

**GM 2**

**LATE**

# MARR JONES & WANG

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

*Labor and Employment Law*

October 19, 2014

*Via e-mail (JDLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)*

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

**Re: Testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee  
Christine Kuriyama  
Hearing Date: Monday, October 20, 2014  
Hearing Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016**

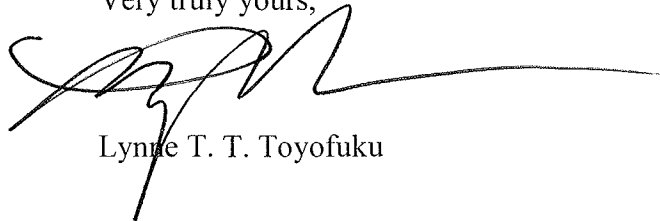
Dear Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to express to you my unqualified support for the confirmation of Christine Kuriyama to the position of Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit.

I have known Judge Kuriyama as a colleague and a friend for over twenty-five years. She is an experienced civil litigator and, over the past ten years, she has dedicated herself to public service and the community as a well-respected family court judge. She exemplifies the all the qualities of a trial judge; she is focused, intelligent, fair, decisive, diligence, organized, and thorough, and exhibits utmost integrity and professionalism in every aspect of her life.

I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Judge Kuriyama for the position of Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Lynne T. T. Toyofuku

LTTT/kn

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF  
**GM No. 2**

Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The First Circuit Court of the  
State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee  
**CHRISTINE KURIYAMA**  
For A Term To Expire In Ten Years

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Date: October 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.  
Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
**Testifier: MEI NAKAMOTO**

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

I apologize for not submitting testimony by the deadline. However, I was not aware of today's hearing until this past weekend. It is my hope that this testimony will be considered at this late date.

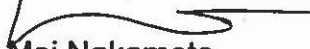
I support the appointment of CHRISTINE KURIYAMA as a judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.<sup>1</sup>

I have appeared before Judge Kuriyama for the past 16 years on the First Circuit Family Court calendars that handle paternity, child protection and restraining order cases. I have observed Judge Kuriyama develop from a *per diem* judge to an experienced trial judge and mentor of newly-appointed judges. She has unfailingly been prepared and respectful of the parties, counsel and Judiciary personnel. In addition, she has consistently demonstrated she has the necessary balance of intellect infused with compassion, decisiveness tempered by careful consideration of facts and the law, and gravitas with a sense of humor.

Judge Kuriyama's service to the Family Court will be missed, but Senate confirmation of her appointment will ensure the First Circuit Court will continue to serve the community with capable and dedicated judges.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or if I can assist the Committee in any way.

Sincerely,

  
Mei Nakamoto  
[mei@nakamotolaw.com](mailto:mei@nakamotolaw.com)  
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1020  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
695-6255

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<sup>1</sup> As this Committee knows, my husband, Lawrence M. Reifurth, is a judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals. My desire to comment on the Senate's consideration of Judge Kuriyama is mine, and mine alone, and reflects only my opinions. My husband did not influence my decision to submit any testimony or my opinion of Judge Kuriyama.



**Robert S. Harrison**  
Chairman, President and CEO

October 20, 2014

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senate District 23  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Judge Christine Kuriyama –  
Circuit Court Judicial Nominee

Dear Senator Hee,

Please accept this letter in support of Judge Christine Kuriyama's nomination as a State Circuit Court judge. I have known Judge Kuriyama for many years and recommend her to you as an individual of outstanding character and integrity. She is an experienced Family Court judge who is committed to public service and cares deeply about the welfare of our community.

Judge Kuriyama is a dedicated and respected jurist, having served for over a decade on the bench. She is also keenly aware of the limitations of a courtroom, spending countless hours on improving the lives of abused and neglected children outside of the courtroom, including her work as co-chair of the Chapter 587A Task Force. I have always known her to be extremely humble and a genuinely good human being.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Judge Christine Kuriyama's appointment to the Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Harrison".

Robert S. Harrison  
*Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer*