



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 29, 2011

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Support for the Nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone's nomination as a Circuit Court Judge to the First Circuit.

I am writing in support of Karen Tooko Nakasone's nomination as a Circuit Court Judge to the First Circuit. As a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association, as well as in my capacity as a State Representative, I am pleased to convey my endorsement of Ms. Nakasone's nomination.

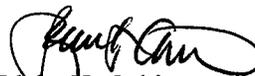
Ms. Nakasone's qualifications, knowledge and professionalism are well demonstrated through her more than 15 years of dedicated public service in our community as a Public Defender ("PD"). I believe that this type of experience as a trial and appellate lawyer in criminal defense will provide invaluable insight that will benefit all litigants who may come before her and ensure an equitable and just administration of the law.

More importantly, along with her years volunteering with the Japanese American Citizens League, and with her PD experience, she demonstrates a true commitment to the fundamental rights embodied in our Hawai'i and Federal Constitutions. PD's often must work to achieve the most favorable and reasonable outcomes, despite having the most difficult facts, uncooperative clients, or worse, clients that have little attributes or skills to engender sympathy. However, to ensure that all defendants receive a fair trial, they must be given their right to representation. Moreover, at the end of the day, what PD's have, and what is important for any judge to adhere to, is the *rule of law* – that justice must be blind to these flaws, and must, in the end, be administered fairly and equitably.

I have had an opportunity to work with Ms. Nakasone on various projects and she has consistently impressed me with her tireless dedication to the bill of rights and civil rights. I appreciate her willingness to stand up and take courageous positions for these principles, even if they are not popular at the time because ultimately, the most important goal is keep these rights intact for the future of our community.

Therefore, I am pleased to extend my support for Ms. Karen Tooko Nakasone as a Circuit Court Judge to the First Circuit and wholeheartedly recommend her for your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Blake K. Oshiro
State Representative

Representative Blake K. Oshiro, 33rd District
Aiea • Halawa Heights • Pearlridge • Red Hill • Waimalu
State Capitol #439 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6340 • Fax: (808) 586-6341 • E-Mail: repboshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DAVID M. LOUIE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RUSSELL A. SUZUKI
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

August 26, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SUPPORT FOR KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE - GM 1

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Karen Tooko Nakasone, Esq. to the position of Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have personally known Ms. Nakasone for approximately ten years. I have worked closely with her on various matters relating to the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In my interactions with Ms. Nakasone, I have had an opportunity to observe her in different capacities and on various projects. I have also come to know her through wide ranging discussions with her regarding politics, civil rights, government, law enforcement and other policy issues. I know many people who know her, and am well aware of Ms. Nakasone's reputation in the legal community. She has an excellent reputation in the legal community for honesty, hard work, ethics and legal ability.

Ms. Nakasone has worked as a Public Defender for many years. In this capacity, she has had to handle many complex cases over numerous years. Her experiences as a practicing trial attorney will hold her in good stead and allow her to superbly perform and discharge the duties and obligations of a Circuit Court judge.

Ms. Nakasone has served as the President of JACL, one of the leading community organizations which address civil rights issues. In that capacity, she has led JACL in its community activities and in taking strong policy positions on various civil rights issues. These tasks required serious intellectual capacity, understanding of legal and social policy, and analytical abilities to both understand and implement attempts to change and formulate social policy.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
August 26, 2011
Page 2

In all of my dealings and interactions with Ms. Nakasone I have found her to be extremely intelligent, diligent, responsible and easy to work with. She has consistently handled herself with great professionalism and has always been of the highest personal character. Ms. Nakasone truly has a judicial temperament. She is always fair and even handed in her dealings with people. She has a personal calmness about her that is well suited to the task of being a judge. She is also very likable and has an excellent sense of humor. She is humble and self deprecating and always gives credit to others. She is very level headed. It is clear that she will bring all of these qualities to the job of a Circuit Court judge.

I enthusiastically and strongly recommend that the Committee recommend to the Senate that it advise and consent to Ms. Nakasone's nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M. Louie', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

David M. Louie
Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

LATE TESTIMONY

Keith M. Kaneshiro
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Armina A. Ching
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
First Special Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

August 29, 2011

GM1: Nomination of Karen T. Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

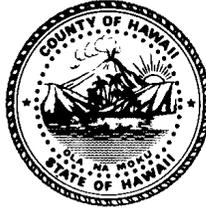
Chair Hee and Committee Members:

This is in support of the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. In her service as a deputy public defender, she has always conducted herself on a very high ethical level. She is always fair and well-prepared. She is a zealous advocate for her position but has always maintained an understanding for the role she played in the criminal justice system and never over-stepped any ethical boundaries.

Karen has a solid understanding of the Hawaii criminal laws and the rules of evidence. I believe she will be a good trial judge who will always be mindful of her duty to see that justice is served in each case.

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

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

August 26, 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM1 – Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge – In Support

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Karen Nakasone as Circuit Court Judge of the State of Hawai'i, First Circuit.

Ms. Nakasone is extremely well qualified, with extensive experience in the legal system. She served in the Office of the Public Defender since 1996 and her jury trial experience includes approximately 100 judge trials in Circuit, Family and District courts. Her Appellate experience includes oral argument before the Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawai'i Supreme Court, as well as hundreds of parole board hearings and involuntary civil commitment hearings. She has numerous published decisions as appellate counsel and trial counsel.

Her keen intellect, compassion and commitment to community service have earned her a reputation as a highly respected legal professional.

Ms. Nakasone represents the very best that Hawai'i's legal profession has to offer, and I believe she will be an excellent addition to the Circuit Court. I respectfully urge the committee to support the nomination of Karen Nakasone.

Aloha,

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

LATE TESTIMONY

August 25, 2011

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee, Karen Tooko Nakasone, as Judge
of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit
Date of Hearing Monday, August 29, 2011

From: Gary N. Oakes
Deputy Public Defender

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I have been with the Office of the Public Defender for 25 years, with over 20 years as a Felony Trial Attorney. I have known Ms. Nakasone for at least the last 12 years. About 11 years ago she assisted me as a second chair in a cold case murder trial. I was very impressed with her legal knowledge and skills and with her organizational capabilities. She assisted me with interviews of witnesses and with legal consultation throughout a very difficult trial. The favorable result that we obtained in that case was due, in no small part, to her diligent efforts.

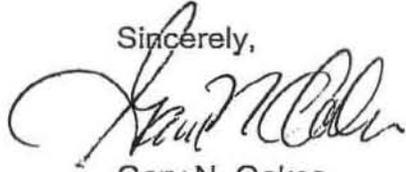
Prior to the above-mentioned case, Ms. Nakasone was a trial attorney in the District and Family Court sections of our office. Subsequently she was promoted to the Felony Trial section where she handled numerous cases and developed a reputation as an excellent trial attorney.

For the past several years Ms. Nakasone has been in the Appellate section of our office. On many occasions I have consulted her about issues relating to my own assigned cases. I have been very impressed with the breadth and depth of her legal knowledge and research skills.

In addition to her devotion to her work and her excellent legal skills, Ms. Nakasone is very compassionate and fair-minded. I believe that those attributes are extremely important for a judge.

Even though I (and many others) will be very sad to see her leave this office, I highly recommend her confirmation as a Judge of the Circuit Court. I believe that she will be a valuable addition to the Judiciary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary N. Oakes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "O".

Gary N. Oakes
Deputy Public Defender
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

August 26, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimbukoro, Vice Chair
Committee On Judiciary and Labor

Re: *GM 1 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen Tooko Nakasone.*

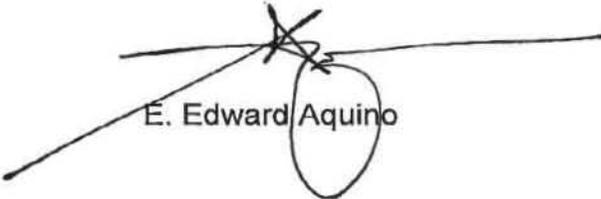
Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate:

I am writing in support of Karen Tooko Nakasone's nomination to serve as a Circuit Court Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I first met Karen when she was a law clerk for the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba at the Intermediate Court of Appeals and have come to know her really well as colleague at the Office of the Public Defender.

I believe that Karen would make an outstanding Circuit Court Judge. I have been impressed by her professionalism, her great intellect and her keen understanding of the law. I have always known her to be honest, straightforward, and committed to ensuring justice.

I urge you to confirm her nomination to serve as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,



E. Edward Aquino

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [ELLEN CARSON](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Confirmation of Karen Nakasone - First Circuit Court- August 29 at Noon
Date: Friday, August 26, 2011 4:03:37 PM

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of the nomination of Karen Nakasone for confirmation as a new First Circuit judge.

I have known her as a colleague in the bar and in community service activities for over a decade. She is a hard worker, diligent, smart, and professional in demeanor. She has all the qualities required to do a great job on the bench. She has worked extensively with appellate law in her position with the Office of Public Defender, so will be familiar with virtually all aspects of criminal law. She has also worked previously as a clerk on the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and with our Attorney General's office in regard to administrative matters. So she has a nice depth of experience in many areas that will come before her as a judge.

I've known and worked with Karen in my capacity as prior president and current member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and Hawaii Women Lawyers. Karen has been an active contributor in both organizations, and cares about improving our justice system. She has also been very involved in equal justice issues as former president and board member of the Japanese American Citizens League. She is a natural leader and has constantly contributed to our community in many ways.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of her. By policy of my lawfirm and the bar associations mentioned above, this testimony is submitted in my individual capacity only, and not as a representative of any organization.

Ellen Godbey Carson
700 Richards St #2601
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

From: William.C.Bagasol@hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF KAREN NAKASONE TO CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
Date: Friday, August 26, 2011 6:22:06 PM

I have worked with Karen Nakasone since 1996 at the Office of the Public Defender. Through the years, she has gained tremendous experience and knowledge while handling the most serious of cases. Without a doubt she has proven to be both an excellent trial and appellate attorney. While working shoulder to shoulder with her, Ms. Nakasone has demonstrated to be a sincere and committed public servant. She is an extremely hard worker and highly intelligent. I can personally testify that she is a good student of the law and has made it a point to review both criminal and civil appellate decisions. The Judiciary and ultimately the community will be gaining a Jurist of considerable talent. She is an example of excellent judicial temperament and will make her decisions without passion or prejudice. I am absolutely confident that she will make an outstanding Circuit Court Judge. I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

William C. Bagasol
Deputy Public Defender

LATE TESTIMONY

From: lvi@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: APPOINTMENT OF KAREN NAKASONE AS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2011 3:38:02 AM
Importance: High

TO: JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE
FROM: LARRY V. IKEI
RE: ADDITION OF COMMENTS

If Scott Nakasone (HPD Officer) is in fact related to Karen Nakasone then it would be another attempt by the Police Department to insert relatives to literally protect or shield the Department. This same Officer has a relative in the Property Management Business and if they are all related then, they would most certainly need to be put under the microscope so to speak. I'm sorry to feel the way that I do, but legitimate reasons exist.

LARRY V. IKEI
lvi@hawaii.rr.com

From: [Kenneth J. Mansfield](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM 1 - Karen Nakasone
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2011 4:01:25 PM

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

GM 1 RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE

TESTIMONY OF
KENNETH J. MANSFIELD, ESQ.
Bar No. 7227

Monday, August 29, 2011, 12:00 pm
State Capitol Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

My name is Kenneth J. Mansfield, and I am an active member in good standing of the Hawaii Bar and the Co-Managing Partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. I think extremely highly of Karen Nakasone, and therefore it is my great pleasure to testify in strong support of her confirmation to the First Circuit Court.

I have known Karen for twelve years. We practice in different fields (I am a civil litigator), but we had an overlapping matter early in my career where I was pursuing a civil claim against one of Karen's clients. It was obvious to me that Karen was at all times a highly skilled, even-tempered and very effective advocate. She has an obvious mastery of courtroom procedures, a natural ability to evaluate evidence, and a sharp intellect to interpret the law, all of which will enable her to be a strong, effective judge. Though we were adversaries in that case, as a Hawaii citizen, I am thankful that Karen has made a career of protecting the rights of those who do not have the financial means to defend themselves, providing them judicial access and zealous advocacy.

I also know Karen on a personal level, as our spouses are friends and former law partners, and we have children of roughly the same ages. Karen is a devoted parent and contributing member of our community. Among other outside activities, Karen is very active with Hawaii Women Lawyers and is a former President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter. There is no question in my mind that Karen has the professional and personal qualities we need in our Judges – professional expertise, strength of character and conviction, and commitment to our

community. Karen has what it takes to make an outstanding Judge, and I would be proud to see her on the Bench.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of such a good citizen and qualified candidate. I respectfully urge this Committee to strongly recommend Karen's confirmation.

- Kenneth J. Mansfield

LATE TESTIMONY

From: orimotoj001@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM1 – Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge – In Support
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2011 9:57:40 AM

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of Karen Tooko Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge. The Senate confirmation hearing for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen Tooko Nakasone, is on August 29, 2011 at 12:00pm.

I first met Karen in law school at Boston University in 1993 and we have since remained friends. In the past 18 years, I was able to witness many of Karen's personal and professional milestones, achievements, challenges and accomplishments. Throughout it all, Karen has consistently conducted herself with the highest level of integrity. Whether she is working as an attorney or being a friend, whether she is celebrating or struggling, her integrity is unwavering. She is extremely intelligent, works hard, makes thoughtful choices and is diligent and thorough in every task she undertakes. As a result, Karen has an impeccable reputation among her peers and others within this community and has earned the utmost respect and admiration of her friends and family.

For these reasons, I strongly support Karen Tooko Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Joni Orimoto

From: [Laurie Tochiki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Support of Karen Nakasone
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2011 7:06:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the appointment of Karen Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have been working with Karen Nakasone as a fellow Board member of the Hawai'i Women Lawyers organization. Karen is a thoughtful and wise member of our board. She is not someone who takes the limelight, but she is someone who can be counted upon to be prepared and responsible. I had two occasions to spend a great deal of time with Karen recently. First, during last year's HSBA convention, Karen and I spent the day together sitting at the Hawai'i Women Lawyers display – we chatted all day about our careers and goals and other topics. Second, Karen and I both worked as support for a Hawai'i Women Lawyers event called "So you want to be a judge." This event was designed to promote the appointment of women to the bench by providing advice and support from current judges, members of the judicial selection commission, and other attorneys. Both Karen and I facilitated group discussions, and in preparing for the presentations we were able to discuss her application process.

I believe that Karen will be a wonderful addition to the bench. She will work hard. She has a strong reputation for integrity. Her experience as a trial lawyer will serve her well on the bench.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.

Aloha

Laurie Arial Tochiki

Laurie Arial Tochiki
Lecturer at Law
Director of Child Welfare Projects
William S. Richardson School of Law
2515 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2350
Telephone 808-956-9774, fax 808-956-3813

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Bryant.Zane@hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Karen Nakasone
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2011 8:50:53 PM

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Bryant Zane and I am an attorney at the Office of the Public Defender. I would like to make a comment about the nomination of Karen Nakasone for judge. I have known Ms. Nakasone for nearly ten years and have worked with her for over eight. She will make a great judge. I make this prediction based upon what I know about her. Ms. Nakasone has always conducted herself with the greatest amount of professional integrity and respect. She is extremely diligent and gives attention to all fine details. She is always cool and level-headed in challenging situations. I believe she will bring these qualities to the bench. You will not be disappointed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Me ka Oiaio,

Bryant Zane

From: [Nancy Tolentino](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Gm1 re: Karen Nakasone confirmation hrg
Date: Sunday, August 28, 2011 11:01:40 PM

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 1: Nominating Karen Tooko Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

August 26, 2011

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Masakazu Teruya, and I am the chief instructor of Shorin-ryu Seibukan dojo. I began my karate training in Okinawa in 1956, and have been teaching karate in Hawaii since 1970.

Karen Nakasone has trained in karate at Seibukan for two years, since 2009. During this two-year period, she has diligently engaged in the spiritual, physical, and technical training of karate, three times a week without fail, while simultaneously balancing her career as a lawyer and her familial duties.

Her unwavering dedication to master the qualities of perseverance, the spirit of Japanese budo (martial art), and physical endurance, despite the demands of a professional career, is impressive.

I believe that the exceptional diligence she displays in her karate training will have a positive influence in her work as a judge. I hope you favorably consider her nomination as a Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Masakazu Teruya
Chief Instructor, Shorin-ryu Seibukan

255-6758 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Toguchi, Garrett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: August 29, Hearing on Karen Nakasone
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 6:13:35 AM

RE: Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE

Honorable Chair Hee,

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Karen Nakasone for circuit court judge. I've known Karen for over 10 years and she has always shown herself to be a competent and compassionate person.

Garrett Toguchi

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Howard Luke](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM-1 Confirmation Hearing re: Karen T. Nakasone
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 8:38:51 AM

Dear Chairman Hee and Fellow Committee Members:

I fully support the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone, Esq. as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I believe she is very qualified to sit as a Circuit Court Judge, and I expect that she will discharge her duties as a judge in an exemplary manner.

Sincerely,

Howard K.K. Luke
Attorney at Law

Law Office of Howard K. K. Luke
Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop St., Suite 2022
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: 808-545-5000
Fax: 808-523-9137

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Mericia Palma Elmore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM1 - Karen Nakasone - Strong Support
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 10:47:31 AM

Good Morning,

I strongly support Karen Nakasone's appointment to the First Circuit Court. She is a wise and compassionate adjudicator; Hawaii is lucky to have her service.

Thank You,

Mericia Palma Elmore

--

Mericia Palma Elmore

JD Candidate 2012

MLISc Candidate 2012

mericia@hawaii.edu

808.258.6701

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Arrisgado, Maurice](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: John.M.Tonaki@hawaii.gov
Subject: KAREN NAKASONE'S CONFIRMATION HRG.
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 10:57:58 AM
Importance: High

Honorable Chair Clayton Hee:

I would like to testify on behalf of Karen Nakasone. I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, who has had trials with Karen Nakasone and I can attest to her fairness, zealousness and exceptional legal skills, which is why she always beat me. I would rate her ethical standards at the highest level - she throws hard blows but never below the belt!

Aloha,

Maury Arrisgado

P.S. Did not discover until today, that there was a problem with my email transmission, last week; hence, this belated submission of my support for Karen Nakasone.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Liane Nomura-Siu](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: GM1 - Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge - In Support
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 11:28:05 AM

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone as First Circuit Court Judge.

My name is Liane Nomura-Siu, and I am currently an Assistant General Counsel at Hawaiian Telcom. I originally met Karen years ago, but became friends through the Pacific Century Fellows program in 2008.

During the Pacific Century Fellows program, I became impressed by Karen's insightful questions and genuine interest in understanding the issues that impact Hawaii. As we became better friends, I learned that, as a public defender for 15 years, she acquired professional experience and legal expertise in her field. And, through her other contributions to the legal community (for example, as president of NAPABA, the boards of HWL and Board of Bar Examiners, and a Court Annexed Arbitrator), she has sought out knowledge and understanding of a range of other legal issues. Karen is also a super-mom, who is able to juggle her dedication to her service activities (such as president of JACL) with her family obligations. There is no question that she will be able to fulfill the duties of this position.

Karen has the integrity, temperament, legal ability, and a passion for Hawaii that will serve her well as a First Circuit Court Judge. She understands and respects the role that justice and the judiciary plays in Hawaii. Most of all, she is committed to service to Hawaii and its people.

Mahalo,

Liane Nomura-Siu
Assistant General Counsel
Hawaiian Telcom
1177 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
o: 546-3399 | f: 546-7621

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Ernie Kimoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: ekimoto@hawaii.rr.com; karentnakasone@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 12:01:47 PM

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

THE SENATE, THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, INTERIM OF 2011

SUPPORT FOR CONFIRMATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII,
NOMINEE, KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE

Before the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

< <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2011/SenateCommittees/committeepage.aspx?committee=JDL> >
August 29, 2011 12:00 pm Conference Rm 16, State Capitol

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee. I am Ernest Kimoto, a

I strongly recommend confirmation of Karen Nakasone as Circuit Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Nakasone personally and have known of her reputation of for integrity and diligence in her legal practice and her professional experiences such as the Court Annexed Arbitration Program.

As a former director of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I, as well as many others in the community, are impressed with her strong desire to serve the public and her commitment to justice and fairness. She has served as the President of the JACL and is on the boards

American Bar Association (NAPABA). She was recognized by the national NAPABA as one of its 2009 Best Lawyers Under 40.

Ms Nakasone possesses the skills, the experiences, the judicial temperament and the ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a Circuit Court Judge

I give my unequivocal and wholehearted support to Karen Nakasone's confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge.

Ernest M. Kimoto
Attorney at Law
582 Palawiki Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Ernest Kimoto
Corporate Counsel
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
711 Kapiolani Blvd, Floor 12
Honolulu, HI 96734
Phone: 808 262 2674

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: Jon.N.Ikenaga@hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011 1:45:06 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Karen since we interned together at the Attorney General's Office. We have worked together at the Office of the Public Defender since 1996, most recently as senior attorneys in the Appellate Division. Karen has always exhibited the highest levels of competence and integrity in her professional and personal endeavors. Her grasp of complex legal issues and her insight into all aspects of the legal process give her a unique advantage as an attorney. I believe her record speaks for itself in terms of her personal and professional achievements. I have no doubt that Karen will serve with honor, dignity and humility as a judge of the First Circuit Court.

I speak with the utmost sincerity when I say that there can be no more deserving person to be appointed to the bench. I would like to express my unconditional support for her nomination.

Thank you.

Jon N. Ikenaga
Office of the Public Defender
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
phone: (808) 586-2202
fax: (808) 586-2222

LATE TESTIMONY

Deborah L. Kim
4088 Kulamanu St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
Email: debbiekim@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 28, 2011

RE: In Support of nomination of **Karen T. Nakasone**
for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Thank you for considering my whole-hearted support of Karen T. Nakasone's nomination for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I retired in 2008 as the supervisor of the appeals division of the Office of the Public Defender after working for twenty-two years in all levels of the office. I've known Karen Nakasone since she first started with the Office of the Public Defender in 1996, and worked closely with her as her supervisor after she moved to the appeals division in 2004.

Karen has many attributes that are required of a judge -- fair-mindedness, honesty, excellent organization skills, self-discipline, thoughtfulness, and tenaciousness. She is even-tempered and hard-working. She has deep experience with all levels of the court system. In addition, Karen has qualities that set her apart and are the makings of a really exceptional judge.

Karen has courage -- the mental and moral strength to persevere, and withstand adversity, fear, or difficulty. Delays, bad decisions and unnecessary rancor are often the result of fear on the part of even the smartest lawyers and judges when it comes to making difficult decisions or thorny issues. Einstein's general observation is true of the courtroom: "Any intelligent fool can make things bigger and more complex... It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction."

LATE TESTIMONY

Page two

I have seen Karen graciously and naturally exhibit courageousness in the energy and efforts she devotes to her work, her personal life and the activities in the community. She is decisive and not afraid to do the right thing. She is a good team-player but knows how to exercise authority. She is tenacious and will work hard to resolve tough or complicated issues. She will administer justice in her courtroom without egotism or delay.

Karen also truly has a deep commitment to the justice system, and a devotion to serving the community. I believe Karen has the wherewithal, energy and inclination to have a positive effect beyond the courtroom. She will do more than adequately serve; she will be an asset to the judiciary. For these reasons and more, I am honored to offer support of Karen's nomination for judge of the First Circuit Court.

Kat Brady
76 North King Street #203
Honolulu, HI 96837
katbrady@hotmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY and LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, August 29, 2011
Room 016
12 noon.

GM 1 – STRONG SUPPORT for KAREN T. NAKASONE, 1st Circuit Court
JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I am Kat Brady and I am testifying today in my own behalf in strong support for the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone to 1st Circuit Court.

I have known Karen for more than a decade and have always been struck by her commitment to the principle that justice is blind. She has always been accessible and patient with non-attorney members of the community, taking the time to explain the law and/or process in answer to our many questions.

Karen has a sharp legal mind, is a critical thinker and her friendly personality would be a huge asset to the bench. She is honest, hardworking, principled and an absolutely terrific human being!

Her confirmation would further distinguish the 1st Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Kat Brady

Kat Brady

Rowena Anelaaulii Somerville, Esq.
1302 Aloha Oe Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 258-2717
hirowena@yahoo.com

August 29, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Mile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM1 - Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge – In Support

Dear Senators,

I am writing in strong support of Karen Nakasone's judicial nomination to fill the vacancy at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

I have known Ms. Nakasone for the past sixteen years, and she is a highly skilled and effective trial attorney. She has an impeccable reputation both in and out of the courtroom, and she is an excellent candidate for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit position.

I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 1996 to 2005. Throughout that time I had the opportunity to have Ms. Nakasone as opposing counsel. It was always a pleasure working with her. Ms. Nakasone carried out her job with extreme professionalism and she exhibited patience and respect towards others. Despite her heavy caseload, she was always prepared and very organized, representing her client to fullest extent possible. She responded promptly to legal matters and scheduling issues, and her efforts made the cases move very efficiently. Her vast trial experience made her exceptionally comfortable in the courtroom. She had the ability to argue legal issue at a moment's notice because she prided herself in knowing the most current rules, statutes and case law. Ms. Nakasone performed her duties as a Deputy Public Defender with fairness, integrity, and compassion. These traits would serve her well in the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Ms. Nakasone has chosen to dedicate herself to public service. She has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the public, and she truly believes in the judicial system. For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration of the appointment of Ms. Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at the above numbers.

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and labor

Re: GM-1 - Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Court Judge - In Support

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I am a member of the Hawaii Bar and have been in the United States Attorney's Office here in Hawaii for more than 25 years. I know Ms. Nakasone through the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA") and got to know her at the 2009 Convention in Boston which I attended as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii. Although our paths did not cross professionally because my practice is exclusively in federal court and Ms. Nakasone's practice is in the First Circuit Court as a Deputy Public Defender for the State of Hawaii, I was well aware of her reputation as a respected trial attorney known for her honesty, integrity and knowledge of the law. She was one of the "up and coming" young lawyers. Ms. Nakasone was recognized at the national NAPABA conference in 2009 as one of the outstanding young lawyers ("Forty Under 40") in the country for her tireless work in representing clients in criminal cases in State Court and her participation in community and professional organizations.

I am pleased that Governor Abercrombie has nominated Ms. Nakasone and I am one of her many supporters. Ms. Nakasone has all the qualifications to be serve as a Judge in the First Circuit Court in Honolulu. She has had years of trial experience and as a result, she knows the law, the procedural rules and the practice in the First Circuit. In addition to her substantive knowledge, she will bring an open mind, common sense and fairness. I am confident that all who appear before her as Judge will come away with the belief that she made her decision based on the law, applied fairly and in a just manner.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Susan L. Arnett
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

August 29, 2011

RE: GM1. NOMINATION OF KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE TO THE
FIRST CIRCUIT COURT

Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Karen T. Nakasone as a Judge of the First Circuit Court.

I have known Karen since she first came to the Public Defender's Office. I have supervised her work and respected her as a colleague for many years. She has an outstanding work ethic. She is very organized, does not wait until the last minute and is never unprepared. In our felony section, she handled difficult cases and exhibited real empathy for her clients.

I was very sorry to lose her to our appellate section but she has absolutely blossomed there. She reads every criminal and civil appellate decision handed down by our courts. This gives her a special insight into the reasoning of our appellate judges that is particularly helpful to our trial deputies as they try to frame issues for pre-trial and in limine motions as well as possible appeal. She is simply unmatched in her ability to analyze caselaw and understand its application to the nuts and bolts of the cases we handle.

I have also worked with Karen on various issues in our community. It was her involvement as President of the Japanese-American Citizens League that encouraged me to join the League and eventually join Karen on the Board of Directors. She has worked tirelessly to inform and educate our community in the area of civil rights with special attention to our unique history in Hawaii. She is definitely a person who puts her money where her mouth is when it comes to taking stands on issues she believes in.

Karen is relentless in keeping informed of the latest caselaw. She retains a passion for the law and is fascinated to see how it is interpreted at both the state and federal level. As noted above, this interest has extended to keeping current on civil caselaw as well as criminal. She has also attended civil continuing legal education programs. I know of no other criminal attorney who has maintained an active interest in civil law to the extent that Karen has.

I believe Karen would be an outstanding judge and recommend her wholeheartedly. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

LATE TESTIMONY

August 28, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 1: Nominating Karen Tooko Nakasone to the Circuit
Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Monday, August 29, 2011, 12:00 P.M., Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

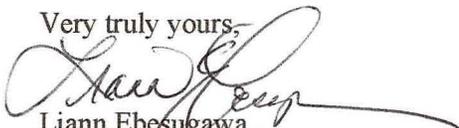
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Karen Nakasone's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I met Karen in 2002 when she was a volunteer judge for my appellate advocacy class at the University of Hawaii Law School. We were also classmates in the 2008 Pacific Century Fellows, a Hawaii-based leadership program focused on developing professionals with a greater awareness and sensitivity to the people and institutions of Hawaii. I have also had the privilege to serve with Karen on the Board of Directors for the Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter (JACL) and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Hawaii Chapter (NAPABA).

Simply put, Karen is an example of the best of our legal community. She is not only diligent, hard-working and dedicated in her practice of law, but is also a person with impeccable integrity and forthrightness. While serving on the JACL Board, Karen and I worked closely on numerous projects and community issues. In those instances, she was always willing to lend a hand and/or take the lead. Karen also ensured that our discussions considered all viewpoints so that our decisions were ultimately sound, and held to the highest ethical standards.

I also have the utmost respect for Karen because of her willingness to serve the community in many capacities. It is not coincidental that our initial meeting was in a classroom. For many years now, Karen has mentored/trained young lawyers, a role she takes seriously. For example, it was because of her invitation that I joined the JACL and NAPABA boards, and it was through her leadership that I have continued to work with these two important organizations.

Taken as a whole, Karen has consistently dedicated her professional career to helping others, while also giving back to her community through numerous non-profit organizations and taking the time to develop those younger and/or less experienced than her. It is people like Karen who give the judicial bench the integrity and trust that is necessary for the preservation of justice in our community.

Very truly yours,



Liann Ebesugawa
Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

For Hearing on Monday, August 29, 2011
12:00 p.m., Conference Room 016
State Capitol

REGARDING GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 1

Submitting to the Senate for its consent, the appointment of Karen Tooko Nakasone to serve as Judge of the State of Hawai'i First Circuit Court for a term of ten years.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I was delighted to learn that Governor Abercrombie had nominated Karen Tooko Nakasone (Karen) to be a judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawai'i.

I first got to know Karen when she worked as an Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) law clerk for now-Justice Simeon Acoba. She impressed me then as a bright, competent young lawyer who took her job seriously, possessed excellent research and writing skills, and had a passion for community and public service. At the time, Karen's mom had a flower shop on Fort Street Mall, and I recall that often, after a long day's work, Karen would head over to the shop to help her mom out. I admired Karen's commitment to her family.

After Karen left the ICA, she went to work for the Office of the Public Defender, where she handled trials and later, appeals. As an associate judge of the ICA, I had the opportunity to read many opening, answering, and reply briefs authored by Karen. Her briefs were always well-organized, thoroughly researched, clear, and concise. Moreover, she enjoyed an excellent reputation for being prepared, articulate, respectful, and calm during oral arguments.

ICA law clerks generally work for only a year at the court. However, they become part of the extended ICA family, and the ICA judges take great interest in the careers and lives of former law clerks. Over the years, I've watched as Karen matured as a lawyer, became a busy wife and mother of twins, and used her skills and talents to assist different legal and community organizations, often in a leadership role. I am confident that Karen will be an excellent circuit court judge and that she will serve the people of the State of Hawai'i with humility and distinction. I strongly urge you to support the confirmation of her appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne K. A. Watanabe

LATE TESTIMONY



WAYNE M. PITLUCK
SENIOR COUNSEL

August 28, 2011

JOHN REILLY
OF COUNSEL

Via Email to JDLtESTIMONY@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Hearing on the Nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone
to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii;
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is submitted in support of Karen Tooko Nakasone's appointment as judge to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Because of the short timeframe, I was not able to submit this letter prior to the Friday deadline due to prior commitments. However, I request that you accept this testimony of my wholehearted support of her appointment to the bench.

Although I have had limited contact with Ms. Nakasone professionally, I have known her and her family for over 20 years. When I first started practicing as a young attorney, Karen was a young school girl helping in the family's flower shop on Fort Street Mall. Even at that young age, she exhibited qualities of hard work, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm. It was a pleasant surprise to hear from her mother years later that she was interested in attending law school. I was less surprised to hear that she became a public defender and an advocate for the people, both professionally and in community affairs..

In my view, knowing Karen's parents and how they raised their children reflect highly on who she has become. Karen is accomplished, dedicated and well-grounded. Her parents have instilled core values in their daughters which are evident in the way they work and socialize with others. Karen possesses strong family values, commitment to the legal profession and a level of honesty and integrity which will make her an effective and respected member of the judiciary, not only to her peers, but especially with the everyday people who encounter the court system.

Senator Clayton Hee

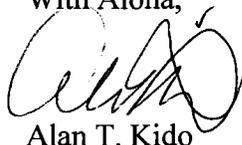
August 28, 2011

Page 2

In seeking her counsel recently on a pro bono matter involving my Japanese-speaking client, Ms. Nakasone was extremely helpful and professional in sharing her expertise in “navigating” through the State District Court process. Her guidance and thoughtful advice made the process understandable and positive for my client.

I strongly believe that Ms. Nakasone will continue the line of bright, capable, independent and culturally-aware individuals who have sat and continue to sit on the State bench. I ask that you give her your full and enthusiastic support.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan T. Kido', written in a cursive style.

Alan T. Kido

LATE TESTIMONY

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SPECIAL SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, August 29, 2011

GM 100, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE, for a term to expire in ten years.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee, I am **Jon Riki Karamatsu**, and I am testifying in support of **Karen Tooko Nakasone** to be considered and confirmed to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I got to know Karen Nakasone while attending many community events since she is an active supporter of a number of community organizations while I was a Hawaii State Representative. Most recently, I worked with her in my role as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and while she was in her role as a Deputy Public Defender. Together with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tricia Nakamatsu, we were trying to better the process for clarifying concurrent and consecutive sentencing. I appreciated how she looked at the totality of the law.

I also recognize Ms. Nakasone's contribution to society with the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, Hawaii Women Lawyers, Board of Bar Examiners, Hawai'i Chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), and the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HENRY P. TING
Honolulu, HI 96822

August 26, 2011

By E-mail: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: GM1 - Nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone to serve as Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

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

Karen's commitment extends of course to her family, her husband and twin daughters, as well as to the community at large. Her membership and participation in the JACL, the ACLU, NAPABA, and the NAACP among other organizations speak well of Karen's values and commitment to public service and connection to the community.

For these reasons, I support the confirmation of Karen as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and ask for your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry Ting

LATE TESTIMONY

c/o 737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 27, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Via Email: JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Measure GM 1
Monday August 29, 2011, 12:00 p.m.
Support for Karen Nakasone

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

I write to you in support of the appointment of Karen Nakasone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have been a practicing attorney for 14 years and am currently the Managing Director of Case Lombardi and Pettit. I am a past President of the Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) and was on the HWL board with Ms. Nakasone for a number of years.

Ms. Nakasone is very easy to get along with and is extremely well liked by all. Ms. Nakasone demonstrates a high level of integrity, humanity, grace and compassion. She is held in high regard by her peers and has a wonderful reputation as an honest, organized hard worker. She does not hesitate to volunteer her time and shows a strong commitment to improving the community.

Ms. Nakasone is very intelligent and consistently exercises good judgment in dealing with others on controversial issues. During our tenure together on the HWL Board, we have often been called upon to address difficult and complex issues. I have been continually impressed with Karen's forthright and honest approach. She is a person with great dedication to the legal profession. I have only the highest praise for her demeanor, presence and team spirit.

If you would like to speak to me directly or if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 547.5406. Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter in support for Karen Nakasone.

Respectfully yours,



Lauren R. Sharkey

LATE TESTIMONY

CLAY CHAPMAN
IWAMURA &
PULICE &
NERVELL
Attorneys at law

Topa Financial Center, Bishop Street Tower
700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tele. 808-535-8400
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*Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr.: Direct (808) 535-8419
E-mail: dpacarro@paclawteam.com*

August 26, 2011

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Karen Tooko Nakasone for Judge
of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit**

Dear Senator Hee,

I support the confirmation of Karen T. Nakasone to the position for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Karen for eleven years and believe she will be an excellent addition to the bench. Karen is a well respected trial and appellate attorney in Hawaii.

The majority of Karen's experience is in criminal law; however, she has the benefit of trial and appellate experience that allows her greater depth in making legal decisions on the bench. The combination of both disciplines makes Karen an excellent choice for Circuit Court Judge. I have had the personal experience of opposing Karen in court when I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and she always zealously advocated for her clients. She was always professional.

She will make an excellent judge because she is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. Her moral courage is unquestioned and her integrity is impeccable. I highly recommend Karen Tooko Nakasone for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I believe she will make a good judge because she is well rounded and cares for people through her work and involvement in women's issues and community affairs. Karen's participation in the Access to Justice Commission stands out over her other achievements because she is ensuring that everyone has access to justice, not only the privileged.

A Member of  **PACIFIC**
LAWYERS

August 26, 2011
Page 2

I am confident that if Karen Tooko Nakasone is chosen, she will make an excellent Circuit Court Judge. I am honored and privileged recommending Karen for confirmation.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on her confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr." in a cursive style.

Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr.

**LAW OFFICE OF
CAROL ANN KUNISHIMA**

1299F Moanalualani Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Ph: 383-6867

August 23, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairperson
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson
& Members of The Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: GM1 – Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Judge – In support

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express my support of Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Judge. I first met Karen when she joined the Office of the Public Defender in 1996, where I had been serving as a state public defender for about 9 years. For approximately 4 years, Ms. Nakasone occupied the office that was across the hallway from mine. I, therefore, witnessed Karen's daily work habits, her personality, her view of the law, her legal acumen, her sense of ethics, and her work discipline. They were all impeccable.

Throughout these years, Ms. Nakasone showed herself to have not only a keen understanding of the law, but also that she possesses a very special ability to correctly interpret legislative intent, while taking into account the practical impact on ordinary people's lives. As a trial litigator, she is bright, articulate, insightful and hardworking. She has argued many cases before both the Hawai'i Supreme Court as well as the Intermediate Court of Appeals. She is an excellent brief writer. She is well-versed in the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence.

Karen also possesses an even temper, has a good sense of humor, understands people, and is a "solution-finder." As a trial attorney for over 22 years, I believe that these are excellent traits for a circuit court judge to possess. I have no hesitation in enthusiastically recommending Karen T. Nakasone for First Circuit Judge.

Respectfully,

Carol Ann Kunishima, Esq.

Crystal K. Glendon
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 586-2245
tootieglendon@gmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY

August 25, 2011

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
via email JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: **GM 1**
KAREN TOOKO NAKASONE, Gubernatorial Nominee for the
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i
Confirmation Hearing on Monday, August 29, 2011 at 12:00 PM

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Karen Tooko Nakasone's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Nakasone, both professionally and personally, for the past seven years. Over the years, I have constantly been impressed with her legal skills, even-keel demeanor and desire and willingness to volunteer her time for charitable causes. She does this all with grace, balancing her career and commitments with an active, young family. I am confident that she possesses the necessary qualities that will enable her to balance the tremendous responsibility of the bench with the practicality it takes to get the job done.

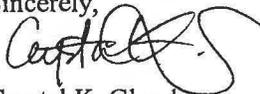
Professionally, she is well-respected among her colleagues and the legal community. She is known for her hard work and dedication, and her record as a trial and appellate attorney is impeccable. Additionally, she is an excellent resource and mentor, always available and willing to advise her fellow colleagues in legal issues.

Personally, she is a woman who can do it all. She handles the rigors of a demanding legal career graciously, never seeming flustered even in the face of deadlines, complicated legal issues or difficult clients. She equally handles the demands of mothering two active twin girls, all with an unfaltering ability to do it with a smile on her face. That she finds the time to volunteer for charitable organizations, participate in leadership programs and more is amazing to me as a mother and trial attorney myself. She is truly an inspiration and proof that, with hard work and determination, one can accomplish even the loftiest of goals.

I fully support the nomination of Ms. Nakasone to the Circuit Court bench. She has contributed much to the community as a deputy public defender, litigator and volunteer. I believe she will make an exceptional addition to the bench and look forward to her contributions to the community as a judge.

Thank you for considering my comments about this worthy nominee. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Crystal K. Glendon

August 26, 2011

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

GM 1: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, Karen Nakasone, for a ten year term.

DATE: Monday, August 29, 2011
12:00 p.m.

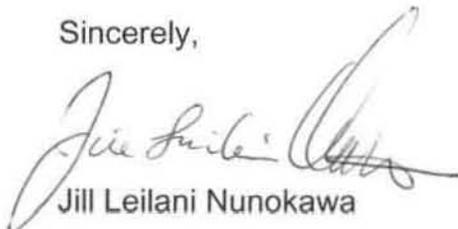
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support and with great respect for Karen Tooko Nakasone. I urge you to confirm Ms. Nakasone's judicial nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Nakasone for many years (we were both deputy public defenders together) and I am able to comment on her superior qualities, which establish her qualifications to serve and succeed as a Circuit Court Judge. I have also practiced law in District, Family, and Circuit Courts in Hawaii since graduating from law school in 1988. From 1990 to 1997, I was a deputy public defender for the State of Hawaii. I have appeared in front of numerous Judges and worked as a law clerk from 1988-1990 in the Second Circuit Court on Maui. I have the background and understanding of the qualities and attributes needed when presiding over cases in Circuit Court.

Ms. Nakasone has established herself as a hardworking, devoted, fair-minded jurist who has professional experience, a keen intellect and legal knowledge, an astute awareness of the complex factors that contribute to individual choices, a strong commitment and dedication to justice, a deep understanding and reverence to the Constitutions of Hawai'i and the United States, irreproachable integrity and due diligence and has the uncanny ability to remain calm and controlled in every setting. I recommend her for this appointment without hesitation and with the knowledge that she will be a fabulous and fair Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Jill Leilani Nunokawa

Colbert M. Matsumoto
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2450
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

August 26, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 1
Nomination of Karen Tooko Nakasone as
Judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: August 29, 2011

Dear Chairman Hee & Members of the Committee:

This is to express my support for the nomination of Karen Nakasone as a judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Karen for several years through our mutual involvement in the Honolulu Chapter of the JACL and the Hawaii Chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. During that time I have come to respect her commitment to public service both professionally as well as through her volunteer activities.

With her strong educational credentials, Karen had many career options. However, her choice to enter the legal profession through public service as an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender reflects the values imbued in her. Her firm belief in the strength of our Constitution and the American justice system led her to recognize the importance of utilizing her legal training to assist those who cannot afford private legal services to represent them in our judicial system.

While her underpaid job as a public defender itself constitutes public service, her dedication to the Bill of Rights of our Constitution has led her to volunteer many hours of community service to promote civil rights. She has been a longtime member of the Honolulu Chapter of the JACL (a leading civil rights organization) and rose to become its president. Under her leadership the JACL has been actively involved in raising public awareness of various civil rights issues and she played a significant role in providing support for Army Lt. Ehren Watada's stance against the war on Iraq. Although by their very nature civil rights cases lack mainstream popular support, this has not deterred Karen from regularly standing up for the rights of minorities and the poor; advocating for

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Nomination of Karen Taoko Nakasone
Hearing Date: August 29, 2011
Page 2

the fair treatment of immigrants; supporting the recognition of legal rights for sexual minorities; and promoting gender equity in the workplace. Her courage and principled commitment to take on controversial and unpopular issues sets her apart from many of her peers.

An unwavering commitment to public service and a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the betterment of our community are key attributes that a person aspiring to be a judge should have. Karen has demonstrated through her work and her volunteer activities that she truly possesses these essential qualities.

I hope that you will look favorably upon and confirm the nomination of Karen Nakasone as a judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii. Our State will benefit from the services of a dedicated and capable lawyer like her.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colbert M. Matsumoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Colbert M. Matsumoto



A LAW CORPORATION

LATE TESTIMONY

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR
SENATOR MAILE SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of
WILLIAM M. KANEKO, ESQ.

Nomination of
KAREN T. NAKASONE
to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

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Monday, August 29, 2011, 12:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bill Kaneko. I am a licensed attorney in the State of Hawaii. I am writing in SUPPORT of Karen T. Nakasone's appointment as Judge of the First Circuit Court. I have known Karen over the past decade in her role as an attorney, and active member of the community. I believe she exemplifies the values, temperament and background to serve well on the First Circuit Court Bench.

In particular, I am struck by Karen's strong, unwavering dedication to fairness and equality in society. In her long-standing service in the Public Defender's office, Karen has ensured that the legal rights of those who cannot afford a private attorney are upheld. She has litigated over 100 trials in district, circuit and family court, and represented hundreds of indigent clients before parole boards as well as the appellate courts. In our community, she has consistently stood up for the rights of minorities and the poor. She has stood side by side for those who dared to challenge the U.S. government; advocated for the fair treatment of immigrants; and promoted gender equity in the workplace.

Since 2001, Karen has tirelessly served the Honolulu JACL Chapter, with great dedication, humility and competence. The JACL is a national civil rights organization, whose primary mission is to protect the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others victimized by injustice and prejudice. I had the pleasure of first getting to know Karen, when she joined the Board of Directors of the Honolulu JACL Chapter in 2001. After joining the Board of Directors, Karen quickly rose in leadership positions, serving as Chapter President from 2004 to 2006.

Karen's community service is not only deeply rooted in her JACL activities, but expands beyond JACL, to the professional community of lawyers she belongs to.

She has served as an Examiner for the Hawai'i Supreme Court Board of Bar Examiners, since 2003, grading hundreds of essay exams of Hawai'i State bar applicants. Karen was also recently elected, in 2009, to the Board of Directors of Hawai'i Women Lawyers (HWL), and serves as Chair of the HWL Judicial Equity Committee promoting gender equity on the bench.

She also served as a member of the Committee on Right to Counsel, for the Access to Justice Commission, established in 2008, to increase access to justice in civil legal matters for low and moderate income residents of Hawai'i. The Access to Justice Commission's Annual Report Committee recently recruited Karen to assist their committee, in recognition of her diligence and writing ability.

Having the kinds of experiences and background in her duties in the Public Defender's Office and in the community will give her the essential perspectives to be fair and equitable on the bench. I urge your support for Ms. Nakasone's appointment to the First Circuit Court. Thank you for your consideration.