back on the island of Hawaii as a District Family Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Lisa K Nahoopii
GIS Analyst
County of Hawaii
Data Systems Department

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Lani G. Ng
PO Box 398
Kealahou, HI 96750

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Mr. Fujino for many years as we grew up together. Our families were good friends.

I am a courtroom clerk at the Third Circuit Court in Kona, and I worked with Mr. Fujino in his employ as a law clerk for retired Judge Paul M. deSilva. Upon returning to Kona in 1991 as a deputy prosecuting attorney, I had the opportunity to work closely with him once again.

Mr. Fujino is a very honest, fair, considerate and compassionate person. He is open-minded and can quickly analyze situations. He will always take everything into consideration before making a decision. He is not influenced from being fair, even if he may feel sympathetic. He is very professional and always courteous to people.

Mr. Fujino is very familiar with the issues involving the State and County agencies and works well with them. He has attended many community and neighborhood meetings and assisted people whose rights were being violated. I believe he is well-respected in the community and has a high reputation for being honest and trustworthy. He has been active in the community, assisting with legal issues, as well as public awareness concerning drugs, drug abuse and drug addiction.

Mr. Fujino knows the Statutes, Court Rules and Rules of Evidence very well, and if not familiar, he is able to accurately interpret and familiarize himself with them. He has attended training conferences throughout the United States to enhance his professional skills. He is always well-prepared and understands the legal issues. He possesses a vast knowledge of information and is able to learn quickly. He is open-minded to new ideas and understands them well.

I have the highest opinion of Mr. Fujino's integrity and moral courage. He is very trustworthy and follows the law. He will do what he believes is right, and will not be influenced or intimidated to do otherwise.

Whenever Mr. Fujino takes on a task, he does it tenaciously and with great consideration. Although he is very thorough and uses great care, his decisions are rendered quickly.

Mr. Fujino maintains a very even temperament. He is not easily annoyed or irritated and is able to remain cool, calm and collective.

Mr. Fujino is a very hard worker and works well with others. His experience and knowledge of the law, along with family values and common sense, make him an excellent judge. He takes pride in what he does and works very hard to make sure the job is done well. He has all the qualities for being a good judge. He knows the procedures of the judicial system and has a great respect for the judicial system, which he will support and represent.

Thank you for your time.

November 13, 2008

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing for District Court of Third Circuit Judicial
Nominee Melvin H. Fujino
Date: November 14, 2008
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this to express my support of the appointment of Melvin H. Fujino to the District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Mr. Fujino since 1988 when we first became members of the bar and were law clerks to the late Honorable Philip T. Chun. Since that time we have both been county prosecutors' and now colleagues at the Department of the Attorney General. I have grown to respect and admire Mr. Fujino for his dedication to public service, his hard work, honesty, courage and intelligence.

While at Judge Chun's, Mr. Fujino quickly became the judge's most relied upon and favorite. He assisted and advised the Judge in his role as the civil administrative and probate judge of the First Circuit. Critical and important motions, orders and requests to the court were promptly reviewed and processed. I know Judge Chun appreciated his efforts because the Judge would say so. Mr. Fujino gained valuable experience being exposed to the decision-making process and proper decorum and temperament of both Judge Chun as well as former Justice Robert G. Klein, who was the civil motions Judge at that time.

Although prosecutors' for different counties at the time, I maintained contact with Mr. Fujino and know that he supervised deputies at the Kona Prosecutor's Office. I was impressed by his leadership and management skills. He was well respected and appreciated by the deputies under his wing. He was always involved in training and never hesitated in assisting his deputies. He gained valuable experience as a trial attorney as well. These skills will prove very useful as a judge because he has to administer and manage the courtroom, calendar and preside over litigants.

I now work with Mr. Fujino at the Attorney Generals' Office. He walked into a case load and tried cases without complaint. I am even more impressed

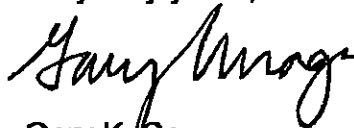
with his keen understanding of the law. He is well informed of recent court decisions and uses this knowledge to ensure that the prosecution was within the boundaries of the law. He is very knowledgeable of the criminal justice system which will be invaluable as a trial judge.

Mr. Fujino also possesses a sense of humor that he appropriately uses to provide a relaxed workplace. I appreciated his humor especially when I was stressed by my own workload. This trait will provide a working environment that the staff and public will appreciate. It may even encourage cooperation and resolution rather than opposition and further contest.

He is a balanced and confident person that would be able to handle any situation that could arise in the courtroom. That, together with his wisdom, life's experiences and compassion will result in everyone to feel respected, fairly and justly treated should they come before him.

Mr. Fujino will make an excellent judge and do well for the judiciary.
Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Very truly yours,



Gary K. Senaga

From: susman.kona [susman.kona@aloha.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 7:44 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Melvin Fujino Confirmation Hearing

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Scott Susman
Kaloko Mauka Neighborhood Watch
P.O. Box 3186
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

We wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Melvin Fujino for the position of District Family Court Judge. We were associated with Mr. Fujino during his tenure as the supervising deputy county prosecutor in West Hawaii, and benefited tremendously from his outreach to communities in support of crime prevention and support for Neighborhood Watch programs.

We were a sprawling rural subdivision with a burgeoning crime problem then, and Mr. Fujino initiated an association between our community and the prosecutor's office, volunteered his time to come to our meetings to answer questions and provide insight into the legal processes and courts, and practical problem solving for our community. He provided us with informational materials, organized seminars for us, and made himself available for informal consultation whenever it was needed.

Mr. Fujino is extremely bright, impeccable in planning and preparation, an excellent communicator, and pro-active in support of the community. We have a great deal of respect and admiration for him, and enjoy a much better quality of life here as a result of our association with him. We have no doubt that the community will benefit greatly with him as a District Family Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Scott Susman
Kaloko Neighborhood Watch

11/12/2008

November 13, 2008

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jamie Takimoto

RE: Confirmation Hearing for Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee, and Members of the Committee:

I **support** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I've had the opportunity to work with Mr. Fujino at the Prosecutor's Office in Kona. Mr. Fujino was our Supervisor at the Kona Office. He has demonstrated his ability in proving to be a great supervisor. His willingness to listen and act fairly has earned him great respect by those who have worked with him. Mr. Fujino is hard working, straight forward, tenacious, and would be very effective as a judge.

Mr. Fujino was also our Community Oriented Prosecutor, which involved his being able to meet with community members to address various problems within the community. This required many hours of attending meetings, and maintaining a good rapport with various community members as well as with various agencies. One of his accomplishments involved helping clean up the low income housing here in Kona. Through his efforts, he was able to help turn around this apartment complex to make it a better place to live.

Because of his tenacity, he was an effective Deputy Prosecutor. He tried his cases to the fullest. He worked long hours, met his deadlines and made sure he was prepared for court.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding Mr. Fujino. I am proud of him and of his accomplishments. He is a good man for the job.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Debbie L. Tanakaya

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Although 99.9% of me wishes to write a unpleasant commentary, it would not be fair to Melvin because it would be for the self-serving reasons to ensure that he stays put. His presence will be missed; therefore, it is with great "discomfort" (for lack of a better word) that I write this commentary to you regarding Melvin H. Fujino.

As a young attorney starting on my professional career, there are three main qualities that I feel a Judge should have – experience, knowledge, and confidence. These are qualities that I see in Melvin everyday and qualities that I look towards, in a mentor, who I look not only for help and guidance in my working life, but also my everyday life. The years of experience on his belt, along with his knowledge of the laws of this State, helps exudes a level of confidence that I feel a Judge should have in his control of his courtroom and control of the decisions he will be asked to make everyday.

The day that we were told that Melvin was coming to work with us, is the day that the dynamics of our office changed for the better. The day that Melvin leaves us for a judgeship, is the day that we will have to learn to share, for the better of the State of Hawaii. To offer the judgeship to anyone other than Melvin, a man with a special love for the Big Island, would be, simply put, a mistake.

Melvin is the guy you want sitting on the bench in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I respectfully submit my whole hearted support for the nomination of Melvin H. Fujino. I Thank You for your time and the opportunity to comment on Melvin's behalf.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Kimberly Taniyama 

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Fujino, as he was my supervisor. Mr. Fujino was a fair and reasonable Deputy. He was also very intelligent and insightful. He helped me to learn and grow as a Deputy, and gave me good perspectives on our responsibilities to our community.

I believe that Mr. Fujino will use these beneficial qualities to serve the community and those who pass through his courtroom, if he is confirmed. He will surely be committed to his responsibilities and carry out his duties with respect, dignity, and fairness.

Jane Higa Testa
24 Kaapuni Loop
Hilo, HI 96720
janehigatesta@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 315-3399

November 11, 2008

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorable Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Clayton Hee,
and Members of the Committee:

RE: Confirmation Hearing of Melvin H. Fujino; Friday, November 14, 2008

I am in support of the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

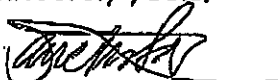
I have known Mr. Fujino for eight years. During this time, while I was the County Director of the Department of Research and Development and he was a Supervising Attorney for the County Office of the Prosecutor, we worked together on various initiatives in which he provided leadership, facilitation services, advice, teamwork, information and resources, and sound judgment.

He worked exceptionally well with the community, was very aware of community dynamics, and bridged relations between community and government with much skill.

Mr. Fujino is respected for his fairness, his humor, and the honoring of his commitments. He is very bright, a quick study, and honest to a fault. I hold him in the highest regard.

Please feel free to contact me for further information or clarification.

Sincerely yours,



Jane H. Testa

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Steve and Louise Winn
P O Box 8
Honaunau HI 96726

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Melvin Fujino is being considered for the position of District Family Court Judge for the Third Circuit Court. We think this is a wise and prudent choice.

We have known Mel for the past 10 years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County and have worked with him closely. Louise was employed by the Hawaii County Resource Center to oversee the 9 District Facilitators working with the anti-drug grant Healing Our Island and was based in the Kona Prosecutor's Office. She also worked with Mel to plan and execute community meetings to explain legal process, encourage involvement with Neighborhood Watch and community drug use prevention programs. His innovative work done through the Community Oriented Prosecution program was instrumental in building the capacity of local communities. This led to the Weed and Seed program being adopted by the Puna District, and to the direct involvement of Community Policing officers in the clean up and management change of the Ka Hale Kahaluu Public Housing project.

Steve worked with Mel on various criminal activities which were concentrated in the Napoopoo/Kealahou area. He provided much needed moral support to our village and liaison actions with the Hawaii County Police and Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mel is a patient, knowledgeable man with a terrific sense of community and commitment to the greater good. The Judicial system would be enhanced by his presence on the court.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Susan Won

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit. I believe that Melvin Fujino is high qualified for the position of District Family judge and that he would be a tremendous asset to the judiciary.

I have known Melvin Fujino for the past ten years in both a professional and personal capacity. During the past two years, I have worked with Melvin Fujino at the Department of the Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General.

Melvin Fujino has proven himself to be an excellent litigator who knows the law. Moreover, he has shown that he is also a good supervisor who has great leadership qualities and management skills. Melvin Fujino works well with others and has the ability to help bring people together in getting the job done.

Beyond his litigation and management skills, Melvin Fujino's professionalism is of the highest level. Further, Melvin Fujino's has demonstrated fairness in executing his duties both as a deputy prosecuting attorney and as a deputy attorney general.

In closing, Melvin Fujino has all the qualities necessary to fulfill the position of a District Family judge and he will represent the judiciary well in his capacity as a judge.

Very truly yours,

Susan Y. N. Won

From: Ronda Wong [wongr04@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 2:18 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor - Hearing on November 14, 2008; 10:30 am

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Ronda Wong

RE: Confirmation Hearing on Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I work in the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of the Attorney General and have been Mr. Fujino's secretary for nearly two years. I can, therefore, attest firsthand to Mr. Fujino's character, intellectual capabilities, and professional attitude. In my opinion, he is one of our most well-liked and highly-respected attorneys. Many of his colleagues seek his advice and counsel and he is always more than willing to assist.

As judges are held in high esteem, I believe Mr. Fujino will be able to uphold such a position with his knowledge of the law, his honesty and integrity. I have always known and respected Mr. Fujino for being trustworthy and fair.

Thank you.

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TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Edsel M. Yamada
888 Mililani Street, PH5
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 521-4576

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

I SUPPORT the confirmation of Melvin H. Fujino for the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Melvin H. Fujino for since 1985 when we took the bar together. Since then I have gotten to know him both personally and professionally. Melvin has always displayed the admirable qualities of honesty and generosity to me and to others, along with a great sense of humor. He is fair and open to ideas and has the intellect to grasp and understand complex and complicated issues. I have no doubt that he would make a very good judge and would enhance the reputation of the judiciary and respect for our legal system.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Melvin H. Fujino and respectfully ask that you confirm Melvin H. Fujino for the position of District Family Court Judge.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Christopher D.W. Young

RE: Confirmation Hearing-Melvin H. Fujino
Friday, November 14, 2008

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and members of the Committee:

Thank you providing this opportunity to comment on Judicial Nominee Melvin H. Fujino. I write in strong support of nominee Melvin H. Fujino for the new district family court judgeship in the Third Circuit. I first met Melvin 1995 at a prosecutors' training course. We quickly became good friends and kept in close contact over the past thirteen years. I have routinely relied upon Melvin's advice on legal and personnel issues as well as court process and procedures. Melvin is always willing to listen and takes the time to internalize and analyze issues before he provides thoughtful, relevant and timely advice.

In January of 2007, Melvin agreed to leave his position as supervisor of the Kona Prosecutor's Office to assist me as a felony trial team leader with the Department of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division. Since joining the office, Melvin has been an ideal employee and team leader. He is well versed in criminal law and procedure, extremely organized, a team player and a fair and firm supervisor. What has impressed me most about Melvin has been his loyalty and willingness to help others. My respect and support for Melvin has increased since he began employment with the division. His commitment to doing what is just and fair is reflected in his daily dealing with co-workers, the general public and defendants. Although losing Melvin would be a great loss to me and the Department, I am confident that his service to the judiciary would be of greater value to the State.

In my opinion, Melvin has the perfect background, intellect and demeanor to serve as a district family court judge on the Island of Hawaii. He was born and raised in Kona and spent fifteen years serving his community as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. During those years, Melvin grew to understand the residents of the island and was viewed as a fair, competent and compassionate prosecutor. His continued ties to the community provides Melvin with a unique understanding of the residents that he would serve.

I thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you. Feel free to contact me at (808) 479-5497 if I could provide you with any additional information on Melvin's qualifications.