



Office of the Administrative Director — King Kamehameha V — Judiciary History Center
THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII • 417 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 102 • ALI'ĪOLANI HALE
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July 30, 2013

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS
DIRECTOR

Matt Mattice
KING KAMEHAMEHA V
JUDICIARY HISTORY CENTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC – 1: James H. Ashford for Judge, District Court of the First Circuit – In Support

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

I am writing individually, and in my capacity as executive director of the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center, to support the confirmation of James Ashford for the vacant District Court judgeship.

Mr. Ashford embodies a number of attributes that qualify him for this important position. He has over 20 years of litigation experience and is extremely well versed in the law. He is kind and fair, and has an impeccable work ethic. Mr. Ashford's steady temperament, coupled with his keen analytical skills, enable him to render succinct, yet well thought out decisions on the spot. And he has a wonderful knack for putting people at ease.

I've had the privilege of working with Mr. Ashford through his service as a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Judiciary History Center (Friends). As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Friends support a wide range of the Judiciary's education programs with an overarching mission to promote civic participation. Mr. Ashford's personal example could not have been a better fit. From 2006 through 2012, he immersed himself in several of the Judiciary's civic education programs, bringing positive energy and a new sense of volunteerism to his fellow board members. Throughout the course of his two terms on the board, Mr. Ashford was a workhorse – our constant "go to" for an array of programs and events – always positive, energetic, and fun.

On a personal note, I consider Mr. Ashford a good friend of mine, and we have known each other since elementary school. His character is solid. He is kind, honest, compassionate, and tremendously fun.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of Jim Ashford's confirmation. Please support his confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

Matt Mattice



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

JAMES H. ASHFORD
District Court Judge, First Circuit

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

From: Craig P. Wagnild
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Friday, August 2, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

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The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of James H. Ashford for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit.

As the President of the HSBA, I am authorized to answer any questions or inquiries specific to HSBA policy and procedures for its rating of judicial nominees. At the outset please be advised that HSBA policy prohibits me from commenting or responding to questions with regard to specific reasons or the basis for the Board's rating of the nominee.

The HSBA Board has established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial nominees generally utilizing the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. The HSBA uses the following criteria in its deliberations: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to perform the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been nominated. Based upon these criteria, the HSBA Board rates judicial nominees either "qualified" or "not qualified."

As part of its procedures for evaluating and taking positions on judicial nominees, an email communication is transmitted to all active members of the HSBA to solicit comments and input on the individual nominated. The HSBA Board utilizes a subcommittee of the HSBA Board to review materials presented by the nominee, examine all comments and input from members, check references identified by the nominee, and contact others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications.

The full HSBA Board reviews the materials prepared by the subcommittee, the materials and information submitted by the nominee, and the comments and input from members, and then conducts an interview of the nominee.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds James H. Ashford to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit.

Ashford & Wriston

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

MICHAEL W. GIBSON
DIRECT: (808) 539-0483
FACSIMILE: (808) 533-4945
MGIBSON@AWLAW.COM

July 30, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: James H. Ashford

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of James Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I am unfortunately not able to attend the hearing on August 2, 2013 due to a prior commitment which I was unable to change. I hope my absence will not diminish the weight that you give to my support of Jim Ashford's nomination.

I have known Jim for about 40 years. Our families have been close friends beginning before I was born. I have known Jim both socially and professional for several decades. Jim's father and I were law partners at Ashford & Wriston where I started (and am still) working in 1976, and Clinton Ashford worked at the firm until he passed away in 2001.

Jim possesses all the qualities to be an excellent judge. He is a hard worker, he loves and understands people. He has a great common sense and a good juridical temperament. Jim has good judgment and integrity. Finally, Jim is open minded and patient.

Without reservation, I recommend that Jim Ashford's nomination be confirmed.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON
A Limited Liability Law Partnership LLP

By 
Michael W. Gibson

1333943_1.docx

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www.ashfordwriston.com

Andria Pakele

From: TMHIFO@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 11:32 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Testimony urging confirmation of James H. Ashford as District Court Judge

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Maile Shimabukuro and Committee Members

From: "Bambi" Eden Elizabeth Hifo, retired judge

Date: July 29, 2013

Re: Support for Confirmation of James H. Ashford as District Court Judge

I offer this unsolicited testimony in support of James Ashford, nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit. I believe he is well qualified by calm demeanor, appropriate humor, intelligence, hard work and concern for fairness in the application of our laws.

I have known Mr. Ashford as a litigation attorney for many years as he practiced in the circuit court. He was always prepared, respectful of opposing counsel and their clients, and able to articulate a common sense interpretation of the law. I believe he has genuine interest in public service, and his many years of private practice in civil litigation would be an asset to the Judiciary.

Having grown up in Hawaii, he has many non-attorney friends and a sense of the community that would serve him well as a district court judge. I hope you will give his nomination favorable consideration and respectfully urge your confirmation of James Ashford.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. Aloha.

July 31, 2013

Kerl Ann K.S. Krzykowski
Direct Line: (808) 521-9233
Direct Fax: (808) 540-5044
E-mail: kkrzykowski@cades.com

VIA E-MAIL (JDLTESTIMONY@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV)

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

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
415. S Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 1: Testimony in Support of James H. Ashford for District Court Judge for the
First Circuit
Hearing: August 2, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.

Dear Committee Members:

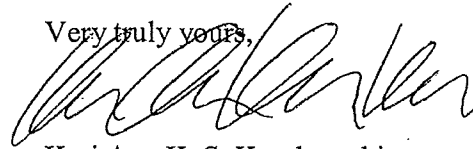
Please take this letter as written testimony in strong support for the confirmation of James H. Ashford as a District Court judge.

I have known James Ashford for six years and have had the honor and privilege of working with him on litigation cases during his tenure at Cades Schutte LLP. His professional ethics, integrity, diligence, legal ability, judgment, and temperament are of the highest quality, and I am confident that, if confirmed, he would be an excellent Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
July 31, 2013
Page 2

Very truly yours,



Keri Ann K. S. Krzykowski

for

CADES SCHUTTE

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

KAS

Amanda M. Jones
Direct Line: (808) 521-9232
Direct Fax: (808) 540-5017
E-mail: ajones@cales.com

July 31, 2013

VIA E-MAIL (JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 1: Testimony in Support of James H. Ashford for District Court Judge
for the First Circuit
Hearing: August 2, 2013 at 12:00 p.m.

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

I'm writing to express my strong recommendation and support for the confirmation of James H. Ashford for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I've known Jim since 2006 when I worked as a summer associate at Cades Schutte LLP. Since joining the firm permanently as an associate in 2007, I have worked closely with Jim on a variety of cases, including three cases that went to arbitration. In my many experiences working with Jim, I have found him to be a knowledgeable and skilled trial attorney whose judgment and ethics meet the highest standards. It is clear to me that Jim has the character and temperament necessary to be an effective and fair judge. He would be a tremendous asset to our State's Judiciary.

In addition to his skills as an attorney, Jim has made numerous contributions to the firm. Jim has served as co-chair of the firm's associate training and development committee and has been a formal mentor for several young lawyers, including myself. I have benefitted tremendously from the guidance and wisdom Jim has imparted to me over the years. I am confident that his dedication to the profession and to helping young lawyers would continue if Jim were appointed to the bench.

C S

Cades Schutte Building
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808.521-9200
Fax: 808.521-9210
www.cades.com

Kona Office
75-170 Hualalai Road, Suite B-303
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740
Tel: 808.329-5811
Fax: 808.326-1175

Maui Office
444 Hana Highway, Suite 204
Kahului, Hawaii 96732
Tel: 808.871.6016
Fax: 808.871.6017

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
July 31, 2013
Page 2

For these reasons, I offer my unconditional support for the confirmation of James Ashford as a State District Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may provide any assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda M. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Amanda M. Jones

Andria Pakele

From: Randy Vitousek [rvitousek@cades.com]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 6:00 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Testimony on Consideratio and Confirmation of Judicail Nominee James H. Ashford

Testimony for August 2, 2013 Hearing, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

I am offering this testimony in support of James Ashford’s appointment as District Court Judge. I have worked side by side with Jim and been his law partner at Cades Schutte LLLP for more than 20 years. I do not want Jim to leave the firm. He is one of those people with whom you would want to be partners for your whole career. Jim is intelligent, honest, straightforward, compassionate, and principled. He takes on difficult cases and while he is always looking for a reasonable, practical solution, he is willing to go to trial if necessary. I regularly refer clients to Jim because I trust him to do a good job,

Jim is a local boy and a good family person. He surfs, plays volleyball and has friends from among the whole range of Hawaii’s people. He understands local issues and local people and has great personal values and real integrity. He can communicate effectively with anyone.

I believe Jim wants to be a Judge as an expression of professionalism and public service. I think he wants to use his legal training and expertise serve the people of Hawaii. I think he will be an excellent judge and he has my unqualified recommendation.

Please feel free to call is you need more information. My office number from Honolulu is 521-9345, my Kona Office number is 808-329-5811.

Randy Vitousek

Circular 230 Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended, or written to be used, and cannot be used for the purpose of avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue Code.

This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you think you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply e-mail or by telephone (808)521-9200, and delete the original message.

Steven & Jill Jacunski
Jacunski Inc.
Jacunski Family Partners II
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

July 30, 2013

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

RE: JAMES H. ASHFORD

For consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit
Hearing On: Friday, August 2, 2013 @ 12:00pm
Place: State Capitol at 415 South Beretania Street in Conference Room 016


Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members,


We are writing in support of James H. Ashford's appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit. We own 2 businesses in Hilo and met Mr. Ashford almost 10 years ago when we retained him as our legal counsel. We have witnessed Mr. Ashford's professionalism and ability first hand in a courtroom and his legal knowledge and integrity greatly impressed us. We have called on Mr. Ashford many times over the years for a number of various legal questions and have always been impressed with his advice.

While most of our interaction with Mr. Ashford has been professional, we have gotten to personally know him and believe him to be a man of even temperament, a person who handles challenging situations with ease and a supportive father.

It is an honor to offer this recommendation in support of Mr. James H. Ashford.

Sincerely,


Steven J. Jacunski


Jill Jacunski

DAVID SCHULMEISTER
178 OHANA ST.
KAILUA, HAWAI'I 96734

July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of the confirmation of James H. Ashford
to the Judiciary of the District Court of the First Circuit
Hearing: August 2, 2013**


Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

I am a friend and law partner of Jim Ashford and support his confirmation as a district court judge.

Like Jim, I was born and raised in Hawaii and value our local community. I have been practicing as a commercial litigator now for more than 30 years and have appeared before a wide variety of personality types on the bench. In Jim Ashford, you have a low-key, no drama, down to earth person who will reliably provide the sort of common sense and efficient disposition of cases that will be of great value to the judiciary and the public. Jim is not only legally skilled, but is very unlikely to allow personal ego or bias to get in the way of doing the right thing by all who appear before him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


David Schulmeister

Ashford & Wriston

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

ROSEMARY T. FAZIO
A Law Corporation
Direct: (808) 539-0415
rfazio@awlaw.com

July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Donna Mercardo Kim
President of the Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hearing Date: Friday, August 2, 2013
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol
(Recommendation for James Ashford)

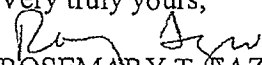
Dear Senators Donna Mercardo Kim, Clayton Hee and Maile S.L. Shimabukuro:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong and unequivocal support of James "Jim" Ashford to fill the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Jim for more than 30 years. We first met on a personal basis. We later developed a professional relationship in connection with client matters. Thus, I have observed Jim in many different contexts.

Jim is very intelligent and has a phenomenal memory. He is a quick study and is able to grasp quickly the facts and law that are relevant to any given dispute. While Jim is serious and always professional, he also has a sense of humor and an approachable demeanor. Perhaps the strongest quality that he possesses, though, in terms of qualifying him to be a judge, is his unflinching integrity. I never once had occasion to question his good judgment and his honesty.

The State of Hawaii would benefit immensely if James "Jim" Ashford were to fill the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. I urge favorable consideration of his nomination. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ROSEMARY T. FAZIO

RTF:lms

1333985v1

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July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
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Senator Donna Mercardo Kim
President of the Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 223
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hearing Date: Friday, August 2, 2013
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol
(Recommendation for James Ashford)

Dear Senators Donna Mercardo Kim, Clayton Hee and Maile S.L. Shimabukuro:

Please accept this letter as my expression of unqualified support for the nomination of support of James "Jim" Ashford to a seat on the bench of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Jim for more than three decades, first on a personal basis, later as a fellow lawyer. Jim is a very astute and intelligent lawyer whose professionalism, integrity and ethical character are beyond reproach. He has a sound pragmatic mind and is quick to understand the facts and law in any given dispute. Jim is both serious and has a sense of humor and an approachable demeanor that will serve him and the community well on the district court bench.

The people of the State of Hawaii would be well-served by the Senate's confirmation of James "Jim" Ashford to fill the judicial vacancy in the District Court of the First Circuit. For that reason, I ask that you give favorable consideration of his nomination. Thank you.

Very truly yours,


FRANCIS P. HOGAN

FPH:lms

1334004v1

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July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2013
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: JC 1: Measure Title -- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

Hearing

Date: Friday, August 2, 2013

Time: 12:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:

I write this letter in support of the nomination of James H. Ashford for a District Court Judgeship position.

I have known Mr. Ashford in a professional capacity for more than ten years. I have handled litigation cases against him and have never had a problem or issue that we could not resolve between us.

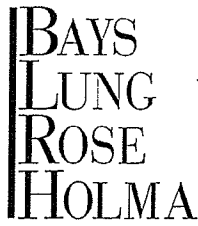
I believe Mr. Ashford will make an excellent jurist as his reputation as an attorney in my humble opinion is impeccable and his temperament is excellent. Mr. Ashford is also currently a partner in one of the most prestigious law firms in the State of Hawaii. I humbly support his nomination 100 percent.

Should you request any further information from me, please let me know.

Regards,



Jason M. Tani



Attorneys at Law

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Harvey J. Lung
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Law Corporations

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Alexa K. Zen
Kristin A. Shinkawa

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
27th Legislature Interim of 2013

Re: Judicial Nomination of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Senators Hee and Shimabukuro:

This letter is being submitted in support of the judicial nomination of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. For the reasons set forth below, I believe that Mr. Ashford is eminently qualified for the district court judgeship.

My personal knowledge of Mr. Ashford is based primarily upon a litigation case that took place several years ago in which Mr. Ashford and I represented opposing parties against each other. The litigation involved a complex real estate transaction relating to the purchase and sale of a Waikiki hotel. The litigation spanned a period of over two years and was hard fought on both sides.

Although an adversary, Mr. Ashford always conducted himself in a professional and ethical manner. He extended professional courtesies without compromising the interests of his client, and he represented his client diligently without overstepping the bounds of good advocacy.

Although my knowledge and experience of Mr. Ashford as a lawyer is limited to a single case over the period of more than two years, it demonstrated to me that he is very familiar with our judicial system, including the Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence. Accordingly, I believe that Mr. Ashford would be a very good fit for the position of District Court Judge.

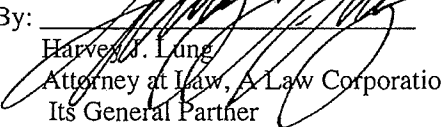
Finally, my interaction with Mr. Ashford gave me some insight as to his character and potential performance on the bench. I believe that Mr. Ashford has high moral standards and that his integrity and reputation in the legal community is unquestioned. Having been a litigator for many years, I believe that he has developed the judicial temperament and demeanor that would sever him well as a District Court Judge.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
July 30, 2013
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the nomination of Mr. Ashford. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 
Harvey J. Lung
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

HJL:beh/lsg

KELLY G. LAPORTE, ESQ.
P.O. BOX 939
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96808

July 30, 2013

VIA E-MAIL: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of the confirmation of James H. Ashford
to the Judiciary of the District Court of the First Circuit
Hearing: August 2, 2013**

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

My name is Kelly LaPorte, and I have been practicing law for 19 years with James "Jim" Ashford. While I will be faced with the loss of perhaps the most conscientious and fair partner I know in private practice, I write to urge your confirmation to allow him to serve as a district court judge in the First Circuit so that the general public of Hawai'i may also benefit from his wisdom, temperament, and integrity.

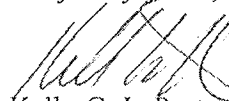
Beyond Jim's expertise in a wide range of practice areas ranging from employment issues, trust and estate matters, and general business disputes, his experience as a trial lawyer in which he has tried numerous cases in our courts is especially valuable to a new judge charged with fairly and efficiently managing a courtroom. He is intimately familiar with the burdens and expenses placed on parties seeking justice through our court system, and his direct method of regularly addressing controversies in an above-board manner demonstrates his dedication to seeking resolution of disputes consistent with the highest ethical standards.

When faced with challenges in cases, I have sought his advice because he is open-minded, understands and articulates different viewpoints, and provides an informed opinion based on cogent logic and sound legal principles. Most of all, he promptly gets to the heart of the "real issue" to determine the relative equities to best predict a sensible, fair outcome.

Listening to Jim's enthusiasm in promoting pro bono services as an Access to Justice volunteer leaves no doubt as to why he is choosing this path. He knows how inaccessible and frightening our legal system appears to the majority of Hawai'i's people, and he wants to ensure that it is accessible and able to resolve issues that have substantial impacts on people's lives. As a judge, he will be in a position to ensure that people in our judicial system have a fair and effective way to obtain justice.

I strongly recommend that this committee confirm Jim Ashford as a district court judge.

Very truly yours,



Kelly G. LaPorte

TESTIMONY

Consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee,
JAMES H. ASHFORD
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu Hawai'i

c/o Email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: TESTIMONY: Consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD,

Dear Chairman Hee, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. **JAMES H. ASHFORD**, a Judicial Nominee for appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

As a former client, my family and I benefited directly from Mr. Ashford's skill and experience as an attorney. His professionalism and knowledge of the law compliment his down to earth, friendly personality, demeanor and homegrown local style.

I strongly believe he can translate his success and experience as a litigator to the kuleana, roles and responsibilities as a judge in the First Circuit of the District Court. Furthermore, I strongly believe that Mr. Ashford embodies and possesses the values, qualities, character and spirit fitting of the position for which he has been nominated. While he is knowledgeable, trustworthy and dependable, he is equally approachable, responsible and personable.

Not only do I recommend others to trust and rely on him as an attorney, but I encourage without reservation or hesitation the Committee on Judiciary and Labor to approve **Mr. James Ashford's** appointment to the State of Hawaii District Court of the First Circuit for the good of the State of Hawaii, the District Court of the First Circuit, and the residents and all those served by the First Circuit Court.

O au no me ka ha'aha'a,



Ramsay RM Taum, Founder, President & CEO
Life Enhancement Institute of the Pacific LLC

Andria Pakele

From: Walter Kirimitsu [wkirimitsu@saintlouishawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 11:00 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR JAMES H. ASHFORD, ESQUIRE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

SUBJECT: JC 1, HEARING DATE FRIDAY, AUG. 2, 2013, 12:00 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL, 415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: HONORABLE SENATORS CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR; MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DEAR SENATORS,

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND JAMES H. ASHFORD, ESQUIRE, PARTNER IN THE LAW FIRM OF CADES, SCHUTTE LLP, FOR CONFIRMATION AND APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII.

I AM CURRENTLY IN MY 8TH YEAR AS PRESIDENT OF SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL, HONOLULU. PRIOR TO THIS, I HAVE SERVED IN THE FOLLOWING CAPACITIES: VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS/UNIVERSITY GENERAL COUNSEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII (FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL IN ITS HISTORY); ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS; OVER 20 YEARS AS A CIVIL LITIGATOR WITH THE LAW FIRM OF SHIM, TAM, KIRIMITSU AND NAITO; PAST PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF HAWAII BAR ASSOCIATION; MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES; LICENSED AS A LAWYER IN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND IN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AND THE U.S. FEDERAL COURTS. AFTER GRADUATION FROM SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL, RECEIVED BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, THEN SERVED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE AS A JUDGE ADVOCATE, AND LAW CLERKED FOR THE LATE JUSTICE CABLE WIRTZ IN THE STATE SUPREME COURT.

I HAVE KNOWN JIM AT LEAST OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS. HE IS AN OUTSTANDING LAWYER, WHO HAS SPECIALIZED IN LITIGATION. JIM IS ONE OF THE TOP LITIGATORS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII, WHO HAS A SOLID REPUTATION AS A FIRM, POSITIVE AND COMPASSIONATE LAWYER, AND IMPECCABLE INTEGRITY. JIM HAS SERVED AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL IN EMPLOYMENT RELATED MATTERS, AND HAS ADVISED ME AS PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL ON MANY OCCASIONS AND CASES. I HAVE RELIED HEAVILY ON JIM'S COUNSEL, AND FOUND HIS ADVICE TO BE VERY THOROUGH, COMPASSIONATE AND ALWAYS BASED ON THE LAW. HE ALWAYS RESPECTS CONFIDENTIALITY AND IS RIGHT ON POINT. IN FACT, OVER THE YEARS WORKING WITH JIM, AND MY HAVING BEEN A FORMER JUDGE, I RECOMMENDED TO JIM THAT HE SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SERVING AS A JUDGE FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII. AND I AM GLAD HE HAS DECIDED TO SUBMIT HIS APPLICATION AND HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOUR FAVORABLE CONFIRMATION AND APPOINTMENT. JIM HAS ALL THE TOOLS TO BE AN OUTSTANDING TRIAL JUDGE, INCLUDING THE NECESSARY JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT.

I WOULD BE HONORED TO PERSONALLY TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF MR. JAMES H. ASHFORD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND PRECIOUS TIME.

RESPECTFULLY,

WALTER S. KIRIMITSU

Walter Kirimitsu, '58

President
Saint Louis School
Phone : 739-4828

Memor et Fidelis - Mindful & Faithful

"Where boys who want to change the world become the men who do."



Sacred Hearts Academy

3253 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 808.734.5058 Fax 737.7867 www.sacredhearts.org

July 31, 2013

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
District Court of the First Circuit
State of Hawaii

Re: Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD

Sacred Hearts Academy has worked with James Ashford on numerous legal matters during the past 20 years. In the school's relationship with Mr. Ashford, he has always been a highly effective and tenacious advocate for the school. He is also reasonable, practical and a pleasure with whom to work. He always exemplifies the highest standards of professional and personal integrity in his work with the school. There has never been cause to question his legal authority and intellect.

I have observed the passion, commitment, decisiveness and seriousness of purpose Mr. Ashford brings to each task. The thoroughness, analysis and preparedness he exhibits in each situation will serve him well in making fair decisions if he is appointed as a judge. In fact, I have never seen Mr. Ashford lose his composure even when other lawyers tried to intimidate him or me (as his client).

Mr. Ashford has exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and personal integrity in his legal career. I have always been proud to tell my colleagues and friends that he is the school's lawyer.

There is no doubt, based on his rich and productive legal career, that given the opportunity, Mr. Ashford will provide distinguished service to Hawaii's judiciary.

Sincerely,

Betty White
Head of School

Celebrating
OVER
100 YEARS
of Education



Chaminade University
OF HONOLULU

August 1, 2013

Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony in Support of Judicial Confirmation (JC 1)
Hearing Date & Time: August 2, 2013, 12:00 p.m.**

Dear Chairman Hee,

This letter serves as testimony to support the judicial confirmation of James H. Ashford to the State of Hawai'i District Court of the First Circuit.

I have worked directly with Mr. Ashford on legal issues in his capacity as counsel to Chaminade University. Mr. Ashford is not only a highly qualified attorney, his responsiveness and personable skills are outstanding. It has been a great pleasure to work with an attorney who is humble and "down to earth".

I support Mr. Ashford's confirmation because I believe that he has the combination of legal expertise, logic and grounded humility that would make him an exemplary judge.

Chaminade University President Bro. Bernard Ploeger affirms my support of Mr. Ashford's confirmation.

Your consideration and that of the Committee to confirm Mr. Ashford's nomination to the District Court is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maile Lu'uwai, J.D., M.B.A.
Executive Director for Compliance and Personnel Services
Chaminade University



August 1, 2013

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Friday, August 2, 2013

JC 1 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

I write on behalf, and in support, of James H. Ashford, Esq. who has been nominated by the Chief Justice of Hawaii for a Honolulu District Court Judgeship.

I am the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Arcadia family of companies which provide housing, services, care, and support for seniors in Honolulu (Arcadia Retirement Residence, 15 Craigside, Adult Day Care programs, Home Care and Health services, Continuing Care without walls, and a Foundation).

Arcadia and its family of companies, have used Mr. Ashford's legal services for the past 16 years. He always presents a solid, credible and confidence inspiring legal demeanor for our companies' management and governance and for our companies' public persona. He offers practical and reasonable approaches to our legal issues and the civil process. He shows adept skill with his ability to contain, synthesize and then soothe a client's initial angst and distress in the legal arena, thereafter charting a responsible path to resolution.

I, as well as everyone on our staff with whom he has worked over the years, are impressed with, and grateful for, Mr. Ashford's contagious legal confidence and client calming ability, especially when those legal claims unexpectedly jump on Arcadia while we are primarily engaged in intense

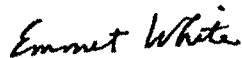
service to our seniors at many difficult levels of care. He is thorough in legal (and practical) analysis and is always prepared. He also has a patient knack for obtaining helpful facts from those whom he represents, as well as from those whom he questions and defends against. He is always fair and composed.

On a personal basis, I have developed a warm and solid respect for Jim when he is in his "non-legal" family oriented mode. In every aspect of his life, Mr. Ashford exemplifies the highest standards for honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship in our Honolulu community. His character, compassion and competence inspire us to maintain our respect and devotion to those aforementioned qualities as we meet the many challenges which come the Arcadia companies' way.

Mr. Ashford always displays a great aptitude for calm, but firm, very level-headed judgment. His questions and comments are well thought out, and he has an excellent command of the law and its particular application to the issue(s) at hand. His demeanor presents an aura of fairness and respectability – no matter which side of the issue he is arguing/presenting. He listens well, and his judgments/opinions are respected.

Jim Ashford will be a fine and well respected jurist.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emmet White".

Emmet White



July 31, 2013

VIA EMAIL

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Friday, August 2, 2013

JC 1 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

I write on behalf, and in support, of James H. Ashford, Esq who has been nominated by the Chief Justice of Hawaii for a Honolulu District Court Judgeship.

I am the Director of Human Resources and Corporate Compliance Officer for the Arcadia family of companies which provide senior housing, services and care in Honolulu (Arcadia Retirement Residence, 15 Craigsides, Adult Day Care programs, Home Care and Health services, Continuing Care without walls, and a Foundation).

No doubt you will receive numerous letters regarding Mr. Ashford's accomplishments, experience, and knowledge. In addition to these, Mr. Ashford is also a teacher, mentor, and coach. He is a sincere and careful listener who embodies the strength and humanity behind our laws and regulations.

Through the past 16 years, and in different venues, I have witnessed Mr. Ashford have candid discussions with, and provide guidance to, groups and individuals that represent various facets of our community. His keen sense for detail and reflective manner enable him to consider multiple sides of a situation, and work

toward a fair and respected solution. His honest and thoughtful communication style conveys his sincere caring for others that has so endeared him to our front line staff ranging from 16 years old to senior management staff.

On a personal basis, I have come to trust his candid feedback, honesty, and integrity. Over the years, his guidance and support have enabled me to better serve our staff and community as a Human Resources Director.

Therefore, I feel James Ashford will be a fine and respected jurist for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mimi Andrian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mimi Andrian
Director of Human Resources
Corporate Compliance Officer

Andria Pakele

From: Wise, John [jwise@southernwine.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 3:43 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Judicial Nominee James H. Ashford

To whom it may concern,

Regarding – Measure JC1
Date: August 2nd, 2013
Time: 12:00pm

Status and Testimony on behalf of James H. Ashford, Judicial Nominee for the District Court of the 1st Circuit.

I have known James “Jim” Ashford since early childhood, probably since he was 2 or 3 years old, I am a year older. We grew up in each others homes as neighbors and close friends in Kaneohe and knew and still know one another's families well. James and I did everything together from playing in the sandbox and backyard football and basketball games to exploring the “jungle” behind our parents homes (now Ho’omaluhia Park), bike riding, skate boarding, surfing, fishing, volleyball and many other activities. We did all the things you might expect from two young boys growing up on the Windward side of Oahu through the 60’s and 70’s. Kaneohe and Kailua were our playgrounds. We attended rival schools from kindergarten through our senior years in high school (Kamehameha vs Punahou). While we both expressed pride in our schools and had spirited debates about which was better it never got in the way of our friendship, as a matter of fact many of his friends from high school became my friends and vice versa.

I have seen James “Jim” grow from a young boy into a mature, successful, accomplished and respected man. I have witnessed almost the entire maturation process first hand from the very early years through grade school, middle school, high school, college, career, raising a family and beyond and would offer these observations; James is a thoughtful, intelligent, driven man. He and his wife Lisa have raised two beautiful, and intelligent young women in Lauren and Ellen. He takes his responsibilities seriously and prioritizes well. He has balance in his life – family, work, exercise to stay healthy and fit. He was raised in a strong family and that background helped to establish a solid foundation upon which he has built his life. Jim offers sound, considered advice and opinions when asked. He knows when to take things seriously but also knows how to have fun. Humor is no stranger to him. I have always trusted his opinions and advice and believe he would bring a strong work ethic and well balanced understanding of the law to the bench. He would also bring an understanding of life that can only be acquired through living it – growing up in Hawaii, studying hard in school, going to college on the mainland, working and raising a family here in Hawaii. He is someone his family, friends and colleagues can be proud of, I know I certainly am. I am confident that he would be a capable, fair judge and a strong addition to this state's judiciary.

Sincerely,

John Wise



John Wise
Fine Wine Specialist – Maui
Southern Wine & Spirits of Hawaii
Cell: (808) 264-4244
Email: jwise@southernwine.com

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Thank you.*

August 1, 2013

Via Electronic Mail: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in support of Judicial Nominee James H. Ashford for the
District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date: Friday, August 2, 2013, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Shimabukuro:


I have known James (Jim) Ashford for approximately 22 years. I worked as a legal secretary for 21 years and was employed at the same firm as Mr. Ashford for nearly 10 years.

During that time, Mr. Ashford was, and I believe still is, very respectful and courteous to the non-legal staff. He is intelligent, hard-working, thorough, honest, very professional and of great character. He always took the time to assist the non-legal staff with any questions; he is an excellent supervisor. I learned a lot from Mr. Ashford while employed with him. He is someone I admire very much.

Mr. Ashford will be an excellent judge. I believe he is well-respected and highly regarded by his peers, as well as by those in non-legal positions.

Please support his confirmation for this position. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



A.L. Bradley

Rhonda and Matthew Goyke
2407 Pacific Hts. Rd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.534.0531

July 31, 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony for James H. Ashford, Judicial Nominee, District Court of the First Court, State of Hawaii.

DATE: Friday, August 2, 2013
TIME: 12:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Senators,

Please accept this testimony in support of Mr. James Ashford for judicial nomination.

We first met James Ashford in early 2007 when we hired Mr. Ashford to represent us in a business matter. Since that first meeting Mr. Ashford has assisted and advised us in a wide range of business and personal matters. Over time, our relationship with Mr. Ashford has grown beyond business legal council, to general legal advisor for business and personal matters, to a business referral partner and friend.



Mr. Ashford has vigorously represented our best interests in matters large and small. Beyond providing great legal advice Mr. Ashford takes the time to help us understand the "big picture" by discussing the business and personal ramifications of each situation. This type of guidance and advice, beyond the legal issues, has given us perspective and has proven to be invaluable.

While aggressively representing our interests, Mr. Ashford looks for opportunities to bring parties together and resolve disputes quickly, economically and equitably.

It is because of these qualities that we regularly refer family, friends and associates to James Ashford for legal matters.

We strongly urge you to approve Mr. Ashford's judicial nomination. We will begin the difficult search for new legal council. Jim Ashford has set the bar high and it will be difficult to replace him.

Sincerely,


Rhonda Goyke

Matthew Goyke

July 30, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital

RE: Relating to Chief Justice Judicial Nominee James H. Ashford

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members,

The purpose of this letter is to offer my strong support of Chief Justice Judicial Nominee James H. Ashford for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii for a term of six years.

I first met Jim in a professional capacity when I retained him to represent me in a family dispute matter. For the average person, dealing with legal matters is quite intimidating and scary. However, from our first meeting, Jim made me feel instantly comfortable with his kind, courteous and caring demeanor. He exhibits a calm, confident manner that puts you instantly at ease. He always took the time to communicate with me personally and never passed me off to an assistant. For an established attorney in a large firm, this gesture proved his strong conviction and character of his caring attitude towards me as his client.

Jim's personality of making people feel comfortable expressing themselves and his sincerity is very evident when you get to know him. He is very personable, and has excellent people skills to facilitate those with different views and personality to a common purpose and goal. He always treats people with honesty, integrity and respect, which are excellent traits for a Judge. I also believe that Jim will be able to ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, and that he will be objective and open-minded in complying with the law.

For all the reasons above I believe that Jim would be a fine addition to Hawaii's Judicial System. I would like to offer my support of Judicial Nominee James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Blanche Fountain

Leimomi Clark
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

July 31, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
senhee@capital.hawaii.gov
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony re Confirmation Hearing for James H. Ashford, Judicial Nominee
to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, for a term of six years
Hearing: Friday, August 2, 2013, 12:00 pm

Dear Senator Hee,

I am a legal secretary with the law firm of Cades Schutte LLP, and have been employed with Cades Schutte for 42-1/2 years. I have worked for various attorneys in this office over the years and am currently assigned to two litigators, one of whom is Mr. Ashford. I have worked for Mr. Ashford for nearly 20 years and know him on a personal basis. In my experience in working with Mr. Ashford, I have found him to be very conscientious, thoughtful, fair, articulate and considerate in his decision-making not only with his clients, but with opposing parties as well. There is no doubt in my mind that if Mr. Ashford is confirmed as district court judge, he would make an excellent judge who is conscientious, compassionate and fair.

Sincerely,



Leimomi Clark

Andria Pakele

From: Rich Stacey Gmail [stacey001@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 9:31 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: JC No. 1 Testimony in support of nomination to James Ashford to District Court

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

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

JC No. 1

HEARING DATE: Friday, August 2, 2013 TIME: 12:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony in Support of the Nomination of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit

To Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of James H. Ashford for his nomination to the bench of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Jim since approximately 1995, when we met while playing volleyball in Kailua. While playing weekend volleyball on and off for many years, we became friends and would get together occasionally for social events, including family Easter egg hunts. As I got to know Jim better, I appreciated his common sense and intelligence, and I am certain that I have asked for advice from him on more than one occasion. I find him to be calm, intelligent, efficient and industrious, with the ability to balance his family life with his professional life. I have also had enough conversations about legal issues to know that he is quite competent as an attorney. I am quite sure that he will make an excellent judge, who will be fair to the people appearing before him, both parties and attorneys, and who will be decisive enough to ensure that justice is done.

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak on his behalf.

Respectfully,

Rich Stacey
741-5573

Andria Pakele

From: Jones Appraisals [jonesappraisals@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 9:18 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Re: Confirmation of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit.

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, August 2, 2013

TIME: 12:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

Note: Pending referral to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor during the First Special Session of 2013 to convene on Monday, August 5, 2013.

JC 1

Status & Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District

Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee,

JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

Pending Referral

to JDL

I have known James H. Ashford for more than 15 years and would like to submit my highest recommendation that he be confirmed to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I personally know James Ashford as an excellent attorney, as an exemplary husband and father, and as a knowledgeable and compassionate Keiki O Ka Aina. Over the years of our friendship, I have benefitted immeasurably from his wise council and advice on real estate matters. His professional temperament and ethics are of the highest standards. In his personal demeanor, it is my opinion that Mr. Ashford is outstanding and well suited to serve in the Judiciary of the State of Hawaii.

James K. Jones

Certified General Appraiser

Honolulu, Hawaii

Andria Pakele

From: June Ogata [junefumi@lava.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 8:50 PM
To: JDLEvidence
Subject: Confirmation of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit (JC1, August 2, 12:00 p.m.)

Gentlemen,

My name is June Ogata and I am submitting this testimony for consideration in connection with the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, James H. Ashford, to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I was employed by Cades Schutte LLP for 29 years, initially as a legal secretary and most recently as its Training Manager. As such, I have known Jim Ashford for his entire legal career at Cades Schutte. During that time, I have never known him to be disrespectful or discourteous to anyone, be they clients, partners, associates, secretaries, or support staffers. He is unfailingly even-tempered, even during the most stressful situations, has a wonderful sense of humor, and is always willing to listen with an open mind. In my opinion, these are qualities which, more than any legal education or career milestones, make a good lawyer great. The Judiciary could not ask for a better nominee than Jim Ashford and I urge this Committee to confirm his appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Respectfully Submitted,
June F. Ogata

Andria Pakele

From: Mark Kam [kam808@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 8:25 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: James H. Ashford - Judicial Nomination

Dear Senator Clayton Hee and Senator Maile Shimabukuro:

I am writing to you in support of James Ashford's nomination to fill the judicial vacancy at the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jim for over 35 years. Jim and I graduated from the same high school and participated on the wrestling team together. We find ourselves sharing one more thing in common, watching our youngest child enter their senior year at the same high school we graduated from.

Throughout the years, I have shared many conversations with Jim about a myriad of subjects; our children, their school, life and our aching, aging bodies. I've often found myself thinking how calm and thoughtful Jim would conduct himself, even in the midst of my tirade du jour. He would often ask probing questions in order to understand the situation fully, before offering his insights and opinions. His commentary is always calm as is his demeanor. All of these characteristics would be worthy of a jurist, in my humble opinion.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of Jim Ashford's nomination.

Mahalo,

Mark A. Kam

Andria Pakele

From: Sandy Jones [slichterjones@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 2:53 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Consideration and confirmation of nominee: James H. Ashford

To Whom it may concern,
This email is to give testimony on behalf of *James H. Ashford.*

Submitting for consideration as Circuit Court Judge
Notice of Hearing: August 2, 2013, 12pm
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 Beretania St.

I have been a teacher for over 30 years and have known James, "Jim" Ashford for over 15 years. Both of his children were students in my preschool classroom. I found that both he and his wife were highly involved parents who often lead and supported parent functions, field trips and other important events.

On many occasions, both Jim and his wife would stay in the classroom to spend time with their children, often times including other children whose parents did not engage with them in the classroom.

I recall one parent day where we had created a museum of artwork in the classroom and nearly all the parents were able to come except two. Without hesitation the Ashfords included those children with their own daughter and spent the morning making those children feel valued where as it could have been something quite different had they not taken that initiative.

Jim also took a great interest in both his children's education and daily took the time to ask me how they were doing, asked for suggestions they could do at home to challenge and enrich their children's lives and always took pride in every effort and success his children had in school.

It is not often that we as teachers are given an opportunity to have parents such as Jim Ashford that not only enrich their own children's lives but also enlighten the careers of us as educators by showing us what good effective parents is all about.

I appreciate this chance to give testimony and appreciate you taking the time to read this.

Mahalo and Aloha

Andria Pakele

From: Daniel Devaney [ddevaney@cades.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 12:40 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: JC1 / JDL / Friday, Aug. 2, 12 noon / Consideration and confirmation of James H. Ashford (Testimony of Dan Devaney)

Hearing of the COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Friday, August 2, 2013

TIME: 12:00 pm

JC 1

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write to recommend confirmation of James H. Ashford for the vacancy at the First Circuit District Court.

Jim and I have been friends and co-workers for more than 23 years. When our children were younger, we were actively involved with the YMCA Indian Princesses, a father-daughter activity program. He has served on our law firm's Summer Associate and Attorney Development Committees. He helped plan a hike along the 11-mile Kalalau trail and a campout in the valley, during which no one was lost or injured.

Jim conducts his life with integrity. Last year I spoke with a woman who was involved in a lawsuit. Jim was opposing counsel. Through no or little fault of their own, the woman and her husband did not fare well in the suit, yet she spoke positively of Jim's character. People often seek input from Jim on both legal and personal issues. He is a good listener and provides useful advice.

Jim would make an excellent addition to the Judiciary.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,
Dan Devaney
1000 Bishop Street, #1200
Honolulu, HI 96813

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July 31, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice- Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Hawai'i State Senate 27th Legislature Interim of 2013

Re: JC1, August 2, 2013 12pm Judicial nomination of James H. Ashford to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i

My name is Lance Leong. I am married to my wife, Andrea, for the last 22 years, and the proud father of three daughters. I am a distributor for the Star Advertiser for the last 24 years.

I first met James (Jim) Ashford, his wife Lisa, and his two daughter's Lauren and Ellen when we both enrolled our eldest daughter's at Queen Emma preschool. It was so ironic that both our daughter's name were "Lauren". We quickly became friends after spending many mornings and afternoons at the preschool sharing the joys and challenges of raising our daughters.

It was at Queen Emma preschool that I really got to know Jim and his family. We spent quality time being very involved in Parent Teacher Association, PTA. One year he was the president and I served as his vice president and the following year I was the president and he was my vice president. We both volunteered many hours fundraising, organizing Teacher Appreciation day, promoting child development seminars, promoting Family day, etc. Our school director was Susan Okoga.

We have maintained our friendship through the years attending birthday parties, exchanging Christmas cards, supporting our daughter's at their respective volleyball matches even though they played for different high school's and club teams, and now participating for Outrigger Canoe Club.

I am extremely confident that James Ashford will make an excellent District Court judge in the First Circuit and the people of the state of Hawai'i will benefit from his presence. Jim is a great listener who will be able to be fair in his decision making. He is very personable with a great sense of humor and the ability to laugh at himself. I am confident that anyone who comes through his courtroom will leave knowing that they were treated fairly and with respect, and the decision that was rendered was based on the facts presented.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this on behalf of James Ashford.

Mahalo,

Lance Leong

Subject: District Court of the First Circuit Judicial Nominee – James H. Ashford

Date: Friday, August 2, 2013

Place: Conference Room 016 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

James Ashford and I have known each other since 1996 as our daughters attended preschool together. His willingness and teamwork was evident when he learned that I was the only returning member of the PTA board. Jim volunteered to share the burdened, or more so, the honor, of serving on the board as my Vice President. His leadership abilities assisted that year's PTA through helping to improve the quality of the young student's play time at Queen Emma Preschool. Although I was the President of the board, Jim showed me how to listen to the parent's input and to weigh the pros and cons of their ideas. He also proved helpful in selecting the best option for both the children and the institution.

Jim is not only a hard-working leader and team player but also a dedicated family man, as he diligently provides for his family. What impresses me the most about Jim is the practical and down-to-earth nature he exemplifies by always putting the needs of others' over his own.

Aside from serving on Queen Emma Preschool's PTA board together, Jim and I were also involved with the YWCA's Indian Princess Program. This program gave fathers and daughters quality time together by doing various crafts and camping expeditions. I was able to witness Jim's "lighter" side and see how patient and fun-loving he was with all the girls.

My family experienced an unfortunate incident involving a dog that attacked our daughter when she was young. At the time, I sought Jim's legal input. He never told me to pursue or drop the incident, but he made me think about my daughter's involvement and how it might affect her should I had pursued to bring charges against the dog's owner. This showed me that Jim's concern was for my daughter's experience and her well-being rather than me trying to punish someone through our legal system.

Pablo Rodriguez



Date: July 30, 2013

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

Dear Sen. Hee and Sen. Shimabukuro:

I've known James H. Ashford (Jim) for half of my life since 1988 and it comes to no surprise to me that he has been nominated for District Court Judge. I know two others in Gerald Kibe and Clarence Pacarro and am glad to say that I know Jim much better and hope that you strongly consider my testimony.

If I may attempt a decent analogy: most people give positive restaurant reviews because "it's cheap" or "they give lots", or rave about a coworker without realizing that their positive viewpoints are because he/she is a good person. Though Jim has provided me with several insights in my past (not quite pro bono) my testimony is not based on him giving me a lot for cheap or being a good guy. He has consistently interpreted my situations from an unbiased vantage point and set my goal to always be to avoid litigation. He's always been honest and frank with a touch of empathy and I've been totally satisfied with the outcome of every single case. His honesty and frankness even carries onto the beach volleyball court where the emotions of competition often clouds one's judgment, but not for Jim.

If he were to be accepted to this new position I'd be extremely happy and proud for him and his family yet it wouldn't surprise me one bit. At work, at play, and in Life I've always known and expect Jim to do what Confucius has simply stated and that is, "To act accordingly."

Sincerely,

Walton S.K. Mew
Electrical Engineer and Tai Chi Teacher

Andria Pakele

From: Kevin Browne [kevinmary@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 10:58 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: Testimony For Confirmation of Judicial Nominee, James H. Ashford

Hearing: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, James H. Ashford, for a term of 6 years.

Date: Friday, August 2, 2013

Time: 12:00 p.m.

July 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing James H. Ashford, or "Jim" for the past 43 years. I am a close friend of his older brother and I'm also a friend of his family. I have watched Jim grow up from elementary school days through high school at Punahou, often attending his athletic events. I kept in touch with Jim after college and played volleyball with him and his friends on weekends, first at his parent's house in Kaneohe and then later in Kailua. I am acquainted with Jim's wife Lisa and his two daughters.

I know Jim Ashford to be dependable, responsible, honest and courteous. Jim is also very intelligent, capable and a dedicated family man. When I think of Jim, I think of the term "straight arrow".

Jim will not hesitate to help someone in need as my mother found out. She was having problems with a neighbor over a property line dispute and the neighbor was threatening her with legal action. My mother called Jim Ashford and Jim was able to settle the dispute amicably on both sides. My mother was forever grateful to Jim for helping her out of a very stressful situation.

Jim has lived most of his life in Hawaii and he would be a tremendous asset to our community and the State of Hawaii if he was confirmed. I highly recommend that Jim Ashford be confirmed to the District Court of the First Circuit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Browne
Retired HFD Fire Captain

808-235-8418

Andria Pakele

From: Vernessa Encarnacion [nessa@abotat.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 7:46 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimonial for James Ashford

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Friday, August 2, 2013
TIME: 12:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, JAMES H. ASHFORD, for a term of six years.

Testimonial for James Ashford:

James Ashford is an excellent lawyer. His professionalism and willingness to provide guidance and fairness contributed to the success of our case. His attention to detail helped the processing of paperwork go smoothly without any delays. He has proven his commitment meeting our specific needs. Mr. Ashford demonstrates a very positive approach to dealing with customers and a willing to assist them however possible.

Ruben and Vernessa Encarnacion

Andria Pakele

From: Matsumoto, Dean [Dean.Matsumoto@LibertyMutual.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 5:05 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR - Hearing August 2, 2013 - Judicial Nominee: James H. Ashford

To whom it may concern,

I have known James H. Ashford (Jim) for over 40 years. Our relationship has spanned most walks of life from adolescence into my adulthood. I have interacted with Jim both professionally and personally. I feel that I know Jim very well.

There are many examples as to how I have confided in Jim to seek his counsel on issues as benign as where the best snow skiing resorts are and as important as to where I will be sending my children to school.

I will share one in this testimonial:

My wife and I were looking for a pre-school for our first child. Jim's eldest child is three years older than my eldest child. I called Jim to discuss how he chose the pre-school for his child. Jim described to me the process in which he looked at the different pre-schools. He told me the priorities he used to make his ultimate decision. What I found to be very helpful in this discussion with Jim, is that he gave me his opinion. He told me what his priorities were and hence, what his biases were. He wasn't telling me what he thought I wanted to hear; there never seems to be a hidden agenda with Jim. He provided the basis as to how he made his decision which provided a basis for me to make my own decision.

I find Jim to be a very humble, honest and sincere man, with a wicked sense of humor.

Sincerely,

Dean-o Matsumoto

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Aiea, HI 96701
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