

JC 1

Testimony

From: [Leighton K. Oshima](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: The nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Third Circuit.
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:37:46 AM

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am forwarding a statement of support for Margaret Masunaga from Mazie K. Hirono (below). Thank you, Leighton

Leighton K. Oshima, Esq.
Law Office of Leighton K. Oshima
841 Bishop Street, Suite 2000
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 538-0040
Fax: (808) 599-3620

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Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support Margaret Masunaga's appointment to the position of District Judge, Third Circuit.

I have known Margaret for over 15 years and was delighted to learn of her nomination to the District Court by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald. I believe she can not only perform the job, but do it wisely and compassionately, with her knowledge and understanding of the people of the Big Island.

Judges--especially those who preside at the district court, often referred to as the "people's court"--should not only have the appropriate legal background, but the patience, empathy, and willingness to listen to the people who appear before them which often is their first encounter with a judge and our court system. Margaret has these attributes. She has the legal background which resulted in Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination and also has the proper judicial temperament.

Margaret's commitment to public service is clearly evident in the numerous positions of leadership and responsibility she has assumed in the public sector. She is a community volunteer in a number of programs and projects. She is one of those all too rare individuals who tackles a job with enthusiasm, commitment, and a willingness to learn and engage with others. Through the years that I have known her, Margaret's desire to positively affect her community has not waned.

Finally, Margaret truly likes people, all kinds of people. While perhaps an unusual trait to note to the committee, I believe it enables her to sincerely listen to those diverse individuals who come before her and, thus, to decide firmly and wisely.

I ask the committee to give favorable consideration to this nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Mazie K. Hirono



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

MARGARET K. MASUNAGA
District Court Judge, Third Circuit

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

From: Calvin E. Young
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, October 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga for the position of District Court Judge, Third Circuit.

On October 9th, after learning that Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald had nominated Ms. Masunaga to the bench, the HSBA began its judicial nomination review process. The HSBA membership was notified of the nomination and was asked to comment. Included in this email transmission were the qualification criteria used for the nomination review process: integrity & diligence, legal knowledge & ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and the ability to fulfill the responsibilities & duties required of the position; the assurance of confidentiality and a deadline to submit their comments no later than October 13th.

Attorneys who submitted less than positive observations were contacted by the Executive Director and were encouraged to provide additional elaboration or clarifying information. These attorneys were again assured of confidentiality unless disclosure of their identity was authorized.

Simultaneous to these actions, I appointed a subcommittee of three (3) HSBA Board members to review the comments received (identifying information is removed unless the attorney authorized disclosure); contact references provided by the nominee and others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications; and review documentation provided by the nominee.

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TESTIMONY

Nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga

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I scheduled a Special HSBA Board meeting to review the judicial nominations of Ms. Masunaga, as well as the nominations of Judge Kuriyama and Mr. Crabtree for October 16th and to interview the respective nominees.

Prior to the October 16th Board meeting, the HSBA Executive Director and I met with Ms. Masunaga at 2:00 p.m. on October 15th to discuss the HSBA nomination procedure and to apprise her of any less than positive concerns or issues raised by responding HSBA members. A document noting the HSBA qualification review criteria and any qualification criteria in question was provided to Ms. Masunaga.

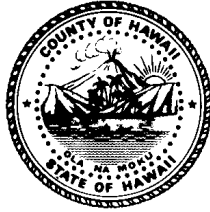
On October 16th the full HSBA Board met to review materials submitted by Ms. Masunaga and others as well as documentation prepared by the subcommittee, and to conduct the interview of Ms. Masunaga.

The Board considered the nominee's exemplary history of public service which includes service to the HSBA, the West Hawaii Bar Association and the American Bar Association. The Board further considered the absence of any question regarding the nominee's integrity, temperament, health and financial responsibility.

However, based upon its investigation (including the consistency of comments received from HSBA members) and interview of the nominee, the HSBA Board seriously questions the nominee's legal knowledge, diligence, ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position, and professional experience in legal practice and in civil and criminal proceedings and trials. Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds Margaret K. Masunaga to be unqualified for the position of District Court Judge, Third Circuit.

The HSBA Board thanks you for the opportunity to present its rating for this nominee.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
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

October 17, 2014

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Hee and Committee Members:

Mahalo you for this opportunity to strongly support the confirmation of Margaret K. Masunaga to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Margaret is eminently qualified for the District Court judgeship position in the Third Circuit. After graduating from University of California Berkeley, the top rated public university in the country and McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific, she went on to practice law in the corporate and government sectors. Margaret has spent over three decades using her legal experience and expertise to serve our island community. Much of that time was spent as a loyal public servant to the County of Hawai'i. We could count on Margaret to do the right thing, and make fair and wise decisions.

What makes Margaret uniquely qualified for this position is her years of volunteer service to our community. She has served tirelessly on countless boards and community based organizations. She is a gold recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award and in 2014 received the ABA Nelson Award for outstanding contribution to the ABA by a government lawyer. While she has received local and national recognition for her service, she remains humble and continues to tirelessly serve our community.

Honorable Clayton Hee
October 17, 2014
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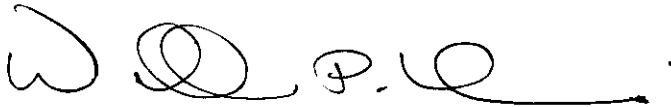
Margaret has been part of the West Hawai'i community since 1979 when she married her husband Gail, a third generation Kona coffee farmer and owner of Masunaga farms in Captain Cook.

With her deep understanding of our community and legal experience, she will listen, use common sense, and decide cases in a fair and efficient manner. Margaret has the energy and experience in moving at a fast pace. She is capable of thinking on her feet and will never forget a person's constitutional rights of due process.

We urge you to confirm Margaret Masunaga as the next District Court Judge in the Third Circuit.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William P. Kenoi', followed by a horizontal line.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc: mitchellroth@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 1:34:00 PM
Attachments: [20141018132123978.pdf](#)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/18/2014

Testimony for on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitch Roth	Hawaii County Prosecutors Office	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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CATHERINE BETTS, JD

Email: Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at: humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5757
FAX: 808-586-5756

October 17, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, JC1, Margaret Masunaga

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports the judicial confirmation of Margaret Masunaga to the District Court of the Third Circuit. Ms. Masunaga has been active with the State Commission and the Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women for many years. Throughout those years, the Commission has known her to be honest and ethical, with the highest level of integrity.

Our bench must reflect Hawaii's diversity in order to effectuate true justice. Currently, only 41% of our judges are female. The gender disparity in appointments is even more striking in neighbor island circuits. Ms. Masunaga cares about the well being of our community. She is thoughtful and hardworking and would make an excellent jurist. The Commission wholeheartedly supports her confirmation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

October 16, 2014

Via Email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chief Clayton Hee and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC1
Nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee

I would highly recommend your confirmation of Margaret K. Masunaga to the District Court, State of Hawaii.

Margaret has the ability to carefully listen, critically analyze and effectively communicate ideas and legal positions. She works well with others and is always regarded as a leader. Her people skills and legal skills, in combination, prove a solid foundation to become an excellent jurist. She has had a varied professional experience, which exposed her to many different people and subject matters. This diverse experience allows her to understand and appreciate differing perspectives.

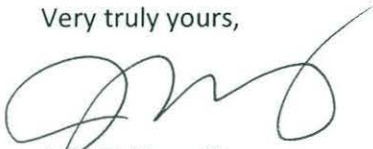
Margaret has an excellent temperament. She has been in many highly charged situations and has always maintained her composure and acted professionally. She is respectful to all and treats everyone with dignity.

She has the highest reputation for honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity and citizenship. This is exhibited by the many community awards which she has received.

If appointed, she will become a well recognized and well respected member of the Judiciary. Her intellect, combined with her pleasant personality and work ethic, will impress the public and members of the Judiciary. Her willingness to participate and candidly express her views will result in her being asked to assume leadership positions within the Judiciary.

Thank you for allowing me to share my highest recommendation.

Very truly yours,



John T. Komeiji
Sr. Vice President & General Counsel

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MARVIN S. C. DANG
JASON M. OLIVER
SUMMER OKADA
PAUL T. HOLTROP
RENEE M. FURUTA
SHELBY TAGUMA

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 4109
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812-4109

TELEPHONE: (808) 521-8521
FAX: (808) 521-8522
E-MAIL: dangm@aloha.net
INTERNET: www.marvindanglaw.com

October 20, 2014

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 1 - Consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee MARGARET K. MASUNAGA to the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m.

I am Marvin Dang, an attorney in Honolulu. I strongly support the confirmation of the judicial nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga to be a District Court Judge in the Third Circuit.

I have known Ms. Masunaga for over 10 years. Her legal background is exemplary. She has 26 years of experience as an attorney. She has worked in both private practice (Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel) and government (State and County) settings.

Ms. Masunaga and I have been involved together in activities of the American Bar Association and the Hawaii State Bar Association. I have attended many bar association meetings with her, including some in Washington, D.C. where we urged members of the Hawaii congressional delegation to support adequate federal funding of the Legal Services Corporation (of which the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is a beneficiary). On numerous occasions, I have witnessed her leadership and decisionmaking abilities.


Ms. Masunaga is a well-respected bar association leader. In August of this year, I was at a ceremony in Boston where she received the 2014 Nelson Award from the American Bar Association's Government & Public Sector Lawyers Division. I understand that Georgia attorney Linda Klein, who will be President-elect of the American Bar Association in 2015-2016, is strongly supportive of Ms. Masunaga's nomination for this judicial position.

I have a favorable opinion of Ms. Masunaga's temperament. She can conduct herself appropriately without losing her composure. She respects the opinions of others. And, she is fair.

Ms. Masunaga's general reputation in the community is that she is honest, is trustworthy, has a high moral character, has integrity, and is a good citizen. Having known her for over 10 years, my personal opinion of her is the same as her general reputation.

I have been an attorney for 36 years since 1978. From that perspective, I can state that Ms. Masunaga has the qualities needed for the position of Judge of the District Court of the State of Hawaii: integrity, legal ability, intelligence, fairness, diligence, decisiveness, and judicial temperament. These characteristics, together with her legal experience, make her highly qualified for the position.

Accordingly, I urge your favorable consideration of Ms. Masunaga's nomination. Thank you.


MARVIN S.C. DANG

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

FIRST HAWAIIAN CENTER, SUITE 1600 • 999 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3196
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

TELEPHONE (808) 547-5600 • FAX (808) 547-5880
info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

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SCOTT M. PRANGE

COUNSEL:
JACQUELINE L.S. EARLE
LISA T. REDELL
ROBERT J. HACKMAN
TERESA A. O'CONNELL
ELIZABETH H. LEE

OF COUNSEL:
MARTIN ANDERSON
CONRAD M. WEISER
RONALD H. W. LUM

MARSHALL M. GOODSILL
(1916-2004)
WILLIAM F. QUINN
(1919-2006)
RICHARD E. STIFEL
(1920-1993)

October 17, 2014

VIA EMAIL: JDLTESTIMONY@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **JC 1-** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, **MARGARET K. MASUNAGA**, for a term to expire in six years
Hearing: Monday, October 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., Room 016

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments to your Committee. I write in strong support of the nomination of Margaret Kuroka Masunaga for the position of District Court Judge for the Third Circuit.

I am a partner at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. I have known Ms. Masunaga since she joined Goodsill in 1987, and while I worked in the Honolulu office, I had the opportunity to know her work and to talk with the partners of the Kona office about her work. I have followed with admiration her career after leaving Goodsill. Ms. Masunaga has a wealth of legal experience. There is no question that she is an extremely capable attorney and highly qualified to be a District Court Judge.

I am deeply disturbed by yet another "unqualified" determination from the Hawaii State Bar Association. I am stunned that an attorney with decades of legal experience can be found lacking in "professional experience in legal practice and in civil and criminal proceedings and trials."

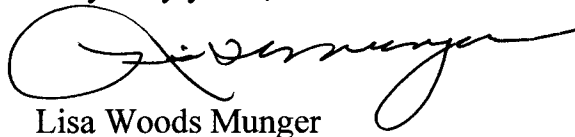
The Honorable Clayton Hee
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro
October 17, 2014
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As Ms. Masunaga's practice has been in civil matters, perhaps it is her lack of criminal law experience that troubled the Bar Association. I do not think her lack of criminal law experience should in any way disqualify her from the District Court. I am reminded of another Goodsill associate, in fact someone who was a Goodsill associate around the same time that Ms. Masunaga was. When this associate applied for and was selected to be a District Court Judge, she had no criminal law experience. She had been a Goodsill associate, an in-house counsel, and law school professor. But this associate had what Ms. Masunaga has, the desire and the dedication to learn a new area of law. Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna of our Supreme Court has ably demonstrated that a lack of criminal law experience is no impediment to a successful judicial career.

I would like to thank Chief Justice Recktenwald for his decision to nominate Ms. Masunaga for this position. Perhaps our Chief Justice knows better than others in our profession that the District Court is the people's court. I suspect that more of our citizens interact with its judges than the judges of any other court. As a result, District Court judges are the face of the judiciary and the legal profession to the community. Ms. Masunaga has the integrity and exactly the right temperament for this position. I urge you to support this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Woods Munger", with a large, stylized initial "L" and "M".

Lisa Woods Munger

From: [Lee Mattingly](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Margaret Masunaga
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:02:42 PM

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

In the short time that I have known Margaret Masunaga I would respectfully be unable to support her appointment as Kona District Judge. Although she has served for considerable number of years in the information capacity of the Kids First Program, she is quite unknowledgable about proper laws that govern privacy, children's rights and basic legal skills. Her learning curve to sit as district Judge would be far too great and a disservice to the people of Kona.

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

--

Respectfully,

Lee Mattingly
Law Office of Lee Mattingly
Hawaii State Bar No. 7705
77-6400 Nalani Street Suite 202 (next to French Restaurant)
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

808-782-3291
808-443-0063 fax

Texas State Bar 45003956
Austin, Texas
512/797-7174
512/524-3733 fax

Austin 512/797-7174
Hawaii 808/782-3291

<http://www.leemattinglylaw.com>
lee@leemattinglylaw.com



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

October 17, 2014

VIA TELEFAX

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii Senate
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga to the
District Court of the Third circuit, State of Hawai'i

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Margaret Masunaga to serve on the District Court of the Third Circuit of the State of Hawai'i.

I have been practicing law in this State for 31 years. During that time, I have come to know Ms. Masunaga both professionally and personally. I know well Ms. Masunaga's professional skills, her ethics and her temperament. During the same 31 year period, I have appeared in District Court over a hundred times, appearing before numerous different district judges. I feel that my experience gives me a good understanding of the demands that are placed on our district judges.

I can say without hesitation that Ms. Masunaga is well qualified to serve on the District Court bench. She is a smart and skilled lawyer, she is absolutely ethical and she has the temperament to deal fairly and reasonably with the kinds of matters that come before our district courts. I urge you to confirm her nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lex R. Smith'.

LEX R. SMITH
for

KOBAYASHI, SUGITA & GODA

cc: Hawaii State Bar Association



Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers
PO Box 1162
Captain Cook, Hi. 96704

10-18-14

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Ms Margaret Masunaga's appointment to the Judiciary. I have known Ms Masunaga for more than 20 years through various community groups and our Hongwanji temple as well as with events in Kona. Her support of worthy causes, various candidates and dedication to her daily assignments from employers is well known in our community. She has incredible time management skills in order to be involved in helping the community to this level.

It would be a considerable asset to Kona and the Big Island have Ms Masunaga on the bench.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Love". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and last name "Love" clearly distinguishable.

Ken Love
Executive Director
Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers

From: [Alan Van Etten](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: The nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge in Hilo.
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 12:50:26 PM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge in Hilo.

I have known Margaret for many years, in connection with the American Bar Association. She is currently Hawaii's delegate to the ABA Nominating Committee, which selects ABA officers. I supported her when she ran for that position, because of her exemplary history of public service which includes service to the HSBA and the West Hawaii Bar Association, as well as her integrity and temperament. She has boundless energy and devotion to the public good.

I was informed, earlier today, that the HSBA has deemed her to be not qualified, not because of her very positive qualities listed above, but because of her legal knowledge. I have no knowledge of her legal knowledge, as I practice on Oahu and she practices on the Big Island. We have never had cases together; that is, she has never represented any party or witness in any case in which I represented a party or was an expert witness, and vice versa. I do note, however, that she seems quite intelligent and she was hired by one of the most discriminating hiring law firms in the state, Goodsell Anderson Quinn & Stifel, LLP, , and worked for that firm for the first years of her practice in the State.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Alan

Alan Van Etten
Deeley King Pang & Van Etten
810 Richards St.
Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4732
Telephone - Direct (808) 533-1754
Telephone - Receptionist (808) 533-1751
Cellphone: (808) 371-3765
Direct Fax: (808) 369-8272
Office Facsimile: (808) 599-2908
ave@dkpylaw.com

From: [Ken Obenski](#)
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Appointment
Date: Friday, October 10, 2014 11:58:27 AM

87-3217 Carissa Rd

Captain Cook HI 96704

808 987 8431

October 10, 2014

Aloha Senator Hee

I was very pleased to hear of Margaret Masunaga's appointment to the bench. I have known her professionally for several years and am confident she will bring honor and fairness to the court.

Kenneth S Obenski PE

From: [Victoria Kalman](#)
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Judicial Appointment
Date: Saturday, October 11, 2014 11:36:25 AM

To:
The Hon. Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Dear Senator Hee:

It is my privilege and honor to write to you in support of Third Circuit Judicial Nominee, Margaret K. Masunaga. I respectfully urge the committee to cast an approving vote on behalf of Ms. Masunaga.

Speaking as a former litigator who has had the privilege of practicing here in Hawaii, it is my humble opinion that Margaret Masunaga is everything one hopes for in a judge. She is fiercely ethical; embraces all elements of our diverse community; has a history of putting service to her community before self-interest; is intellectually rigorous in her analysis of issues presented; and is certainly not one to shy away from hard work or difficult decisions. She is organized, accomplishing mountains of work on short timelines; she is well trained in Hawaii law and procedure, and as importantly, stays abreast of emerging trends in our profession at the national level through her public service as our representative to the American Bar Association. Margaret is well respected in the local community, and if approved, I am confident she will be even handed and respectful in her demeanor to all those who come before her, whether as a party or party-representative. I am confident she will continue to work toward a more competent and collegial bar and that she will continue to support the continuing education of members of the bar.

Finally, Margaret is committed to the West Hawaii community. She is not "here today and gone tomorrow." She is here for the long haul with deep ties to Hawaii. I have perfect confidence that if her selection is approved, she will competently serve with honor, dignity, and diligence.

Respectfully,

Victoria L. Kalman, Esq., Retired
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

October 15, 2014

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Email: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Margaret Masunaga
District Court Judge Nominee for Third Circuit

Dear Senator Hee and Judiciary Committee Members:

I would like to express my strong support for Margaret Masunaga as a District Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit.

I have known Margaret professionally since 2011, when I was appointed as the Director of the state Office of Information Practices. In my dealings with her, Margaret clearly evidences a good understanding of Hawaii's open government laws and desire to properly comply with the laws. In addition to her impressive legal and administrative work experience, Margaret has won many well-deserved awards for her extensive community involvement and pro bono services.

While the County would be losing a dedicated attorney well versed in the open government laws, it would be in the public's greater interest to have Margaret appointed to the bench where she can fairly and reasonably enforce all laws. Margaret possesses the wisdom, integrity, and temperament to be a competent and respected judge, and I hope that you will confirm her appointment to serve as a District Court Judge for the Third Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Kakazu Park". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHERYL KAKAZU PARK
CherylKakazuPark@gmail.com

From: [Bob Borns](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Margaret Masunaga for Third Circuit District Judge
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014 1:13:24 PM

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2014
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
NOTICE OF MEETING
DATE: Monday, October 20, 2014
TIME: 11:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY FOR JC1: Nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga for Third Circuit District Judge

Dear Chairman Hee and the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in full support of confirmation of attorney Margaret Masunaga as District Judge for the 3rd Circuit of Hawaii.

I am a practicing attorney in Hawaii and past president of the West Hawaii Bar Association. I have been active in the bar since I moved to Kona 11 years ago and was fortunate to have Margaret introduce me to the local attorneys, judges and legal community and be my mentor.

I believe that Margaret has outstanding qualifications to be our next District Court judge. She is knowledgeable of the law and our community. I believe that she has the highest standards of integrity in both her professional and personal life. She is a good listener but will be able to ask the tough questions to get to the heart of the issue before the court. She is fair and open minded and ethical in the way she conducts herself both professionally and personally.

Margaret has proven her dedication to the legal and local community through her contributions, including the Kids First program and national ABA work. I believe that she will continue to give back to the community as a judge.

In summary, I give my unrestricted full support to her nomination and confirmation as our newest 3rd circuit district court judge. Thank you for your time.

Bob Borns
Attorney at Law
Kailua-Kona

Laura Guluzzy, M.A. Gerontologist
Consultant/Caregiver Author
P.O. Box 1222, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745
Residence: 75-202 Malulani Drive, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Emails: writerlsq@aol.com or: writerlsq@gmail.com Website: www.sagewiselaura.com
Office: 808-326-2100 Cell: 650-242-6000 Home: 808-327-2100

October 17, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair-Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate, The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, Interim of 2014
The Committee at: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Room 407, State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC 1, First Special Session of 2014 to convene on Wednesday, October 22, 2014-Consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga, for a term to expire in six years.

Dear Senator Hee and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

This letter is in consideration of the appointment for District Court of the Third Circuit nominee, Margaret K. Masunaga, JD, a highly professional, extremely ethical, and very effective attorney, with excellent management skills. I heartily recommend her, as I have known her for nearly 14 years. We met in 2000 when I became interested in serving on Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women, where we would eventually serve together for several years, and became Chair. She was always even-handed and fair in the course of decisions made, and that extended to her personal life. We became friends. I was always impressed with how she reared her daughters, explaining things to them so they could understand, bringing them to events with her so they would become educated and exposed to real life situations. One of them has served in the White House and another, an educational stay in Japan. She is grounded in a good marriage with her husband, Gail Masunaga, a coffee farmer, and enjoys a warm family relationship.

Margaret's experience with the County of Hawaii, first in the Planning Department, currently as a civil attorney, and with the West Hawaii Bar Association, has given her keen insight into the County of Hawaii and internal/external workings of both. That experience was evident when I recently worked with her on our successful Boomer Women Aging Well event co-sponsored by Hawaii County Office of Aging (a department she oversees), Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women, and the West Hawaii Bar Association, and with assistance from Kona Business and Professional Women. Her work representing the Mayor at the Kona Crime Prevention Committee Monthly meetings that we both attend, has given her first-hand police knowledge of our real crime situations. Serving as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii gave Margaret wonderful experience with diverse populations that would be utilized on the bench. My husband, Don Guluzzy, a retired 32-year City Manager, joins with me, that Hawaii and the court would benefit from appointing Margaret K. Masunaga, JD, and that she has the experience, knowledge, and management skills to handle the busy calendar and serve excellently as Judge in either court. Her decisions are weighed, balanced, fair. Mahalo.

Kindest regards with warmest Aloha,

Laura Guluzzy

Colette Masunaga
235 2nd St NE, #325
Washington, DC 2002
(808)345-5562

colette.masunaga@gmail.com

October 17, 2014

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of my mother, Margaret K. Masunaga, for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit. The last time I submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor was for Judge Elizabeth Strance in 2005. I realize that my opinion means little in my mother's consideration because I am her daughter, however I am compelled to write to you my most earnest opinion of her, as she is the reason I not only breathe life but rather, live it.

If there is one thing that I have learned in my 23 years of life, it is that our growth as individuals never stops, that if willing, one has the power to grow and build upon their morality, humility, and intelligence. Growth that is only possible through compassion, learning from others, and having the willingness to improve upon who we are as people. My mother is the embodiment of such growth. She is the person she is today because of her humble approach to life, open to new experiences and opportunity, never too lofty for any task. Her legal experience exceeds two decades worth of learning, in the Kona community that I call home and beyond.

Since I have entered into adulthood, I have been on a steep learning curve with my mother to guide me. While I went through college, paying taxes for the first time, working two jobs, and being a full-time student at the University of California Davis, my mother was always there, leading by example. She has learned and achieved so much in the past five years, and in many ways my own growth has occurred alongside hers. My mother continues to take on new challenges, going above and beyond what is expected of her, she has reached new heights every step of the way. It is from her, that I have learned to always work hard and persevere when faced new hurdles. That being humble and respecting others, goes a lot further than indulging in one's own self-accomplishments. Such principles have guided me through my first year out of college, from the White House to the halls of our Nation's capitol. Every day I remind myself of the privilege I have, being born to loving, hardworking parents from modest backgrounds, whose dedication to family, morality, and humility have been the pillars in my upbringing.

I have had the opportunity to do many things in my life thus far. I have lived in Thailand, studied in Japan, interned at the White House, and work for a Member of Congress, but all these things are not due to my own ambition or self-serving interests, it is because of the people in life, like my mother, whose belief in my ability has been the driving force in my faith and willingness

to attempt new challenges and meet them. My mother, with her positive attitude and humble warmth, is the shining example of what it means to live life. As you consider her to the bench of the District Court of the Third Circuit, I hope my words bring you deeper understanding into whom Margaret K. Masunaga is, as a mother, lawyer, community member, and friend.

Sincerely,

Colette Mira Masunaga

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Clayton Hee
Senatory Maile S. L. Shimabukuro

Submitting testimony for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of
the Third Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Judicial Nominee MARGARET K.
MASUNAGA, for a term to expire in six years (JC-1).

Date: Monday, October 20, 2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.

MARGARET K. MASUNAGA

I have known Margaret Masunaga for approximately eight (8) years and
have observed her in a variety of situations and circumstances.

Ms. Masunaga:

- Consistently exhibits the traits of integrity, candor, high energy, and superior work ethic;
- possesses the ability to communicate effectively with individuals of all ages and with all levels of life experiences;
- Is firm but fair;
- Is even tempered and "unflappable".

Respectfully Submitted,


George J. Haridgis

Oct 16, 2014
Date

78-110 Holua Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Chang, Corlis J.](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Measure JC-1
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 1:49:49 PM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Measure JC-1 – Consideration of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge – Kona

Hearing Date: Monday, October 20, 2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Dear Committee:

I am honored to write a letter of support for Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge-Kona. I have known Margaret since 1987 when we were both associates at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. I had transferred from a mainland firm and spent 6 weeks in the Kona office of Goodsill where Margaret was an associate. Margaret welcomed me as the “new kid” and it was apparent to me at that time what a hard and diligent worker she was, and how she was becoming an integral part of the Kona community.

Margaret has a breadth of experience that would serve her well as a judge—working in private practice, in the public sector as a Deputy Corp. Counsel for West Hawaii, in the Department of the Attorney General, as a Deputy Director of Planning, and most recently in the Office of the Corporation Counsel in Kailua-Kona. Moreover, Margaret has also actively participated in the American Bar Association, proudly representing our State as Hawaii’s Delegate.

Besides her legal affiliations, Margaret has served her community by actively participating in her church, schools (Konawaena Middle and High) and the Hawaii Community Foundation. Who better to serve as a Judge than someone who knows the legal system as well as the community at large?

Most importantly, Margaret is a person of unimpeachable character and the highest integrity. She has amply demonstrated her commitment to serve the public and the Kona community would be fortunate to have her as a District Court judge.

I urge the committee to appoint Margaret Masunaga to the bench.

Sincerely,

Corlis J. Chang

Corlis J. Chang

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

First Hawaiian Center / Suite 1600 / 999 Bishop Street / Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
P. (808) 547-5677 / F. (808) 547-5880

E. cchang@goodsill.com
www.goodsill.com

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GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

AUDREY E. J. NG

FIRST HAWAIIAN CENTER, SUITE 1600 • 999 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3196
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

TELEPHONE (808) 547-5600 • FAX (808) 547-5880
info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

DIRECT DIAL:
(808) 547-5681

INTERNET:
ang@goodsill.com

October 17, 2014

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

Re: **JC 1**
Margaret K. Masunaga
Judicial Nominee for District Court of the Third Circuit
Monday, October 20, 2014
11:00 am
Conference Room 016

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

I write in support of the confirmation of Margaret K. Masunaga to the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Margaret since 1987 when she joined Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel. She worked in our Honolulu office for about a year before she moved to our firm's office in Kona.

Margaret Masunaga would be an excellent District Court judge. She has shown through her work at the Corporation Counsel's office that she can give legal advice that is quick and decisive yet reasoned and thoughtful. Her work in the family law area showed that she can handle a large volume of cases, including many that were fast-paced and involved difficult personalities and situations. Ms. Masunaga has shown that she can communicate effectively with people from all segments of the community, which is valuable in such a position as District Court judge. Ms. Masunaga has demonstrated a strong work ethic, people skills, intelligence, and compassion, all of which are necessary to serve successfully as a judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,



Audrey E. J. Ng

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

LISA A. BAIL

FIRST HAWAIIAN CENTER, SUITE 1600 • 999 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3196
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

TELEPHONE (808) 547-5600 • FAX (808) 547-5880
info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

DIRECT DIAL:
(808) 547-5787

INTERNET:
lbail@goodsill.com

October 17, 2014

VIA EMAIL: JDLTESTIMONY@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **JC 1-** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, MARGARET K. MASUNAGA, for a term to expire in six years
Hearing: Monday, October 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., Room 016

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

This letter is to express my support, as a member of the Hawaii State Bar practicing in Hawaii for 21 years, for the appointment of Ms. Masunaga as Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit (County of Hawaii). I know Ms. Masunaga to be hard working and diligent in her capacity as American Bar Association (ABA) State Delegate for Hawaii, a position she has held since 2009. In this role, she has served as a representative of all the members of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and we are grateful for her service.

Ms. Masunaga graduated from the University of California at Berkley and obtained her law degree from McGeorge School of Law. She then worked here at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP ("Goodsill") as an associate in general practice and litigation. I regret that I was never able to work directly with Ms. Masunaga here at Goodsill because she left the firm for the Office of the Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawaii before I began working at Goodsill shortly thereafter. I understand from those who worked with her that she did excellent work for Goodsill's clients.

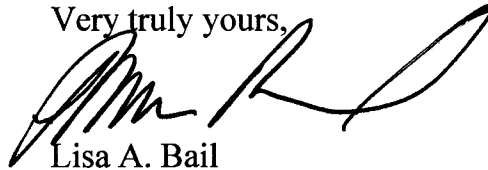
I respectfully submit that the breadth of Ms. Masunaga's experience is what makes her uniquely qualified to serve as judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro
October 17, 2014
Page 2

In addition to her four years with our firm, she was a caseworker with United States Senator Hayakawa in California, worked as a law clerk for Sacramento City Counsel, served as Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawaii, worked as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, was the Deputy Director for the County of Hawaii Plannign Department, and was the Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawaii Office of the Corporation Counsel. Her background with a wide variety of legal matters, clients and agencies therefore gives her a well informed and broad understanding of legal issues in our community.

Ms. Masunaga has my strong support to serve as a judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa A. Bail', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lisa A. Bail

Megan Mitchell
P. O. Box 583
Kealahou, HI 96750

October 17, 2014

The Honorable Chair Clayton Hee
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for Margaret Masunaga

Dear Chair Hee,

I have known Margaret Masunaga for almost eight years and have enjoyed every minute of it. I met her when she began working for the County of Hawai'i.

Margaret has a lot of focused energy. She expresses this through her work, through devotion to her family, and very importantly, through her volunteer efforts in many different venues. Margaret has spent countless hours dedicated to the betterment of our island community. Her leadership roles have healed families and educated our youth. Time and time again I see people seeking her wisdom and advice for their personal or business matters. If something needs to get done, Margaret will do it.

I work for county government at a reception desk that assists the public with their problems. Margaret helps to streamline the office by always letting me know where she is and when I can expect her back; she is cheerful and knows how to communicate with staff. When she is "under the gun" she gives me a heads up and that keeps the office working well, so we all can accomplish our different tasks.

Margaret supports the success of others. She's a nurturer at heart and tries to bring out the best in others. I believe she has both the strength and compassion for the job.

For all these and many other reasons, I believe it would be a boon for the island community to have Margaret as one of our judges.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,


Megan Mitchell

From: joekonaiiii@gmail.com on behalf of [Joseph Fagundes, III](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the nomination of Margaret Masunaga
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:43:03 PM

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony concerning the Chief Justice's nomination of Margaret Masunaga to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Margaret has always been a fine attorney, a fair and generous human being, a person of high intelligence and of good moral character.

I believe that Margaret has the ability to be a fine District Court Judge. I have practiced law in this State for over 30 years and in that time I have watched many attorneys from the public sector appointed to the bench. Some of those appointments have included drastically under qualified candidates. Margaret is not such an under-qualified candidate, although she will probably have some on the job training as it relates to civil trial matters. Such on the job training has been pretty standard for judicial appointees throughout my experience.

Feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Respectfully,
Joseph Fagundes, III

--



From: [Kathryn Matayoshi](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Margaret Masunaga's appointment
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 6:24:06 PM

I am pleased to submit my personal support for Margaret Masunaga's appointment to the District Court, Third Circuit. I have known Margaret for almost 30 years, since our early days practicing law at Goodsell Anderson Quinn & Stifel. She has been a person of unquestionable commitment to the community and to doing what is right and fair.

Moreover, she is someone who takes the time to listen, to connect with people and understand not only the issues, the law and the legal analysis, but also the underlying human element in every conflict that is at the heart of a matter brought to our judicial system. I think this trait is of particular importance in the District Court, which touches and resolves issues faced by so many people in our community, on both civil and criminal matters.

No one can question, also, her commitment and contributions to the practice of law, through not only her active participation in the Hawaii bar, but also through her work on the national level. Throughout her very busy career, she has continued that strong commitment to equality and justice. We need people with her integrity, commitment, experience and heart on the bench.

In short, I fully support my colleague and friend, Margaret Masunaga, and believe she will be a wonderful judge for the District Court of the Third Circuit.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: gary@grimmerhawaiiaw.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 9:50:05 AM

JC1

Submitted on: 10/18/2014

Testimony for on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary G. Grimmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have read the HSBA not qualified position on Margaret Masunaga for insufficient legal ability. My personal experience with Margaret is to the contrary. She represents the Windward Planning Commission of the County of Hawaii on a complicated citizen intervenor appeal from its Decision and Order granting my client Hu Honua Bioenergy LLC's Amended SMA permit. The record on appeal to the Third Circuit Court, and now to the ICA, is 4000 plus pages and intervenors/appellants raise dozens of points on appeal. Margaret has shown a good grasp of the legal issues and outstanding ability to advocate her clients' positions. Judge Nakamura of the Third Circuit Court already affirmed the Commission's D & O. I think she is clearly qualified to be affirmed as a District Court Judge.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: ll_martin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 9:59:25 AM

JC1

Submitted on: 10/18/2014

Testimony for on Oct 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laureen L. Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I support the confirmation of Margaret Masunaga for District Court Judge. I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Masunaga and I know first hand that she is very compassionate, kind, intelligent and hard working. She is not arrogant and is not afraid to admit when she does not know the answer. Instead, she seeks out the advice of others so that she can become knowledgeable. She is always very appreciative of any advice I have given. In addition, she often works late and I have received numerous phone calls and emails from her well after normal working hours. If given the opportunity, Margaret Masunaga would make an excellent District Court judge. I hope you will support her confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Ann Kemp](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Margaret Masunaga Testimony in Support
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 10:37:28 AM

Dear Honorable Judiciary and Labor Committee Members

I have had the pleasure of working with Margaret Masunaga on an appeal of a permit issued by the County of Hawaii Planning Commission. I found her to be extremely knowledgeable on administrative procedure and appeals, court rules and briefing requirements. In addition, she demonstrated extensive knowledge of the substantive requirements to support issuance of the contested permit. My personal observations of her do not comport with the HSBA's rating of her. I strongly support her confirmation as judge, District Court of the Third Circuit.

Ann C. Kemp
Gary G. Grimmer & Associates
City Financial Tower
201 Merchant Street, Suite 1940
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 529-1502

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Denny D. Dickenson](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: RE: JC 1 Confirmation of Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 11:28:04 AM

**Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor,**

**I am a businessman and have resided in Kailua Kona for the
past 34 years.**

**I intimately know Margaret, Gail, Colette and Jana, the
Masunaga family.**

**They represent what is good and right as members of our
society.**

**I am stunned and disturbed by the unacceptable ruling handed
down by the HSBA.**

**I have seen in the media through the years Judges who
possess great legal knowledge and professional experience,
but lack integrity and character.**

**As a concerned citizen I want Judges who are intelligent, have
common sense, demonstrated a consistent work ethic,
unbiased and most importantly possess integrity and
character.**

**Margaret K. Masunaga has all of these in spades.
These trump legal knowledge and experience.**

**Finally, she too has, the 3 "f's", capitalized and cubed....firm,
friendly and fair.**

I trust you will take seriously my testimonial.

**Thank you and aloha,
Denny D. Dickenson**

From: [Klein, Linda](#)
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC-1 Consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K Masunaga for Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 7:11:13 AM

October 19, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee
senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov
JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC-1 Consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K Masunaga for Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Senator Hee and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I write in support of Chief Justice Recktenwald's choice for the District Court of the Third Circuit, Margaret Masunaga. The Chief Justice enjoys nationwide respect for his judgment and legal acumen. Indeed, he was recently selected to be one of three Chief Justices to present at the academic symposium commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation.

Over the last several years, I have worked with Margaret Masunaga on various projects. She exemplifies diligence, commitment, compassion and is extremely intelligent. A judge is required to deliberate about a wide variety of legal matters. No lawyer assumes the bench with experience in every type of case that will confront her. After spending most of her career in public service, Margaret has been required to react quickly and professionally to a plethora of legal issues. Margaret's work in government earned her the prestigious Nelson Award for outstanding service.

I have been to Hawaii many times. I have seen the many rural areas that are hard for lawyers to reach. Living on a family farm, Margaret understands rural issues. I have seen also many people who do not know their legal rights, civil or criminal. I know that Margaret cares about them deeply and understands the judge's role in both civil and criminal justice. Her resume is filled with all of the volunteer work she has done to assure there is fair and full access to justice for all. Margaret travels to Washington, DC each year at her own expense to meet with Hawaii's Congressional delegation to explain the importance of funding the Legal Service Corporation. She is warmly welcomed. She told me she takes this long trip because the money Hawaii is allotted makes a big difference to those who would have no justice without it.

Lastly, it is important to consider judicial temperament when making a selection. Margaret is the most humble lawyer I know. She will never be infected by "robe-itis". She will continue to treat everyone with dignity and courtesy. Margaret Masunaga as a judge will make you proud.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Klein
Baker Donelson

1600 Monarch Plaza
3414 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30326
lklein@bakerdonelson.com

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October 18, 2014

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

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong support of Margaret Masunaga's nomination as District Court judge for Kona.

Margaret has been dear friend for over 15 years. Although I am not in the law, I have been in court for traffic matters and for jury duty, and know many attorneys and judges. I believe the most important qualities of a good judge are those of fairness, kindness, integrity, desire to learn, and a desire for justice. I believe Margaret has all of those qualities, and that she would be an excellent judge for the people of Kona. I ask that you support her confirmation.

Thank you,

Denise Yamashiro

Juanita C. Hernandez, Esq.
7523 Lamoyne Court
Alexandria, VA 22315
Hernandezjc1@verizon.net
703-795-9995(cell)

October 19, 2014

Sen. Clayton Hee
Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
State Capitol of Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC-1 strong support of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga for Judge in the
District Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Sen. Hee:

I have known Margaret K. Masunaga for 23 years as we have both participated actively in bar association work for the American Bar Association (ABA) since we were young lawyers. As a trial lawyer for almost 30 years now both in private sector and for the federal government, I know the characteristics that a good judge ideally should have and the values she should hold. Margaret Masunaga meets all these judicial ideals and more; she is fair, brilliant, eloquent, hard-working and dedicated to public service and access to legal services. She is also courageous, honest, tenacious and unassuming.

I have sought Margaret's advice in organizing bar continuing legal education panels (CLE) and working through legal issues, and I can assure you she was very savvy in her knowledge of the law. The one time for which she did not know the substantive area of federal regulatory law for veterans for a family matter, Margaret had great instincts in her legal analysis and reasoning which I later confirmed. Margaret is very diligent in undertaking any task she performs, and I have no doubts in her abilities to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the judicial position for which she has been nominated. Given her work background in the private sector and in state government, I feel she has the requisite professional experience in legal practice in civil and criminal proceedings and trials to become an outstanding jurist.

It has been a real pleasure working with Margaret on ABA activities and seeing her mature into a seasoned organizer and respected national bar leader. She also has a great sense of humor and is a great judge of character. As a fellow government attorney, I also appreciate the fact that Margaret has tirelessly and selflessly devoted some of her time to bar association activities and community volunteer work. Margaret is also a great champion and dynamic diplomat for the state of Hawaii in her ABA activities. She is also very egalitarian and has never treated me differently or been intimidated by my two Harvard degrees which I appreciate.

The people who appear before the District Court of the Third Circuit of Hawaii would be truly fortunate to have Margaret Masunaga selected as their next judge since she would be the best choice. If I can be of further assistance in supporting Margaret's judicial application, please contact me. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Juanita C. Hernandez

Juanita C. Hernandez

CARRIE K. S. OKINAGA, ESQ.

October 18, 2014

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC-1 Consideration and Confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga

Dear Chair Hee,

Please accept this letter in strong support of Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald's appointment of Margaret Masunaga to the District Court of the Third Circuit (County of Hawaii). I have known Ms. Masunaga personally and professionally for 20 years, and respectfully submit that Chief Justice Recktenwald's judgment is spot-on in selecting Ms. Masunaga, that she is well-qualified to fill the position to which she has been appointed, and that the community she has consistently served so well over the past decades would be very well-served by having Ms. Masunaga continue in her public service, as a District Court judge.

Ms. Masunaga's passion for the law and the legal profession is evident from a cursory review of her resume, and she has devoted the entirety of her person, professional and personal, to improvement of the entire legal system, including the judiciary, on national and local levels. Earlier this year, the American Bar Association awarded her the 2014 Nelson Award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions to the important work of the ABA by an individual government or public sector lawyer. HSBA President Calvin Young was quoted at the time as saying that "Margaret exemplifies the very best in our profession. . . . As a government lawyer she diligently serves the people of the Big Island every day." Hawaii Tribune Herald (June 16, 2014). From family law and court issues, to women's issues, and most recently to Hawaii County planning issues, I have been witness to her boundless capacity for learning, and there is no doubt in my mind that if there are substantive (and discrete) areas of the law she needs to master, she will do so in short order. And there can be no question about her longstanding zeal for fairness and justice, her integrity, and her sincere and natural instinct for helping people and serving her community. I respectfully submit that these qualities make her not just well-suited to serve as a judge, but well-qualified to serve as a great judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for the appointment of Ms. Masunaga.

Very truly yours,



Carrie K. S. Okinaga

From: [Tara Manwarring](#)
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC-1 Strong support of Margaret Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 9:06:23 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to inform you that I strongly support Margaret Masunaga as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Her hearing is to be held on Monday, October 20, 2014, at 11:00a.m.

I have known Margaret ever since I was the flower girl at her wedding, 35 years ago. There is no doubt in my mind that she has dedicated the majority of her life to her career. She has a husband and 2 daughters who have supported her throughout this career. As much as she loves her family, it must be very difficult for her to be away from them. It seems like she is always working. I may not know every committee or board of directors she has been on, but I do know that there are a lot. She has always been so involved in most of our community events in Kona, as well.

I feel that Margaret Masunaga would strive to do the best she could if selected as District Court Judge.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Tara Lei Manwarring

sent from my iPhone

From: [Britt Kondo](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC1: In support of Margaret Masunaga to Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit, Hearing on Monday, October 20th, at 11 AM
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 9:32:29 AM

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Brittany Kondo, I am a student at the University of Hawaii, Hilo and I am writing in strong support of Margaret K. Masunaga for the position of Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Aunty Margaret since the fourth grade when she was my 4-H club leader and have been honored to receive her guidance, support, and love over the years. Growing up here in Hawaii where opportunities are limited, she has been an superior example of a role model to becoming a strong women in today's society. She's always done her best to create opportunities for myself and young women like me, to develop the skills and qualities that any young leader should hope to have. As well as continuously show her upmost support in everything I do.

Aunty Margaret has always exhibited strong knowledge, diligence, reliability, loyalty, excellent work ethic, humbleness, and grace in everything she sets out to do. I am more than confident that she will handle all new challenges in the same manner.

Margaret K. Masunaga is a strong independent woman who continues to support and advocate for the leadership development of young women and girls, and has always demonstrated such with the highest level of integrity.

Thank you Chairman Hee and Board Members for taking the time to review this letter in support of Aunty Margaret.

Mahalo,
Brittany Kondo

From: [Jennifer Santo](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC-1 consideration and confirmation of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 9:48:24 AM

This email is in support of the appointment of Margaret Masunaga as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit, hearing scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2014 at 11:00 am.

I have known Margaret for approximately 35 years. She is dedicated to serving her community. Margaret has proven herself through the many leadership positions that she has held, in government and non-profit organizations.

I believe that Margaret exemplifies qualities that will server her well as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Santo

From: [ben williams](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC1- Strong Support of Judicial Nominee Margaret Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:08:33 AM

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Labor,

I am writing in Strong Support of Margaret Masunaga for District Court Judge.

I have known Margaret since she was 12 years old. She is a born leader and held many leadership positions in both middle and high schools including class president. On weekends, Margaret always led volunteer efforts for her community and church. Upon graduation she attended UC Berkeley and received her Law Degree with honors from the prestigious UOP McGeorge Law School.

Margaret's dream has always been to achieve such an honorary position and believe she has done everything possible to be worthy of consideration. I can attest Margaret would be a tremendous asset to your team.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ben Williams
Division Chief, State of California

From: [Barbara Dalton](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Confirm Margaret K. Masunaga to Third Circuit
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:20:46 AM

Aloha Senators Hee & Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak in favor of Margaret K. Masunaga's confirmation as Judicial Nominee for District Court of the Third Circuit.

Margaret will make a fine, fair judge. Indeed, her lifelong involvement in the West Hawaii community enhances her ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of this challenging new role in public service.

While Margaret's professional experience may not have provided extensive practice in civil and criminal proceedings and trials, she certainly possesses the legal ability, knowledge, and diligence to interpret the nuances of the law and excel at the demands of the job.

I strongly urge you to confirm Margaret K. Masunaga's appointment to the bench.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dalton
PO Box 1011
Captain Cook, HI 96704
808-333-0484

From: [Gail Masunaga](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC-1 STRONG SUPPORT of Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:26:55 AM

Dear Chair Clayton Hee
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of my wife MARGARET MASUNAGA.

Margaret has worked so hard ever since I met her. When she was going to the University of California at Berkeley, she worked for a U.S. Senator. Her parents, Shig & Lillian Kuroda, instilled in Margaret to always study hard, persevere, and do your best while remaining humble. Margaret's parents were interned during WWII, and due process of law is particularly important to Margaret.

Whatever job Margaret has had over the years, she has performed it to the fullest, and took each position seriously. She is diligent, conscientious, meticulous, careful, and absolutely hardworking!

We raised two children, Colette and Jana, and also lost our baby Hilary in 1990 when she was only six days old.

Margaret will continue to work hard, and devote her life to making our community a safe and happy place to live, especially for our children.

Please vote to confirm Margaret Masunaga as district court judge.

Sincerely,
Gail A. Masunaga

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

Rachelle A. Ley
HC2 Box 5793
Kea`au, Hawai`i 96749
(808) 937-3217
rachelleley@gmail.com

October 19, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

SUBJECT: Margaret K. Masunaga
Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Honorable Chair Hee:

With great pleasure, I am writing this letter in support of Margaret K. Masunaga, judicial nominee to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have had the honor to work with Margaret for the past four years at the County of the Hawai`i Planning Department. Margaret served as our Deputy Planning Director from 2009 until 2013 and currently serves as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai`i, in which she represents the Planning Department for the following Commissions and Committees: Leeward Planning Commission, Windward Planning Commission, Cultural Resource Commission, Kailua Village Design Commission, Hāmākua, Ka`ū, Kona, North Kohala, Puna and South Kohala Community Development Plan Action and Steering Committees.

In my experience in working with Margaret, I have found her to be a very sincere, hard worker who is compassionate, but always strives for fairness. She always prioritizes, is efficient and uses time wisely and accordingly to get the job done. She is always helpful and very knowledgeable and if she doesn't know she will research and educate herself accordingly. Margaret is a great public speaker and not

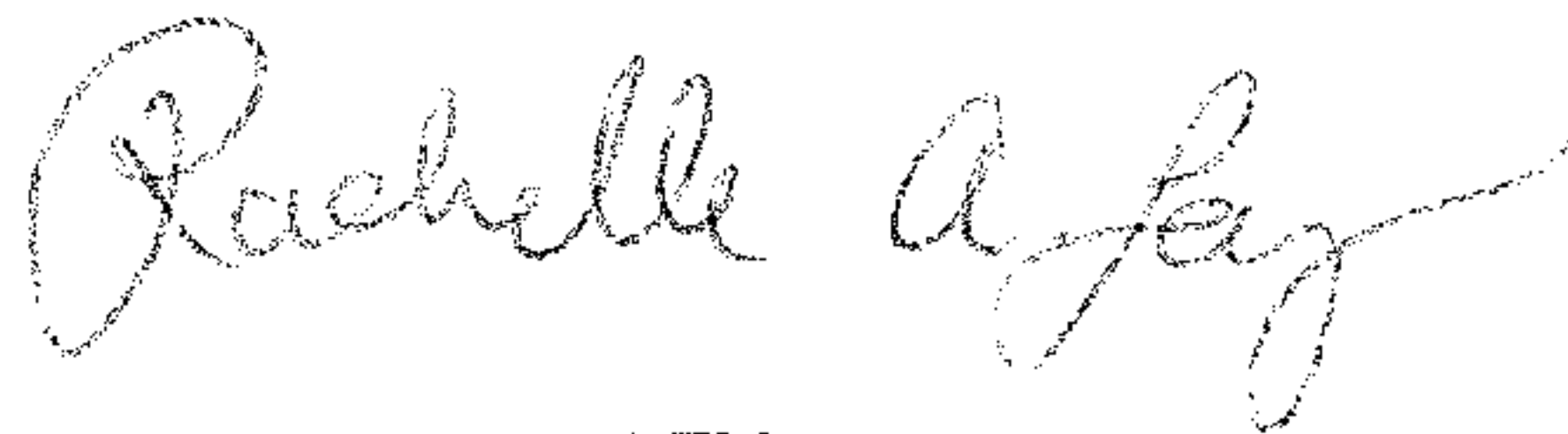
afraid of expressing her opinion in public. All of this with an extremely positive attitude and a smile on her face.

As exemplified by Margaret's resume, she is a dedicated public servant and is deeply rooted within the West Hawai'i community. She is always willing to volunteer her time, in which she sacrifices valuable family time to assist the community at need. Additionally, Margaret is always respectful and embraces the host culture and understands their needs and traditions.

In addition, Margaret has been selected for numerous Boards and Commissions throughout her career, as she is a proven leader who is respected in her profession and community. Her commitment to her profession and continuing education of herself and others has brought her to where she is today.

In conclusion, I know Margaret would be an excellent choice for the position and she would most definitely serve her community in a fair and equitable way. I sincerely hope that you will favorably consider her appointment to the District Court of the Third Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle A. Ley". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Rachelle" being more prominent than the last name "Ley".

RACHELLE A. LEY

cc: Margaret K. Masunaga

From: [Holly Duarte](#)
To: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC-1 Strong support of Margaret Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:32:39 AM

Aloha,

I strongly support Margaret Masunaga as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. Her hearing is to be held on Monday, October 20, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.

I have known Margaret for over 30 years and feel she is a qualified candidate who would strive to be her best as a District Court Judge. Throughout her career she has shown her love and dedication to her profession through her legal and service work, in her local community and beyond. At the same time she has been raising two strong, intelligent, beautiful daughters with the full support of her husband Gail.

Margaret Masunaga is an excellent candidate who would prove to be outstanding in service if selected as District Court Judge.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Holly S. Duarte

From: dkunisaki@sbcglobal.net
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Vote for Margaret Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:35:19 AM

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the committee of Judiciary and Labor,

I highly support Margaret Masunaga for District Court Judge. I've known her all my life and she has always been conscientious and a hard worker. She studied hard in school and remained diligent and respectful in all the jobs she has had. Please vote YES to confirm Margaret Masunaga as District Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Donna Kunisaki

Sent from my iPad

From: [Donna Tahara Williams](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: JC 1 - Strong support of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:37:40 AM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge.

I grew up with Margaret and her parents were good friends with my parents. I've known her since elementary school and she is a very hard worker and does not lack in "diligence." Her first job was working at a dry cleaners every Saturday. She took her job seriously and did not miss work. Her parents instilled a strong work ethic in Margaret. They also valued education and always told her to "study hard." She took this to heart and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

There is no question in my mind that Margaret has the drive, determination, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties as a district court judge.

Please vote to confirm Margaret K. Masunaga as District Court Judge.

Thank you,
Donna Tahara Williams

JOSEPH P. FLORENDO, JR.

P.O. BOX 1540

KEALAKEKUA, HI 96750

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

From: Joseph P. Florendo, Jr.

Hearing: Monday, October 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 State Capitol

Relating to: The Nomination of Margaret K. Masunaga to the Position of District Court Judge,
Third Circuit

I write to endorse the candidacy of Ms. Margaret K. Masunaga, a judicial nominee for the office of 2nd District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit. Certainly there is no question that the nominee possesses qualifications that are integral to the position: integrity & diligence, legal

knowledge & ability, financial responsibility, public service, good health.

In addition Margaret possess an exemplary history of public service which includes service to the HSBA, the West Hawaii Bar Association and the American Bar Association. There is no doubt that Ms. Masunaga has made significant and valuable contributions to the betterment of our community.

Although Ms. Masunaga does not have an extensive background in trial practice and procedure, I believe that, based upon her intellect, previous training in law school and in her various, and experience jobs as a practicing lawyer she will easily acquire those skills in a timely fashion. In addition, the National Judicial College, at the University of Nevada, Reno offers an extensive and comprehensive course geared towards the training of newly appointed judges.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns. Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to your deliberations.

Maile Medeiros David
86-4310 Māmalahoa Highway
Captain Cook, Hawai'i 96704
Email: mailedavid@msn.com

October 19, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
And Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: JC-1 Support of Margaret Masunaga

Honorable Senator Hee and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am writing in support of Ms. Margaret Masunaga's confirmation as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit Court. I had the pleasure to meet and work with Ms. Masunaga during my 15-year employment as a paralegal with the Kailua-Kona branch of Goodsill, Anderson, Quinn & Stifel and have known Ms. Masunaga personally for more than twenty-five years.

Ms. Masunaga's knowledge of court proceedings and governmental procedures would compliment the requirements necessary to perform the duties of a District Court Judge.

Mahalo a nui loa for this Committee's favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Margaret Masunaga.

Very truly yours,

Maile Medeiros David

mmd/

From: [Kristy Kunisaki Marino](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Support for Margaret Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 10:55:26 AM

I write to you in support of Margaret Masunaga's candidacy for the position of State of Hawaii, District Court Judgeship in Kona. Margaret is my aunt. I have no doubt that she would be successful in the role of District Court judge.

I am currently a litigation attorney at a large law firm in San Francisco, California. Margaret has been my greatest supporter ever since I began to express interest in pursuing law as a career in high school. I accompanied her to my first ABA meeting as a senior in high school. She has supported and encouraged me in every step of my career - through law school applications and law school, taking the bar exam and as a new attorney in private practice. I couldn't have done it without her. However, I know that I'm not the only one who has benefitted from her mentorship. As you can see from her long list of service, she is highly committed to ensuring that all who dream of joining the profession have the opportunity to do so, no matter who they are or where they come from.

As you may know, my grandparents (Margaret's parents), were interned during WWII. They struggled financially after the war and had limited means as they raised 5 children. Margaret was the first in our family to graduate from law school. Before he passed away, my grandfather told me that this accomplishment was the one of the times he had been really proud of his children. My Auntie Margaret has never forgotten where she came from and because of this, has been so active in the community and has helped so many people during her career. Additionally, because of the role my grandparents played in Margaret's life, I am confident that she would be fair, empathetic and compassionate towards those who would potentially appear before her as a judge.

I do not know anyone who is as dedicated to the profession and who loves being an attorney more than my Auntie Margaret. I have spoken to her about the prospect of becoming a judge. She is extremely excited about this opportunity. I am certain that she would make an excellent judge and I hope that you will consider confirming her for this position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Kristy Kunisaki Marino
Senior Counsel, Foley & Lardner LLP
San Francisco, California

From: [Brennan Williams](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Support of Judicial Nominee Margaret K. Masunaga
Date: Sunday, October 19, 2014 11:00:52 AM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee,

I write you in support of Margaret K. Masunaga for District Court Judge.

Margaret is a close family friend who I have long looked up to as a leader and role model. As a journalist covering youth culture, I believe that Margaret can continue to inspire an entire generation of Asian Americans.

I urge you to vote to confirm Margaret K. Masunaga as District Court Judge.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brennan Hiro Williams

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Brennan Hiro Williams
ウィリアムス ヒロ