



TESTIMONY
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Michelle Kanani Laubach
Family District Court Judge, Third Circuit (JC 1)

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jodi Kimura Yi
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Michelle Kanani Laubach for the position of Family District Court Judge, Third Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors evaluates the qualifications of persons appointed for judicial office, the position of Hawaii U.S. Attorney and the position of Hawaii State Attorney General. We follow a multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review Subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President, which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Ms. Laubach on June 13th to discuss the Subcommittee's findings. On June 14th, Ms. Laubach was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Laubach was reviewed and all of the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected a strong endorsement of Ms. Laubach in the categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialog and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Family District Court Judge of the Third Circuit, the HSBA Board found Ms. Laubach to be **QUALIFIED**.

Ms. Laubach's extensive experience in criminal law (prosecutorial and defense work), and as a private practitioner in civil and family law practice areas will provide smooth transitional skills to the bench to serve the Big Island in particular the Waimea community. Those in the legal profession providing comments on the appointment highlighted Ms. Laubach's knowledge, exemplary work ethic, pro bono and community service, and leadership in the Hawaii County Bar Association. Based on the above, and after due deliberations, the HSBA Board found Ms. Laubach **QUALIFIED** for the position which she has been appointed to and seeks.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations of this Committee.

OLIVEROS LAW, LLLC

PH (808) 345-0960

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Date: June 14, 2016
To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
From: A. Jaqueline N. Mena, Esq.
Re: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

via e-mail to JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov and senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate:

I am a fairly new member of the legal community and I practice in Hilo. I have only been practicing for one year and I have know judicial nominee, Ms. M. Kanani Laubach, for about four months.

In my short time practicing I have met many attorneys and Ms. Laubach always stood out, even before I knew of her nomination. I instantly recognized her as a strong role model and leader in our legal community. I believe that I have gotten to know her sufficiently well to vouch for her judicial temperament and integrity.

Upon meeting Ms. Laubach, I was impressed with the level of courtesy and respect that she used in speaking to her colleagues and members of the community at large. In the legal community, it is very easy to come off as condescending or insensitive, but Ms. Laubach is the exact opposite. She interacts with people using the right balance of compassion, courtesy, respect, patience, and attention. I strongly believe that these characteristics speak volumes towards her judicial temperament, especially when coupled with her integrity and legal experience. Our community would benefit from having her on the bench.

There is no doubt in my mind that if Ms. Laubach is given the opportunity, she will become one of the best and most respected judges of our time. I respectfully request your support in confirming her nomination.

Sincerely,



A. Jaqueline N. Mena

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Albert K Ahuna, Jr.

Aloha Mai Kakou,

It is my honor and privilege to present a short Letter of Support on behalf of Appointee Michelle Kanani Laubach.

Just to introduce myself, my background is a humble one, where I am a Hilo / Keaukaha Homestead native, graduated from Hilo High School - (Go Vikings-1977) and University of Hilo - Hawaii in the field of Administration of Justice. I am a retired Sargeant of the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) and served from 1985 to 2001, taking an early retirement. I have worked in numerous occupations stemming from loading cargo airplanes, being a bread delivery/salesman, telephone company warehouse man, gas attendant, slack-key guitar instructor, security officer and even a roughneck/laborer drilling for geothermal energy out in the Puna area on the Big island. I am a professional Hawaiian Music Musician and traveled the world abroad spreading the Spirit of "Aloha" through our music. Lastly, like many in our community, I did direct sales and network marketing with a number of companies on a part-time basis making extra income and helping people do the same. I introduce myself this way to share my background and experiences as a person in this, our community here in Hilo, that if you work hard and be a decent person you can do anything and be whatever you want.

Currently, I am a Case Manager with Care Hawaii, Inc's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division - Integrated Case Management (ADAD-ICM) services for the past ten (10) years now, where I assess, refer, monitor, guide and assist clients who are referred to my Program by the Criminal Justice System (Probation, Parole, and the Dept of Public Safety) to enter drug and alcohol treatment with one of Care Hawaii, Inc's contracted Treatment Provider within the State of Hawaii, and so this is how I have come to know Ms Laubach.

My brief comment will describe the effort(s) I have noticed from Ms Laubach toward and on behalf of her client(s) who had been referred to me for referral and admission into drug and/or alcohol treatment, and therefore was my client also receiving case management services.

It has been my experience that Ms Laubach presented a very active role in her client's case(s) from when the Probation Officer would make the referral (as the client was incarcerated) to Care Hawaii, Inc, to when this Case Manager will be able to place them into treatment in a timely and appropriate manner and thereafter while client remained in case management services. It obviously appeared that she, as their Attorney was very positively interested in their welfare and working on their behalf, as assigned or hired.

Because of lack of funding on some occasion(s) from Case Management Services, Probation or even Treatment, Ms Laubach even helped her client purchase airline ticket(s) to fly from the Big Island to Oahu, where the client had been accepted to enter treatment. She had even made the effort to transport her client(s) from the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) down to Hilo International Airport to catch their early flights in the mornings to Oahu and treatment, which is usually (and actually) my responsibility and job description. Ms Laubach would make intermittent calls to this Case Manager to discuss and review her client's updated status or welfare and followup with treatment counselors to do the same.

Therefore, my brief interactions and communications with Ms Laubach has been nothing short of amazing and professional. I see her as a definite asset and positive enhancement to the judicial community, if chosen to serve as a District Court here in Hilo or anywhere else, and that she would place the client's welfare in a place of "sacredness" until justly proven otherwise, which to me is where our Judicial System's platform or model should strive to rule by.

This is feedback I present to you on behalf of Ms Laubach and confirm this to be true as I close this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert K Ahuna, Jr.
Care Hawaii, Inc / ADAD-ICM Case Manager

PS: Most of my friends and working associates in the community call and know me as "JJ Ahuna". Thank you.

**Written Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 10:00 a.m.
by
Amy Ono**

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for JC1 Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2, M. Kanani Laubach’s nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I first had the honor and pleasure of working with Ms. Laubach while she was a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. In my capacity as Director of Career Services and Assistant Director of Student Services, I worked closely with students as they navigated law school and prepared for their careers. Kanani regularly demonstrated exceptional initiative regarding programs, resources, and guidance. She approached challenges with an innate wisdom and problem-solving ability. She worked hard with diligent perseverance to achieve her goals in the classroom and beyond.

Kanani began her legal career with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Her years as a Deputy Prosecutor provided her with a strong foundation to successfully navigate the complexities of our court system. Kanani’s outstanding legal ability quickly led to numerous promotions with increasingly difficult and sensitive cases. She skillfully worked with criminal cases in District, Family, and Circuit Court at all stages from pre-trial to trials and appeals. Kanani transitioned to private practice in 2011 and expanded her Family Court expertise beyond criminal cases to include family law civil cases as well.

In addition to her legal ability and expertise, Kanani treats people with compassion and fairness. She is articulate and respectful. She listens to various perspectives then shares her insights following thoughtful consideration of the situation. She has handled difficult cases arising from difficult situations with professionalism and integrity.

Throughout the years that I have known her, Kanani has consistently demonstrated her ability to build bridges between individuals and within groups. Her dedication and service to the Hawai`i Island community reaches beyond the courtroom. She has provided pro bono services at the Hilo Self-Help Center since it opened in 2012 and has served as a volunteer arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program since 2011. Kanani has always impressed me with her commitment to her community and service.

I believe Kanani has the experience, intelligence, and moral character ideal for a member of our Judiciary. I believe her work in the District, Family, and Circuit Courts as well as her commitment to our community make her a solid asset to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of M. Kanani Laubach’s nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

From: [Analyn R Lahip](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 7:45:55 AM

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the State Judiciary and Labor Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation letter for Michelle Kanani Laubach. I initially worked with Michelle several years ago when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. I was an intern at the Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) then, and what really stood out for me was that she did not treat me as "just" an intern. She was pleasant, easy-going, respectful, and receptive to ideas and input. I observed her to also be dedicated, knowledgeable, and fair. I left the VAU after pursuing my masters degree, and was fortunate that our paths crossed professionally again. This time with me as a Probation Officer, and, she as a Defense Attorney at Laubach and Frenz. The same admirable qualities that I saw in her as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney is still evident today as a Defense Attorney. She also has spark in the courtroom, which goes to show that she is comfortable in any environmental setting. Based on my observation in her role as a prosecuting attorney and defense attorney, she clearly has the ability to achieve success while maintaining fairness and justice. As such, I give her my highest recommendation for the Third Circuit District Court judge position without reservation.

Sincerely,

Analyn R Lahip, Senior Probation Officer
The Judiciary - State of Hawaii
Third Circuit Court

From: [Arlene Y Masulit](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:22:03 AM

June 20, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Arlene Awa Masulit

This letter provides input into the qualifications and traits of Michelle K. Laubach to be a judge, and insight into her character. My contact with her is based on my profession, a long time probation officer in the Third Judicial Circuit.

Our initial contact was when Ms. Laubach was a deputy prosecutor for the County of Hawaii, and more recently as an attorney in private practice at her own law firm. She does her job well on both sides of this adversarial court system. She impressed as a no-nonsense deputy prosecutor. As a zealous criminal defense attorney, she goes to Court well-prepared, and is not one to habitually ask for continuances. Hers is not a cookie-cutter approach to the case at hand. She is always professional and approachable. She maintains an even temperament and is respectful even when the recommendation of this probation officer is not favorable to her client. She also returns phone messages, an uncommon practice among her colleagues.

Although busy running what appears to be a flourishing law practice, Ms. Laubach makes time to be active with the Hawaii County Bar Association. She promotes higher education and community involvement. She has for years disseminated information on scholarship opportunities for college-bound students. She also shares pertinent information with court personnel to assist court users and improve access to the court.

Ms. Laubach is an asset to the criminal justice system. She has the qualifications, traits, and character to be a fine judge.

Thank you for considering this input for her Senate confirmation hearing on June 21, 2016.

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Ashley R.G. Miranda
Senior Probation Officer, State of Hawaii

June 20, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is being written in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach’s appointment to fill the position of District Family Court Judge.

As a probation officer for the State, I have worked with Ms. Laubach on several cases where she represented the defendants that I supervise. I have only known Ms. Laubach for approximately four years, but I have been very impressed by her character as a defense attorney. Coincidentally, the cases that I had in common with Ms. Laubach included some of my most challenging defendants to supervise, with extensive criminal history and very serious charges. I could not help but recognize the way in which she treated the defendants despite their challenges and backgrounds. I truly believe she treated these clients with integrity, fairness, and respect. She is capable of communicating in a way that the clients understand while maintaining a professional demeanor.

While I have only known Ms. Laubach as a defense attorney, I am aware of her background as a prosecutor for the State as well. Certainly this varied experience provides the knowledge that is needed for such an appointment as Family Court Judge.

Ms. Laubach will be an asset to our community as a Judge for Family Court. She has my full support in this position.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley R.G. Miranda

From: [Bill Heflin](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:47:36 AM

To Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

It is my pleasure to publicly comment on Michele Kanani Laubach, and advocate for her as the Chief Justice's selection for the Third Circuit Family/District Court Judge in Waimea.

I have known Kanani personally and professionally since she came back to Hawaii from Oahu after practicing as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for several years in 2006. At first, Kanani and I could be a little adversarial as I was a Criminal Defense Attorney when we first met, and Kanani was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County. After we butted heads a few times, I got to know Kanani to be an excellent litigator, who was also very compassionate, and always willing to listen to an alternative point of view. Several times Kanani followed up on information I gave her (asking the police to do further investigation) and we were able to work out reasonable outcomes to many cases. I found Kanani to be a tough but fair Deputy. Prosecutor, and later, after she left the Prosecutor's Office and went into private practice, I found her to be an excellent Criminal Defense attorney. Kanani is tough and fearless in her advocacy for her clients, and has gotten many good results for them. In addition to being a great Criminal attorney, Kanani also has extensive experience in Family Court, which made her stand out from many of the other excellent candidates for the Waimea Court position.

After leaving the Prosecutor's Office, Kanani worked extensively in Family Law, doing divorce and paternity cases, family court TROs, and representing juvenile Defendants. Kanani is the only Waimea Family/District Court candidate I am aware of that has both Family and Criminal Court experience, and she would be able to hit the ground running in Waimea without the need for per diem Judge to pick up the slack. I also know that the Waimea Family Court Judge often has to hear District Court cases, and I think that Kanani's wide breadth of experience would be invaluable. In fact, in addition to her previous Family and Criminal Court expertise, I know that Kanani has also appeared on the District Court civil calendar, doing her own cases and covering for Honolulu attorneys who cannot appear on the Big Island.

Furthermore, Kanani has a professional and educational background in social work (she has an MA from Chaminade University in Counseling) that would be a great benefit to a Family court Judge. In fact, I believe she is the only candidate for this position that has such educational and professional experience. Kanani also has a long history of community service, and is the current Vice-President of the Hawaii County Bar Association, a past member of the Third Circuit Bench Bar Committee, a current member of the State District Court Bench Bar Committee, and along with her partner Dakota Frenz, she basically created an East Hawaii Criminal Defense Bar committee that meets monthly to discuss current issues in the Hawaii County Criminal Bar, disseminate information, advocate for change, and to educate Bar Members. Kanani also volunteers at the Hilo Court self-help center, and is a mother with three children who is active in their educational and extra-curricular activities. Kanani also has a very compassionate and good judicial demeanor, and as a colleague and a friend, I believe she would make an excellent Family Court Judge and is the best

choice from the fine list of candidates that the Judiciary Selection Committee put forward to replace Judge Fujino in Waimea, and CJ Recktenwald made the correct choice in picking her.

The bottom line is that Kanani is extremely well qualified for the position as a Family/District Court Judge, and I strongly urge the members you and the members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee to give her your whole hearted support.

Thank you for allowing me time to offer my input. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any further questions.

Truly yours,

Bill Heflin



William B. Heflin

The Law Offices of Ian L. Mattoch



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blb@bancroftlawhi.com

June 14, 2016

(Via e-mail to: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov;
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Brooks L. Bancroft
Bancroft Law, LLLC

I am writing in support of M. Kanani Laubach's appointment as a judge in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit on the Big Island.

I have known Ms. Laubach for approximately 10 years and I have worked with her both as a former prosecutor and while in private practice. Ms. Laubach has the tangible and intangible qualities that all great judges possess. She is an extremely hard worker who is always prepared. She is a very talented trial attorney with well-honed courtroom skills. She also displays a genuine concern for the well-being of her clients and people in general.

In short, Ms. Laubach is a consummate professional who possesses integrity and humility. She is highly regarded and respected by members of the local bar. I believe she will readily and capably shoulder all the responsibilities that come with being a judge in the District Family Court, and I strongly support her appointment.

Very truly yours,

BROOKS L. BANCROFT

From: [Cacique Melendez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of Kanani Laubach
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 7:34:36 AM

I would like to forward my support of Kanani for confirmation. I have worked with Kanani for the past ten years and she has been consistent, fair, and professional. All qualities that I feel are required for a good judge. I think that she would bring her experience to the job and serve the community well.

Thank you,

Cacique Melendez
Hawaii County Police Officer

From: [Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of CJ's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 8:58:06 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Charlene Murata

I write this letter in support of the confirmation of Ms. Michelle Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii). I met Ms. Laubach in law school and we later became colleagues at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu, Hawaii. While in law school, I was impressed by the degree of dedication and hard work Ms. Laubach put into her work. Her dedication to the legal profession was made apparent when we worked together at the Prosecutor's Office. She worked long hours, and was ready and eager to help anyone who wanted her advice. Most importantly, Ms. Laubach will be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii district court system because she has a deep understanding of the values that drive the local community on the Island of Hawaii, which is important because people who get involved in the district court level, such as traffic court and family court, are regular people who do not have any "criminal intent." Ms. Laubach's hard work, intellect, and love for the Island of Hawaii will undoubtedly benefit the people of Hawaii. I therefore support Ms. Laubach's confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,
Charlene Murata

Charlene S.P.T. Murata
Hughes Storm & Associates
1003 Bishop Street
Suite 2525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 20, 2016

TO: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment
Order No. 2016-2

FROM: Christine Eban^{ez}

I am writing to you in support to M. Kanani Laubach. I have known Kanani for many years. She has long-standing history of service and well liked by agencies and clients as well as being involved with the public. M. Kanani Laubach has so many qualities in her background and surely it accounts for her being appointed as Hawaii Island District Family Court Judge.

She's been in private practice and opened the Law Office of M. Kanani Laubach L.L.L.C. She has also been a partner in the law firm of Laubach and Frenz, A.A.I., L.L.L.C. handling criminal cases in the District, Family and Circuit Court. She has extensive experience in family law cases involving temporary restraining orders, divorce, paternity and child custody proceedings.

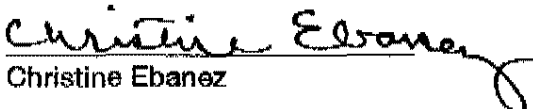
I have worked with Kanani M. Laubach while I was employed with the State of Hawaii, Dept, of Public Safety with the Hawaii Intake Service Center. At that time, she was a prosecutor with the County of Hawaii, worked on criminal cases in District, Family and Circuit Court. She was also Deputy Prosecutor with City and County of Honolulu in the Domestic Violence Misdemeanor and Misdemeanor Jury Demand and Felony Trials.

A graduate of the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson Law School and admitted to the State Bar. She also graduated from Chaminade University of Hawaii and got Master's Degree Counseling Psychology.

With all of the above mentioned, I fully support M. Kanani Laubach's confirmation. She also will be a great asset to the Judiciary Branch.

Michelle is also supported by her husband and three beautiful children along with family and friends.

Thank you for reading my Letter of Support for Confirmation before you.


Christine Ebanez

From: [Dennis Branco](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 8:43:57 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Dennis A. Branco Jr.

My name is Dennis A. BRANCO Jr. I have been currently working for the Sheriffs Department for the past 10 years. I have known Michelle for at least 9 of them. When I heard about Kanani's nomination for the Judicial Office of the District Family Court Third Circuit Judge, I was filled with excitement for Kanani. During my time as a Deputy Sheriff I have gotten to know and work with Kanani, While she was a Prosecutor for the County of Hawaii and now as a Defense Attorney. For as long as I've know her she has always been a person of integrity, A person who displays and conducts herself in a professional manner both in and out of her work. As I have watched her numerous times in court I've seen her display this special skill set she has in which she's able to be firm but also have compassion, something not everyone can do. Kanani is a very goal oriented/driven person and I truly believe that because of that and her work ethic that she will accomplish anything she puts her mind to. Our community needs more people like Kanani.

So it is with great honor and a happy heart to share a little bit about a great person and friend by writing this letter on Michelle Kanani LAUBACH on her behalf.

Thank You for your time,
Dennis A BRANCO Jr.

From: [Coach Derek Kalai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Mrs. Michelle Kanani Laubach
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 7:15:09 AM

Dear Senate Confirmation Committee,

It is with great pleasure and a profound respect for Kanani that i write this letter in support of her recent opportunity as North Hawaii Judge. Kanani has been an outstanding public servant for many years and one of the best private attorneys in hilo during my 16 years as a deputy sheriff. Kanani's willingness to evolve at times allows her to embrace the task at hand as she had smoothly transitioned from deputy prosecutor to defense attorney. She has a very tireless work ethic and always remains professional even when faced with the most uncomfortable circumstances. She has always supported local non profits/community events and has committed herself to a lifetime of "people" service. Her warm hearted personality is embraced by many in our community and I highly recommend Kanani to represent the State of Hawaii Judiciary and the People of Hawaii as our next judge. Mahalo nui.

Derek K. Kalai
Football Coach/Mentor
Deputy Sheriff II

From: [Susan Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 Nomination of M. Kanani Laubach
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:58:18 AM

June 14, 2016

Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
Chair, Judiciary
and Members of the Senate and Judiciary Labor Committee
Hawaii State Senate
sent via email

Re: JC1 Nomination of M. Kanani Laubach.... Appointment Order 2016-2

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Honorable Members:

I support the nomination of Ms. Laubach to fill a vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

She was a tough but fair prosecutor who sought just results. In private practice, I found she is a problem solver in her cases.

She is well versed in the rules of evidence and court procedures so she will have no trouble assuming duties as a judge.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Douglas L. Halsted

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

18th June 2016

Dear Committee Members:

I am submitting the following comments in support of Ms. Michelle Kanani Laubach's appointment to the Judicial Office of District Judge of the 3rd Circuit. I have known Laubach since she attended Waiakea High School up to the present. For the sake of complete disclosure & clarity, I am a retired Criminalist with the Hawaii County Police Department & worked with Laubach's mother, Evidence Custodian Dolores Bugado. In this capacity, I have been given an opportunity to see both Laubach's academic growth & maturity. I have had many occasions to testify with her as both prosecutor & defense attorney. Laubach continues to impress me with both her enthusiasm & willingness to understand complex forensic issues as well as the ever-changing nuance of the judicial process. Her intelligence will play well in understanding the relevancy of presented evidence. Her judicial logic will ensure the appropriate application of case law to the trial at hand.

I believe that even with Laubach's psychology background, it is not in her nature to assume to understand the variation of human behavior. I believe that it is because of this course of study, as well as her work experience with families in crisis, she possesses the temperament to deal with the range of emotional & combative witnesses in the courtroom.

Finally, while I am not a believer that an appointment should be made on the basis of fulfilling a demographic requirement, perhaps diversity is an element that should be included since Laubach exceeds the prerequisites for judicial selection.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Edward S.T. Oshiro

From: [Autrata, Erhard](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 8:32:24 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee. RE: JAN -Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Erhard

I support Ms. Kaunani Laubach as a judge. I have had the opportunity to work with her both on the prosecution and defense counsel side. Ms. Laubach is very knowledgeable of the Hawaii revised statutes. I've always know Ms. Laubach to be a nice and friendly person and good listeners feel that she would make a great judge.

Officer Erhard Autrata
Hawaii Police Dept.



ALCAIN & NANIOLE

FRANCIS ALCAIN
alcain@alcainnaniolo.com

Attorneys at Law
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AINOA NANIOLE
naniolo@alcainnaniolo.com

June 14, 2016

Senate Chair Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Fax: (808) 586-7348

RE: Testimony in Support of JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Francis Alcain

Dear Senate Chair Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Honorable Members:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of District Court Judicial Appointee M. Kanani Laubach. I first met Ms. Laubach at the William S. Richardson School of Law where we attended as law students. From the beginning Ms. Laubach exuded an affectionous warm-hearted intensity that later served her well as an effective advocate. Throughout my legal dealings with Ms. Laubach, both opposed and aligned, I have always found her a capable, zealous advocate, with steadfast integrity, often willing to assist her client's beyond the normal scope of a traditional attorney-client relationship. Such acts included representing client's in unrelated matters *pro bono* and enrolling them with social services. It's these traits, of compassion, integrity, and reason that will help Ms. Laubach succeed on the bench.

Similarly, Ms. Laubach's experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and family law practitioner will serve her well in the North and South Kohala District Court, which will require her to preside over criminal, civil, and family court proceedings. Ms. Laubach has the judicial temperament, deft personal skills, and reasoned compassion to serve well as a District Court Judge.

As a lawyer practicing in the Third Circuit for the past 10 years, I strongly support Ms. Laubach's confirmation as a District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Francis R. Alcain
Alcain & Naniolo LLLC
Attorneys at Law

June 17, 2016

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran,
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of JC1 - Confirmation of Michelle Kanani Laubach for
Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit**

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran,

I support the confirmation of Michelle Kanani Laubach for Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Kanani for 13 years when I first met her in 2003 at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. I was one of the supervisors in the Trials Division where she quickly rose through the ranks. She left the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office to return to the Big Island to raise her family, where she now has 3 beautiful children. Before leaving Honolulu, she was offered a Deputy Prosecutor position with the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office, where I followed her career from newspaper accounts and television news stories. She also moved through the ranks quickly there prosecuting serious felony cases.

Subsequently, she left the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office for private practice. First, starting a solo practice, and later starting the law firm of Laubach, Bancroft & Frenz, and now Laubach & Frenz. Kanani has the benefit of practicing law in the government and private sectors that make her a well-rounded practitioner. She has gained the necessary trial experience for this position as she has practiced in the Family and Circuit Courts.

I believe that Kanani has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. Kanani has the ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. In addition, she can comport herself appropriately, without losing her composure or equilibrium even under fire. She will make an excellent judge because she is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate.

I am confident that if Michelle Kanani Laubach is chosen, she will make an excellent District Family Court Judge.

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

Very truly yours,



Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ADULT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
COURTS & CORRECTIONS BRANCH
1700 LANAKILA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 832-1852 FAX: (808) 832-1855

In reply, please refer to:
File:

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Frederic Manke, PhD

I am writing to express my strong support for your confirmation of my colleague Kanani Laubach to serve as a Third Circuit District and Family Court Judge. I first met Kanani when she was a young prosecutor in 2005 and I was recently arrived in Hilo as a forensic psychologist for the Department of Health. Kanani and then-District Court Judge Barbara Takase were incredibly gracious and supportive in helping me become part of the Hilo Mental Health Calendar, which gave me an opportunity to observe close up what a gifted professional she is. I was sad to see her leave the Prosecutor's Office but also appreciated the opportunity to work with her as a private counsel. She was a perfect choice for the vacant Third Circuit position and when you confirm her you will have ensured another consummate professional will be on the bench in Waimea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Manke".

Frederic Manke, PhD
Forensic Examiner

Gary C. Zamber
Attorney at Law

Also admitted in California

June 15, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

As regards Chief Justice Recktenwald’s Order appointing M. Kanani Laubach to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawai’i), I am glad to say that Ms. Laubach has the experience and judicial temperament that lend to she being an appropriate choice for the position.

I have personally observed Ms. Laubach going above and beyond the call of duty to help ensure the local bar is kept apprised of recent caselaw decisions, relevant legislative action and serving as an intermediary between practicing counsel and our judiciary in order that proper communication channels are available to discuss matters that affect both counsel and our clients. Such actions are important to uphold the integrity of our judicial system and further demonstrate the leadership qualities of Ms. Laubach.

I encourage the Senate to confirm Ms. Laubach’s appointment as she is qualified and will demonstrate the skills required to be an excellent judge.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Zamber, Esq.

Office Address: 21 Waianuenue Ave., Suites 3&4, Hilo

June 20, 2016, 2016

To: The Honorable Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Gillie & Janie Silva

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We are writing in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach, Esq. for the judicial office of District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit.

As might be expected, our association with Ms. Laubach began during a very difficult time for our family. Ms. Laubach’s representation of our case was impeccable. Her calm, composed and professional demeanor, as well as her ability to glean from our meetings and discussions all pertinent issues, kept us focused. Ms. Laubach brought to our family a calmness and determination that might otherwise have been absent.

Because of Ms. Laubach’s honorable character and her ability to bring perspective in a composed and professional manner, we again, in later years, sought her services. Again, we were not disappointed.

We respectfully submit our recommendation of Michelle Kanani Laubach, Esq. for your consideration for the distinguished post of District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,

Gillie C. & Jane K. Silva

From:
To:
Subject: Fwd: JCI-Chief Justice Appointment Order no. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 10:17:28 PM

From: Gladys Sonomura
Date: June 19, 2016 at 7:50:52 PM HST
To: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Re: JCI-Chief Justice Appointment Order no. 2016-2

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
From: Gladys Sonomura

Michelle Kanani Laubach is a product of a staunch upbringing which emphasized honesty, diligence, perseverance, caring, respect, fairness, etc., essential character values for any judgeship.

The validity of her qualifications are evident to those unfamiliar with legal processes In her children----acorns do not fall far from oak trees.

Sincerely,
Gladys Sonomura

From: [graysea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: [Kanani Laubach](#)
Subject: Re: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 11:46:24 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Memers of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Grace Castillo

My name is Grace Castillo. I retired as a County of Hawaii Police officer with nearly 28 years of service on Decemer 31, 2011. I then continued to serve as a Reserve Police Officer for two years in which totaled 30 years of service as a police officer.

During my tenure at the Hawaii Police Department, I was afforded the opportunity to work with Ms. Michelle Kanani Laubach's mother, Dolores Pulgados, and later with Ms. Laubach who served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I have known Ms. Laubach for over twenty years. Ms. Laubach and her husband David are upstanding and positive contributing members of our local and business community.

Ms. Laubach is honest, hardworking, dedicated, compassionate, and fair. I highly recommend her for appointment as Chief Justice. Please consider her and approve her appointment as she will be a very valuable asset to our Judicial System.

Sincerely,

Grace Castillo

From: [Greg Gimenez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Kanani Laubach
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:32:49 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Greg Gimenez, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney - Kauai and U.S. Army Reserve Battalion Commander

I highly recommend that you confirm Kanani Laubach to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawai‘i).

I have known Kanani Laubach for over seven years. During part of that time, we served in the same office as prosecutors before she became a private defense attorney. In both roles, she demonstrated a high degree of integrity, a keen understanding of the law, and a capacity for sound judicial temperament.

In the legal community, some professionals rise to a level that sets the example for all others. She is one of them.

I give her my strongest endorsement.

With Aloha,

Greg Gimenez

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Haaheo M. Kahoohalahala

I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney I have had numerous occasions of communicating with and observing Michele Kanani Laubach as a defense attorney. In my experience working as opposing counsel with Kanani, she remains one of the most professional, proficient, fair and ethical attorney’s I have dealt with. She works very hard for each of her clients and is an excellent advocate in court. Kanani was always willing to offer her assistance to other defense attorney’s, especially when they were in a bind, which shows her professionalism and commitment to helping others. I have no doubt she will be able to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a Third Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Haaheo M. Kahoohalahala

From: [Harold Hall](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: [Michelle Laubach](#); [Harold Hall](#)
Subject: FW: Comments re District Ct nominee Michelle Kanani
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 4:05:10 PM

Date submitted: June 18, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JCI-Chief Justice,s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Harold V. Hall, PhD, ABPP

In regards to your call for public opinion of District Court nominees, the following is submitted in response to Ms. Kanani's request for my comments. I am a forensic neuropsychologist who has practiced in both the federal and State of Hawaii jurisdictions for the last several decades. As her mental health expert, I worked closely with Ms. Kanani on two murder cases—State vs. Malaki McBride and State vs. Tyrone Vesperas—which spanned the last dozen years. In all my dealings with her, I have been very favorably impressed with her dedication to duty as well as her deep knowledge of people gained through her counseling education and services (see her CV).

She is far above average in all the relevant criteria. She knows her craft and made it easy for me to provide a wide and diverse forensic database. Her courtroom behavior when I testified for several hours was supportive and right on target, and her bonding with the jury was excellent. Her ethics are above reproach, she shows integrity to the core, and her compassion and fairness are particularly outstanding. It is my sense as well as experience that she is an extremely positive but realistic person who people like to be around. Because of her traits, education, and experience, in particular the interaction of her keen intelligence with her empathy and compassion for others, in my opinion she has the ideal judicial temperament.

Ms. Kanani is recommended for favorable consideration without reservation or hesitation. My prediction is that she would be one of the best District Court Judges on the Big island if selected for that judicial office.

Sincerely,

Harold V. Hall, PhD, ABPP (Clinical, Forensic), ABN, ABPS (Neuropsychology)
Distinguished Practitioner, National Academy of Practice in Psychology

From: [Hudson Porter](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: Vacancy District Family court of 3rd Circuit
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:56:12 AM

Hudson Porter

June 20, 2016

TO: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re:JC1 - Chief Justice Appointment Order No. 2016-2

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of Mrs Michelle Kaunani Lauback for her appointment to vacancy needing to be filled as Chief Justice of the District court of the Third Circuit. I have been fortunate enough to work with Mrs. Laubach in the community and have found her dedication to her work and her determination to help others quite impressive. I see that she has drive and passion in what she does. She is a great role model in this community both as an attorney and as a daughter always working to help both community members and family. Mrs Lauback is exemplary to what this community needs - dedicated, hard working, determined and caring citizens.

I believe that with her appointment, our community will only improve in its hope to provide better and equal justice for all. I appreciate your time and attention spent on this testimony of mine. I pray you good health and I pray you make this appointment.

Sincerely,

Hudson B. Porter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Jun 21, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:19:58 AM

JC1

Submitted on: 6/20/2016

Testimony for on Jun 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian B. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair My name is Ian B. Lee Loy, resident of Hawaii Senate District 1. I submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of M. Kanani LAUBACH for appointment confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii. Ms. LAUBACH has been a strong leader in the judicial arena for many years, fairly applying judicial rules and law for the residents of Hawaii nei. I humble ask her confirmation be SUPPORTED by your committee and forwarded to the full Senate for approval. Thank you for your service as elected representatives. Ian B. Lee Loy

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Matsukawa, Jack](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Appointment of M. Kanani Laubach Order No. 2016-2
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:39:49 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

-

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Jack N. Matsukawa

My name is Jack Matsukawa and I have been a Deputy Prosecutor for the County of Hawaii for 30 years. Prior to that I was a law clerk in the First Circuit Court for two years. I am writing in support of the appointment of M. Kanani Laubach as a District Family Court Judge. Ms. Laubach and I worked together at the Hawaii County Prosecutor’s office for many years. While at the Prosecutor’s office I was able to observe her work. She was a very competent deputy prosecutor. She was organized and diligent. I also had cases against her when she went into private practice. I did one trial with her and I found very competent and more importantly very honest. She does not play games.

What I like about her is that she is a very fair person and has a good demeanor. I don’t believe she will lose her temper and will treat all litigants with respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

From: [James Biven](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: judicial appointment for waimea
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 6:37:08 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: James Biven

I am an attorney practicing in Kona. In the past five years I have had several occasions to work with and against Kanani Laubach. I think she has the temperatment and capability to be a good judge here on the Big Island. If further questions or concerns, my phone number is 987-3006.

Mahalo.

James Biven

June 16, 2016

1003 Bishop St., Suite 2600
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone (808) 523-3900
Facsimile (808) 526-9829
Website: www.koshibalaw.com

VIA FACSIMILE 586-7348

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

This letter is submitted in support of the appointment by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald of M. Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

Ms Laubach was a former student of mine at the William S. Richardson School of Law and was an outstanding student – conscientious, curious, diligent, hard working and intelligent. More importantly, since that time, she has graduated and practiced law in the same fashion.

Ms. Laubach possesses the requisite temperament and humanity particularly required of members of the bench who are tasked with some of the most emotional and difficult issues confronting judges. Her rulings and decisions must follow the law and yet demonstrate compassion and understanding in some of the most difficult circumstances. I believe Ms. Laubach possesses the qualities and experience to make her a fine member of the judiciary and a benefit to our community and State.

If I can answer any questions you may have, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



James E.T. Koshiba
for

KOSHIBA PRICE GRUEBNER & MAU

JETK:sh

rc: M. Kanani Laubach, Esq.

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Chair Senate Judiciary-Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Vice-Chair Judiciary-Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF M. Kanani Laubach , JC-1, Appointment order 2016-2

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran, Senator Shimabukuro,

I speak in strong support of the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach as a District Family Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Laubach has the educational, professional, personal and community qualifications to serve as a District Family Judge for the Third Judicial District. I concur with the wise decision of Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald in selecting Ms. Laubach as our new Family Court Judge.

I had the privilege of working with Ms. Laubach when she started as a Deputy Prosecutor at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii. I have personal knowledge of her legal skills and qualifications to be a Family Court judge and believe that she will be able to carry out her duties as a Family Court judge in a professional and compassionate manner.

While I cannot be there in person, I am available by phone or email for any questions the committee may have.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely Yours

Jay T. Kimura

6/20/2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Aloha,

I have known and worked with Michelle Kanani Laubach for over a decade. She is a great candidate for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. Ms. Laubach is very professional, works hard and is fair in what she does. She is a type of person that is comfortable to talk to. I look forward in working with her in the Judiciary as a District Family Court Judge.

Mahalo

Jayson Agra

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

From: [Jeff Kent](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 3:57:19 AM

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

I'm writing in support of M. Kanani Laubach for family court judge in the third circuit. I met Ms. Laubach while she was a prosecutor and I was a law clerk for Judge Nakamura in the third circuit in 2008. I had the opportunity to observe first hand her ability to diligently handle large caseloads and demonstrate an even keeled approach to her advocacy.

Ms. Laubach is a credit to the Hilo community and would do well as a judge there.

Mahalo,

Jeff Kent (HSBA Lic no. 8862)

From: [Jennifer Wharton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of support for Michelle K. Laubach confirmation
Date: Friday, June 17, 2016 11:44:00 AM

I have known Ms. Laubach for thirteen years now, mainly in a professional setting. I have come to realize that Ms. Laubach is a positive and honest person who never says negative things about another. Ms. Laubach has consistently handled life's problems in a professional and energetic way where challenges seem to only make her more ambitious. I believe that Ms. Laubach will be a great asset to the Judiciary and accomplish more than expected of her. Where there are problems, Ms. Laubach's attitude will be to find a solution that will be for the best of the community. Ms. Laubach, although not a resident of the South Kohala area, will embrace the South Kohala court with the zeal of a community member. I do not think that anyone will regret Ms. Laubach's appointment as the Family Court South Kohala Judge. I for one am glad that I have had the opportunity to work with her these past thirteen years and been able to come to know her.

June 18, 2016

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Jody-Rae Bergfeld

I am a Registered Nurse at Hilo Medical Center and specialize in the field of obstetrics. I have dedicated my time to charities including the Big Island Aids project and the SIDS foundation. I have been fortunate to represent Hawaii on numerous national stages and opened the World Expo in Osaka Japan representing the State of Hawaii. Today I am honored to write and speak to you on behalf of a woman who has inspired me, and left imprints on my heart for many reasons.

I first met Michele Kanani Laubach as she welcomed her family to the world. Of course her reputation preceded her. But, you never know the true essence of a woman until she is in a position of severe pain, and entering the unknown. Kanani’s communication skills were impeccable as we were well informed of how she wanted to manage this life changing event. In early labor it was apparent that she had amazing self-discipline. Her reasoning, decision-making, and communication skills remained intact even as labor progressed and most women lose sense of all they have built in their minds of what the process should be. As Kanani starts to move towards delivery new faces are introduced as we prepare for the unknown. A pediatrician she has never met enters the room, nurses prepared for resuscitating the newborn enter, oxygen gets turned on, the bells are ringing for the warmer, blue drapes are now surrounding her. For most patients this becomes a time of pure chaos. This is all new, and completely unknown, most patients start to panic and as the labor nurse you become the voice of reason. This was not the case for Kanani. She did not allow herself to be tossed around by emotions or sensory overload. Instead, she chose to remain stable minded and focused. Kanani’s labor and delivery went exactly as she wanted. As a woman welcomes her newborn into the world pure exhaustion sets in. But, Kanani’s reputation, her excellent character and her integrity remain a constant. Taking care of Kanani and her family will always remain a favorite memory of mine. It was one of the rare occasions that I was introduced to the true meaning of the “strength of a woman”.

Fast forward a few years down the road and I am now in need of Kanani’s help with a legal matter. Just as she was the pillar of her labor and delivery, she was now my pillar. Her work ethic amazed me. I work twelve hour shifts and could only meet with her after 7:30pm. Not a problem, she tells me. Although it was late, her day was long, Kanani showed a great deal of patience, and remained open-minded. She had an enormous amount of compassion, and once again her communication skills impressed me. Her dedication to every small detail, her focus, and listening skills, became apparent at our second late night meeting. Nothing I had shared with her in

the previous meeting had to be repeated. She had taken impressive notes, kept all of the details in order, and now had more information that involved photos and great detective work on her part. After our second meeting I was reminded of how stable minded and focused Kanani is. Kanani's dedication to excellence in all aspects of her life became so apparent to me. On the day of my hearing Kanani was calm, confident, and even-tempered. I walked away from the courthouse with my case dismissed with prejudice. As we waited for my hearing to begin I watched as other attorneys passed in the hall greeting Kanani with what seemed to be a great deal of respect. As we all know respect is earned. I believe that Kanani's high standards of integrity in her professional life and her personal life deem her the perfect candidate for District Judge.

Sincerely, Jody-Rae Bergfeld

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment order No. 2016-2

From: John E. Davis, J.D. (inactive)

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach for the position of District Family Court Judge. I am confident that as a Family Court Judge she will be a strong asset to the Hawaii State Judiciary and to the people of Hawaii.

I first met Ms. Laubach when we were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law in Manoa. There, I got to know her as a person, and found her to be very kind, humble and personable.

After graduating, I crossed paths with Ms. Laubach again after I began serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu. Ms. Laubach was assigned as my training attorney, and it was in this position where I saw Ms. Laubach thrive. She immediately impressed me with her professionalism in the courtroom, her knowledge of the law, and her passion for her position. She always walked into court very prepared and was confident when addressing the Court or opposing counsel. However, most impressive to me was that not only did she serve as a high-functioning professional, she also appeared to be well respected and liked by the Judges and opposing attorneys with whom she interacted. I later observed that this last aspect is sometimes difficult to accomplish as a Prosecuting Attorney, but Ms. Laubach did it effortlessly. I am confident that this trait that will serve her well as a District Family Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach as a District Family Court Judge. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jed11davis@gmail.com.

Mahalo,

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

John E. Davis

From: [John Talich](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 5:18:18 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: John Talich

I'm writing on behalf of Michelle Kanani Laubach who is being considered for District Court Judge here on the Big Island.

I've been a police officer in Hawaii County for 22 years and during that time I took a break from police work and went to law school on Oahu where I had the honor of meeting Kanani. After school I returned to the Big Island and the police department and was pleasantly surprised to see Kanani working as a prosecutor. In several criminal cases where I was a witness, Kanani was very competent and knowledgeable of the law during her direct examination as well as making intelligent and well thought out objections during the defense attorney's cross examinations.

Over the years we've become friends and both of our kids attended the same schools so when she left the Prosecutor's Office to start her own business to work as a defense attorney I was a little worried how our friendship would turn out. I'm sure I don't need to tell you about the animosity that exists between police officers and defense attorneys so I wondered how things would turn out if I had a court case where she was the defense attorney. I didn't have to wait long to find out as I was the lead investigator in an auto theft case where Kanani was the defense attorney. I vividly remember that day because the prosecutor's line of questioning was confusing and Kanani's objections were all sustained which I thought was expertly done. After testifying I was relieved because while I was in the stand it didn't feel adversarial at all which is a testament to Kanani's temperament and integrity.

All these traits will make Kanani an excellent choice for judge and the people of Hawaii County would be well served with her on the bench.

Thank you for your time.
John Talich

From: [Joy Higa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 11:15:53 AM

June 19, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: Michelle K. Laubach, District Family Court

This letter is in support of Michelle K. Laubach. I have been in the legal community since 1980 and have seen many judges and legal professionals come and go. I have known Michelle Laubach many years and have dealt with her through my employment over the years. I think Michelle has the necessary skills and ability to serve as a Judge. She is of good character and well respected by her peers. I see her as a good listener, experienced in different areas of law and someone who will be able to deal with litigants appearing before her and do well in performing her judicial duties. Because of her good nature, I see no problem with her being able to interact and work well with the court staff.

From: [Justin Haspe](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#); [Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran](#)
Subject: Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Friday, June 17, 2016 1:18:51 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Justin P. Haspe

I am writing in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach as District Court Judge for the Third Circuit. While I am familiar with most of the nominees, I believe that Ms. Laubach is the most qualified for the position. Her experience is unmatched, because she has been both a successful Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and also a successful private attorney, specializing in criminal defense work. This experience on both sides of the law makes Ms. Laubach the most prepared to succeed as a District Court Judge, because she has taken on the roles of both sides in a criminal case.

Ms. Laubach’s expertise and wisdom is most highlighted by her willingness to give her time and to help to build others up. As a relatively new attorney, I have received the most help and advice from Ms. Laubach. Anytime I have a question, or if I want to simply run a hypothetical by someone, Ms. Laubach always makes herself available.

Finally, I believe that Ms. Laubach has the ideal judicial temperament. The best way to test someone’s temperament is in a stressful situation, and there is no law related situation more stressful than a jury trial. I have watched Ms. Laubach in a jury trial where she was the criminal defense attorney, and I was impressed that no matter what was said in court, and no matter what the Judge ruled, she always maintained her composure and treated everyone with courtesy and respect.

Thank you for considering this letter when making your decision regarding the Senate confirmation of Ms. Laubach.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin P. Haspe
Associate Attorney
Crudele & De Lima

Karlan J. Osorio, MS



June 19, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order

No. 2016-2

This letter is a character and professional reference for Michelle Kanani Laubach, a candidate for the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Ms. Laubach for several years and have had the opportunity to participate in numerous court hearings with her representing another party in the case. Ms. Laubach has shown herself to be an honorable and fair person, treating each client with respect and dignity. I have observed her during review hearings in family court, as well as in several trials. Ms. Laubach presents as an educated attorney who knows the laws and upholds them. She does not bully her way around the courtroom nor does she try to intimidate other parties. Ms. Laubach is able to clearly present her information and the supporting evidence. She makes solid decisions that have legal backing. Ms. Laubach has all of the characteristics desired of a District Court Judge. She will uphold the law, make fair decisions and is decisive; she will help make Hilo a safer place.

Ms. Laubach has demonstrated her ability to represent the people of Hawaii from various backgrounds and has a history of serving the community in multiple capacities. Aside from her experience as an attorney, which is extensive, she has worked with families and youth involved with the Child Welfare System, has been employed in several different roles working with at-risk youth, and has also served the community as a waitress at several restaurants. Ms. Laubach has integrity, high moral character, wisdom, and compassion. She is able to work with people from any class, dealing with multiple different issues/challenges, and is able to have courageous conversations with those she serves.

After reviewing the list of candidates, it is my belief that Ms. Laubach is the most qualified person for the job. I have worked with several others on the list and although all are professionals and excel in their fields, Ms. Laubach clearly shines above them all. Her history and experience, as well as her personality and ability to adapt to any situation, give her the qualities needed in a good Judge. I fully support Ms. Laubach in her quest for this position and hope you will consider this recommendation.

Warm regards,

Karlan J. Osorio

DHS Supervisor



From: [Karen Vance](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 8:39:37 AM

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Re: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2.

From: Karen Vance

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

I submit the following on behalf of M. Kanani Laubach:

I believe Ms. Laubach's resume and accomplishments speak for themselves. Therefore my letter focuses on Ms. Laubach's intangible qualities. I am confident her temperament, work ethic, and humility make Ms. Laubach the ideal choice for this position.

I have known Ms. Laubach for almost a decade; not once have I heard her raise her voice. Regardless of who her audience is, she always exhibits the ideal judicial temperament: she is calm but firm, decisive, but fair. Her ability to remain level headed, no matter the circumstances, is certainly ideal for the courtroom.

I have always admired Ms. Laubach's work ethic. She discusses her work in a way that lets me know she loves what she does, which I think is rare among attorneys. I have seen so many attorneys who simply "go through the motions" with neither passion nor pride in what they do. While I have never had the pleasure of watching Ms. Laubach practice, I have seen her putting in long hours at home. I have seen her sacrifice time with her family to advocate for her clients. If appointed as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, I am confident Ms. Laubach would approach the position with the same passion and gusto she exhibits on behalf of her clients.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, Ms. Laubach is humble. I am inspired by her ability to treat everyone exactly the same, regardless of their background or status. Despite her accomplishments and success, Ms. Laubach has never let this success define her or alienate her from her family or community. While some may allow a newfound position of power to redefine them, I know this will not happen with Ms. Laubach. She will always remain the same person she has always been: fair, hard-working, and humble.

I believe Michelle Kanani Laubach is the ideal candidate for this position; I respectfully urge you to confirm her appointment as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,
Karen Vance

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Kathy Nacis

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach’s appointment to Judge of the Third Circuit. I have collaborated with Ms. Laubach on numerous cases. She has always conducted herself with professionalism and integrity. She is fair and treats all people with respect regardless of what role they have in the courtroom (including her defendants).

I believe that Ms. Laubach will be an asset to the Judiciary and I’m sure the Third Circuit will benefit from having her as a Judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

KEITH S. SHIGETOMI
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PACIFIC PARK PLAZA, SUITE 1440
711 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 596-0880

June 20, 2016

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Via Fax: 586-7348

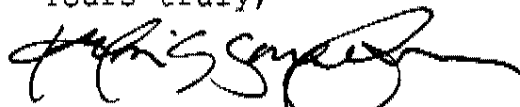
Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran

I am writing in support of M. Kanani Laubach's confirmation as Family District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Ms. Laubach since she was a deputy prosecuting attorney in Honolulu. I recall her as being hard working and well prepared. She was approachable and willing to listen to an opposing view. I watched her quickly rise from a district court deputy to a circuit court deputy.

After she moved to the Prosecutor's office in Hilo, I continued to have the opportunity to handle cases against her. She remained easy to work with but able to maintain her zealous advocacy. These qualities are not easily found in the same person. When Ms. Laubach entered into private practice, she quickly became a leader and advocate for the criminal defense bar. She is well regarded by the judges and their staff in the Third Circuit. I am confident that she will be a tremendous judge and a fine representative of the judiciary for many years to come.

I support Ms. Laubach's confirmation without reservation. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Keith S. Shigetomi

From: [Kauwe, Kenneth D](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:52:02 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert KEITH-AGARAN and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

FROM: Kenneth D. Kauwe

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHELLE KANANI LAUBACH

Your Honorable Senator KEITH-AGARAN and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee. I am writing in support of the confirmation of Michelle Kanani LAUBACH to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii).

I have known Ms. LAUBACH since January of 2006 when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. I have known Ms. LAUBACH to display and possess the characteristics of being professional, respectful, humble, fair, compassion and the diligence of being firm and decisive. Ms. LAUBACH has also demonstrated her legal ability, expertise and judicial temperament but, most of all, has maintained her integrity when handling criminal cases in District, Circuit and Family Courts.

Ms. LAUBACH has come full circle in her educational and professional career and will be an asset in representing the State of Hawaii, Judiciary and the community as a Judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii).

I respectfully and humbly request the confirmation of Ms. LAUBACH as a Judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii)

June 20, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

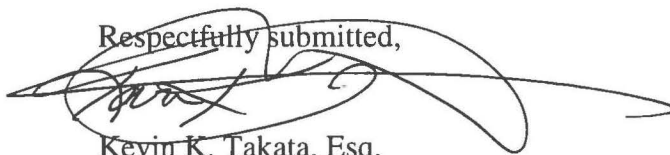
From: Kevin K. Takata

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Michelle Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Ms. Laubach for many years, and have the utmost respect for her intelligence, knowledge of the law, integrity and fairness. We met at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

She has proven herself to be hard working, diligent, and thoughtful, and has garnered the respect of others in the legal community. Her prior position as a deputy prosecutor, and experience in private practice, has provided good training to segue to the bench. She would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Judiciary, and does not bring an agenda with her. Rather, she would be guided by the law, compassion for the plight of the less fortunate, and dedication to justice and fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kevin K. Takata, Esq.

From: [Laura Ackermann](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Appointment of Michelle Kanani Laubach
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:45:46 AM

From: Laura Ackermann
Date: June 19, 2016 at 4:14:33 PM MDT
To: JDLtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov
Subject: **Appointment of Michelle Kanani Laubach**

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

RE: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Laura R. Ackermann, Esq.

I am writing to you in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach's nomination for District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit. I am an attorney currently residing in New Mexico and have known Ms. Laubach for approximately ten years. We worked together closely as prosecutors in Honolulu for many years. I have known Ms. Laubach to be of high moral character and to be well versed in the law. In the prosecutor's office she was known for her extensive knowledge of Hawaiian case law and her strong work ethic. She often would work late into the night preparing her cases for court. She asked questions of more experienced attorneys to expand her natural advocacy and trial skills. Ms. Laubach took the responsibility of her job as a prosecutor seriously and was fair in her dealings with criminal defendants. She was always cordial to opposing counsel and was well thought of in the courthouse. I think Ms. Laubach would be an excellent addition to the bench and I strongly support her nomination.

From: [Laurie Tochiki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 8:36:03 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

I am writing to ask your positive consideration of Kanani Laubach's nomination for appointment as District Court Judge in East Hawai'i. I know Kanani from our Law School. She was a student when I was Associate Dean for Student Services. She is thoughtful, calm, and intelligent. I believe that she has the temperament and the wisdom to be an excellent judge. She also has experience with civil and criminal law, and family law. I think that this practice experience will be very helpful to her as a District Court judge in either Family, Criminal or Civil areas. Currently, I am President and CEO of EPIC `Ohana, a non-profit organization that serves children and families in the child welfare system. It is critically important that the families, the Department of Human Services, the Judiciary, and agencies like EPIC work collaboratively together to serve our children and families. Only with this joint effort can we do the good job that our state deserves. Kanani can help us collaboratively serve the families and children in East Hawai'i.

Finally, her heart and her roots are firmly connected to the community on Hawai'i island, and I believe that her heart together with her hard work and intelligence, will serve the state well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Laurie Arial Tochiki

From: [Leitrisha Kim](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Michelle
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 5:22:06 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Leitrisha Kim

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Please accept this letter of support for Michelle K. Laubach for the Judicial office of District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawaii), State of Hawaii.

I have known Michelle K. Laubach for over twelve years as we were both employed at the City and County of Honolulu, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Misdemeanor Division. There I had the privileged of working with her being a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and I assisted her as a Legal Clerk IV in the Misdemeanor, Honolulu Criminal Section. I have been impressed with her legal ability and expertise, intelligence and wisdom, and compassion and fairness in observance of her growing legal profession in my twenty-two years of experience in the department.

In my opinion, I feel that Michelle K. Laubach has the ideal judicial temperament, a keen knowledge of law and most importantly, integrity and moral courage. It is my extreme honor to support Michelle K. Laubach, without reservation and would be a great asset to the District Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawai`i), State of Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow and graciously accept this letter of support.

From: [Leroy Pasalo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 6:46:03 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

June 20, 2016

From: Leroy R. Pasalo

I have known M. Kanani Laubach throughout her tenure as a prosecutor and and her private practice as I am a senior probation officer with the Third Circuit. Kanani has always displayed a professional and positive demeanor throughout my contacts with her and I am sure she will continue to extend her strong work ethic and deep sense of justice as a District Court Judge.

Kanani has always gone the extra mile to make sure that her clients receive the best representation, and as a prosecutor she always took into account the whole picture during her cases. She is a team player and has always asked for input and offered her assistance freely. I am honored to act as a reference for Kanani and I am sure she will fulfill her duties to the best of her abilities as a District Court Judge. Please call me at 937-6865 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy R. Pasalo

From: [Lesther Muritok](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 8:45:02 AM

Lesther Fritz Muritok
Hawaii Court Interpreter

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran
and
The Honorable Members
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Greetings from a Hilo Court interpreter who knows first hand about the unquestionable qualifications of Ms. Michelle Kanani Laubach to serve as a judge of the Hawaii Court system!

I am writing this letter to voice my full support of Ms. Laubach's appointment. As an interpreter for almost ten years, I have had the opportunity to work with and help Ms. Laubach with her limited or non-English speaker defendants.

She serves her clients in a professional manner. She makes sure that they all understand specifically the charges against them, and the Court system in general. She negotiates untiringly with prosecutors, which results in her securing better deals for her clients. She has an excellent working relationship with prosecutors and defenders alike. She is well respected by the judges as she shows them the same courtesy.

But, above all, she is well versed and very knowledgeable about Hawaii's traditions and customs. Growing up and completing her education here in Hawaii make her a big asset to the overall development of the Hawaii Judiciary. It would be a resounding plus to confirm an appointee with local knowledge and legal expertise.

Based on my own observation, I saw that Ms. Laubach was assigned so many cases to defend as compared to other defense attorneys I worked with. She had cases from

the circuit, family and district courts. One has to wonder about the real reason of the work load. But as for me, I conclude that it was because of her overall work performance and the courts' great satisfaction of her accomplishments.

In conclusion, I humbly request that you confirm Ms. Laubach's appointment. I vividly understand that you are faced with a very challenging task. But, let me assure you that I will always remember you in my daily prayers, so that whatever decision you make would be beneficial to our community and our people.

Mahalo,

/s/ Lesther F. Muritok
Lesther F. Muritok
Court Interpreter

TORKILDSON, KATZ, MOORE
HETHERINGTON & HARRIS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION
120 PAUAAHI STREET, SUITE 312
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3048
TELEPHONE (808) 961-0406 • FACSIMILE (808) 961-3815

LINCOLN S. T. ASHIDA
DIRECT DIAL: (808) 747-8317
E-MAIL: LSA@TORKILDSON.COM

June 20, 2016

Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

RE: **JC 1**
Confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach

It is an honor to submit this letter in support of the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Kanani for over 10 years, have observed her work, interacted with her socially, and believe I can provide a balanced assessment of her strong work ethic and good character.

I first met Kanani when she served as a deputy prosecutor. Kanani had an excellent reputation as a diligent and fair attorney who focused on doing justice in her cases. When she left the Prosecutors to enter private practice, she became an attorney the Courts could trust in assigning difficult criminal appointment cases.

Socially, Kanani carries herself humbly and greets you with a smile. She is a kind and loyal friend.

Based on the foregoing, I would unqualifiedly recommend M. Kanani Laubach for your consideration. Kanani possesses the best work and human qualities most admired by leaders in our profession.

Very truly yours,



Lincoln S. T. Ashida

From: [Linda Nako](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 5:12:51 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Linda H. Nako

I have been a close friend of Kanani's mother since Kanani was a freshman in college and I have literally "watched" her mature from college student to wife, mother, prosecuting attorney, opening her own law practice and now, District Family Court Judge appointee.

I believe in her ability to listen and understand in order to deliver fair and sensible justice. She is a remarkable woman in so many ways and I am so proud of all that she has accomplished.

Kanani has grit. She will **always** do what is **right**. She is a compassionate, honest, tenacious, efficient professional and you can always count on her to put her best effort into everything she does. She is thorough and has the highest moral character. She embodies all of the qualifications necessary to be an excellent judge.

Please honor Chief Justice Recktenwald's appointee to District Family Court Judge by voting in favor of M. Kanani Laubach.

Date: June 19, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran & Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1=Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Lisa Fujioka, Parent Community Network Coordinator (PCNC)
Waimea Elementary School, Big Island of Hawaii

To whom it may concern,

It is my extreme pleasure to write a commendation on behalf of Michelle Kanani Laubach, nominee for the judicial office of District Judge, District Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawai'i).

As the Parent Community Network Coordinator (PCNC) for Waimea Elementary School on the Big Island, I am responsible for connecting the community into our school. In November of 2015, we had an opportunity to bring a program called the Jr. Judges Program to our school. This is a program sponsored by the HI State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Michelle was one of the two volunteer attorneys who took the time out of their schedule to come and facilitate the program to our often rambunctious 5th grade students. This also involved a 60 mile drive from Hilo, so not only did the program schedule occupy her time, but the commute did as well. This level of dedication to volunteering is valuable, commendable and exactly what our community needs.

Michelle handled the program with grace and came prepared with thought invoking questions to challenge our students with. She also made it fun for them, while providing little snacks in between the question and answer periods to motivate them. Michelle knew exactly how to handle them and her personality made it very easy for the students to want to engage with her.

I am in full support of Michelle's nomination to be a District Judge. Her work experience, her personality and her compassion for people makes her the ideal candidate.

I can be reached at 808-936-6001 should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fujioka PCNC
Waimea Elementary School
Big Island of Hawai'i

June 20, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Lori Ann Picar, fka Lori Ann Alatan

Hello everyone:

I am writing in support of M. Kanani Laubach’s appointment to fill the position in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I have worked for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for almost 30 years. I have had the pleasure of working side-by-side with Ms. Laubach, or Kanani as we call her, when she served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai’i and I was fortunate to be assigned as her Legal Clerk. I truly enjoyed working with Kanani because she always treated me with respect and kindness. She is very giving and considerate as well. Being that I have been at the Prosecutor’s Office for a long time, I have had the opportunity to work with many deputies over the years and Kanani is one of the best both personally and professionally. Needless to say, I was sad when she decided to leave our office.

To describe Kanani’s character, I would definitely say she is fair, professional, ethical, knowledgeable, dedicated, loyal, respectful, capable, compassionate, and kind. She is also not afraid to make tough decisions when needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in support of M. Kanani Laubach’s appointment for the District Family Court.

Aloha,

Lori Ann Picar

June 19, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Hawaii County Police Department; Officer  Ondo Jr

Please accept this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Michelle K. Laubach for the judicial office of District Judge, District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii) State of Hawaii.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Michelle personally for approximately 20 years. During the years of our acquaintance, I have known her in many capacities, most recently as a deputy prosecutor between 2003-2011. As a police officer, I have worked hand in hand with Michelle when handling many different types of cases including criminal and domestic violence cases.

Michelle has no fault in her abilities, professionalism and personality. She is a person of integrity and an individual with strong moral character. It takes an exceptional person to take on the responsibilities that Michelle does. She shows compassion, yet is able to be fair at the same time. Her diligence and her judicial temperament is even keeled, calm and respectful. Michelle is an intelligent being and took pride in her professional position. Her grooming equaled her professional approach as she was always properly attired.

In short, Mrs. Laubach carries my highest recommendations.

Respectfully submitted.

From: [Louis P. Mendonca](#)
To: [Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran: JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 12:57:11 PM

Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

I write this email in support Kanani Laubach's application for the District Family Court Judge's position.

I have referred people with criminal and other family court matters to Mrs. Laubach. I found Mrs. Laubach to be compassionate, understanding, and knowledgeable of their legal issues and predicaments. I believe she has the integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, and temperament to be a fair, impartial, and competent judge. Mrs. Laubach would serve our Family Court well.

Sincerely,

Louis P. Mendonca
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation

From: [Lucas Burns](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#); [Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran](#)
Subject: RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 12:47:45 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Lucas C. Burns

Date: June 18, 2016

I am writing in support of the Chief Justice's appointment of Ms. M. Kanani Laubach to the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Ms. Laubach is a very talented attorney who possesses the professional temperament and integrity to be a fair and exceptionally competent judge.

As a deputy prosecutor, I have worked on cases against Ms. Laubach many times and have found her to constantly be honest and forthright. She is very articulate and is always determined to work hard for her clients and zealously advocate for them. Ms. Laubach is also level-headed and decisive, and has an in-depth knowledge of the rules of evidence and the rules of court. I have no doubt that Ms. Laubach, with her experience litigating cases, including presenting cases before a jury, will serve the people of Hawai`i Island very well as a judge.

Thank you for your time,
Lucas C. Burns

From:
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 8:58:22 AM
Importance: High

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Michelle Kanani Laubauch to become the District Court judge.

As a close friend of the family I have known Kanani personally throughout her entire life.

Kanani Laubauch has years of knowledge and experience as a former public servant and in her private practice. She works very hard to provide the best representation for her clients. Kanani has the qualities and experience to be an excellent judge. She can be fair, impartial, opened minded and still be able to make the right decision based on all of the facts.

Kanani's integrity and honesty are the characteristics I like about her which has gained the trust and respect of the our community.

She is full of energy, ready to work, experienced and with the right temperament for the job. I have the utmost respect and confidence in Kanani Laubauch. She is the type of person we want as our judge.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my comment.

Sincerely,

Lydia Santiago

From: [mary ann mandaloniz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE:JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 7:44:22 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: MaryAnn Mandaloniz

I've Known Kanani since she was a little girl, a little tough at times , but sweet and caring. Always greeting me with a hug and a kiss and concerned that I am doing well. Today Kanani, an attorney still carries that concern for people. I was so proud of her when she became an attorney , but thought I won't ever need a lawyer. Well the need arose and I turned to Kanani for advice, she immediately helped my son and myself to understand the legal matters that involved his case and handled it with confidence and concern. She was patient and compassionate of our emotional state as well.

Kanani is fair, patient with a lot of Wisdom and I know that will follow her into a courtroom.

I see by being around her how Kanani gains respect from the public, her family and friends.

I'm confident that Kanani will serve our Judicial system with fairness and integrity.

Thank You Very Much,

Sincerely,

MaryAnn Mandaloniz

MATTHEW S. ANBE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1001 BISHOP STREET, ASB TOWER 1330, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813. TELEPHONE: (808)537-5600. FACSIMILE: (808)537-1144.

June 20, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Matthew Anbe

Please accept this correspondence in support of the selection of Michelle K. Laubach for the position of District Judge, District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Ms. Laubach for nearly fifteen years and on numerous occasions, worked with her on criminal law cases and other legal matters. Through these circumstances, I have attained a clear view of Ms. Laubach's decision-making from varying perspectives, and at all times, Ms. Laubach has continued to exhibit unquestionable professionalism, integrity, and commitment to fairness. However, aside from these favorable points, what I find most noteworthy regarding Ms. Laubach is her knowledge of the law, her command of trial tactics, and the level of skill she is able to apply the law in the courtroom. In this regard, I doubt that any person would disagree with my view.

In all, I truly believe that Ms. Laubach would prove to be a most valued asset to our judiciary, and I am not able to emphasize enough my support for her selection.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Anbe

MSA:lo

June 20, 2016

TO: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

FROM: Deputy Sheriff Maui Ramos
Hilo Sheriffs

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order
No. 2016-2

SUBJECT: MICHELLE KANANI LAUBACH FOR JUDGE

Aloha Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee.

I am humbly writing this letter to shed some insight on the type of person Kanani is. My hope is that this letter helps our community gain a great and deserving Judge.

My name is Maui Ramos:

I have worked in or around the Hawaii justice system for nearly 20 years. I am a Deputy Sheriff stationed in Hilo. I have been at the Hilo Court House for over 10 years. I have also worked as an Adult Corrections Officer, Behavior Specialist for “At Risk Youth”, and a Part-Time Teacher for Olomana Youth Facility.

Observations of Kanani over the years:

I have watched and observed many lawyers over the past 10 years as a Deputy Sheriff. Very few as impactful as Kanani. I have had the pleasure of watching her try cases as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. She is equally efficient on either side. She shows her persistence everyday by conducting herself in a professional manner. Here are some examples of what I see of her on a daily basis:

- 1. Always comes to court well organized and prepared**
 - a. Desk in front of her is neat as she tries
 - b. Travels to court light – Im assuming because the work is put in before court
- 2. Knowledge:**
 - a. Rarely has to look at HRS as she tries
 - b. Speaks confidently with good transitions and flow – very clear and concise
 - c. Doesn’t get rattled or caught off guard
 - d. Wide range of experience accumulated over the years
- 3. Compassion, Humility:**
 - a. Treats all her clients with respect and fairness, regardless of charges, appearance, smell, age, gender, sexual preference, etc
- 4. Professionalism:**
 - a. Always dressed appropriately
 - b. Seems to have a great rapport with judges, peers, clients, law enforcement and public
 - c. Doesn’t use profanity
 - d. Never loses her cool
 - e. Never brings her personal problems to the court
- 5. Integrity:**
 - a. Always willing to do the right thing regardless of the situation
 - b. Never lets her personal feelings get in the way of her work or influences her about her clients

It has been a pleasure to watch Kanani grow as an attorney over the years. She is a constant reminder of what a true professional should be. She displays true grit and persistence while being humble in the way she does it. I have know doubt in my mind that she would make a great and honorable District Family Court Judge.

Mahalo
Deputy Sheriff Maui Ramos

June 17, 2016

By Email transmission on 6-17-16

TO: SENATE CHAIR GILBERT KEITH-AGARAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

FROM: MICHAEL M. EBESUGAWA, ESQ.

RE: **JC2-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2 (Submitting for
consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit,
Judicial Nominee M. KANANI LAUBACH**

To the Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chairperson, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Ms. M. Kanani Laubach as District
Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

I am a deputy public defender and supervisor of the public defender's office in
Hilo. I was born and raised in Hilo and have been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i
since 1981. I have been a deputy public defender in Hilo since 1987. I share, I believe, the same
interest and desire as many others here on the Big Island, and, of course, around the State,
regarding the appointment and confirmation of only the highly qualified to sit as judges for our
communities.

I have known Ms. Laubach since January 2011, when Ms. Laubach returned to
Hilo to begin her employment in with the Hawai'i County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

During her employment here as a deputy prosecuting attorney, I worked with
Ms. Laubach on a number of cases in both the district and circuit courts. I have found her
unfailingly courteous and professional in our dealings. I found her well prepared and fair and
thus, an effective advocate for the State of Hawaii. Though adversaries, I also had no cause to
doubt her honesty and integrity.

Since Ms. Laubach left the prosecutor's office for private practice, we have
continued to have frequent contact. Ms. Laubach's practice in large part remained in the criminal
law. As a defense colleague, we have worked as co-counsels in serious felony cases and been
fellow participants in defense lawyers' discussion groups in Hilo.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Re: **JC2-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2**, Nomination of M. Kanani Laubach
June 17, 2016

Page 2

As a private defense attorney, she has unfailingly demonstrated not only her commitment to the effective advocacy of her retained and court-appointed clients but also in furtherance of the quality of representation by the local defense bar.

To this end, for example, Ms. Laubach has been a voice for the criminal defense bar in the judiciary's statewide Bench/Bar committee. I believe she was also formerly on a similar committee for the Third Circuit. As a member of these committees, Ms. Laubach, on her own time and by her own effort, has ensured that the defense bar in Hilo is advised, through email and text message postings and by calling periodic open meetings, of recent developments and proposals relating to our common practice.

In addition, as you can imagine, the bar in Hilo is limited and so the abilities and character of its members are readily apparent. From my personal dealings with Ms. Laubach and by reputation, I believe that Ms. Laubach possesses the intelligence, compassion and temperament to be a credit to the judiciary.

I understand that Ms. Laubach was born and raised in Hilo. She, along with her family, is a respected part of the Big Island. Her background gives her a perspective of our community which will serve her well in her service to the judiciary and the community.

Finally, Ms. Laubach possesses those qualities necessary for the position as a Family District Court Judge.

Ms. Laubach possesses the honesty, willingness to work, intelligence and commitment to carry out the responsibilities of a judge.

Ms. Laubach will be a fair arbiter for the parties appearing in his court and will represent the judiciary well in its relationship with our community.

Ms. Laubach is very even-tempered. She is considerate in dealing with others. Ms. Laubach would exhibit a respectfully demeanor to all who appear before her. She has the necessary patience to allow the parties to make their case. She has the respect and caring for people to really listen and hear their problems. Finally, Ms. Laubach understands the need for a judge to demonstrate restraint and professionalism so as to promote the public's respect for the courts.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Re: **JC2-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2**, Nomination of M. Kanani Laubach
June 17, 2016

Page 3

Although I do not believe I will be able to personally attend Ms. Laubach's anticipated appearance before this committee and before the full Senate, please consider this written testimony as a statement in full support of Ms. Laubach's confirmation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael M. Ebesugawa

mme

June 15, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Michael Kagami

I have known Kanani Laubach since 2005 when I recruited her to work for the Hilo Prosecutors Office from the Honolulu Prosecutors Office. I met Kanani at a training for internet crimes and was impressed by her intelligence and her personality.

We were successful in getting Kanani to move back home to Hilo and the legal community on Hawaii Island has benefited ever since. I worked with Kanani at the Hilo Prosecutors Office for approximately 6 years. During that time, Kanani displayed all the qualities of an ideal prosecutor: intelligent, hard-working, decisive, passionate, and, above all, fair. Kanani's disposition was always friendly, accessible, and forthcoming.

Kanani is highly respected for her legal ability. She possesses the exceptional ability to identify the real issues in a legal situation and to correctly assess the different positions of the parties. She knows the rules and procedures of court. In other words, Kanani possesses an outstanding legal mind.

As outstanding as her legal ability, Kanani's character is just as profound. She is approachable, open-minded, and she listens. She is calm and unflappable. Her integrity is unquestioned.

Kanani possesses all of the qualities that would make her a highly effective judge. The people of the Hawaii Island would benefit greatly should Kanani be confirmed to the bench.

From: [Mike Town](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 Chief Justice's appointment 2016-2
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:58:38 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Judge Michael A. Town (retired)

I am honored to comment on the qualifications of Kanani Laubach. She has been appearing before me as a Hawaii Parole Board Commissioner for the past 4 plus years. She has been punctual, professionally prepared and dressed, and had impeccable behavior in what are often contentious and difficult circumstances. She is effective and communicates well.

We sit on all the islands moving from prison facility to facility and Ms. Laubach has made the process fair and reasonable and well represented her clients. Inmates are before the Board for minimums, parole and parole revocations. It is a key part of the continuum of criminal law. What I appreciated very much was the rapport she had with inmates, staff, opposing counsel and others. That is often something hard to attain.

My opinion is she has the temperament, legal acumen and knowledge and proven track record to do the job of judge very well. I recommend her confirmation with no reservations.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

Sincerely, Judge Michael A. Town (retired)

OLIVEROS LAW, LLLC

PH (808)345-0960

FX (888)795-3375

Date: June 16, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
M. Kanani Laubach

Via: Facsimile to 808-586-7348

Dear Senate Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I have known Ms. Laubach for approximately 10 years. When we first met she was a deputy prosecutor and I was a deputy public defender assigned to the same traffic calendar. Since our meeting we have interacted as adversaries, co-counselors, successor counselors, colleagues, and small business owners.

Based on these interactions, I strongly support her confirmation as a judge. To address her specific qualities, Ms. Laubach has integrity. As an adversary, I knew that there wouldn't be any hiding of evidence or misrepresentation if she was the prosecutor assigned to a case. She is hardworking, intelligent, thorough and diligent. As co-counsel I have found she uses logic and common sense to follow facts and legal precedent through to their logical conclusion. As successor counsel, I have found her files to be organized and conducted in a time-sensitive manner. She is also fiscally conservative and contributes to the community. As a small business owner she is cost-conscious and as a bar member she willingly volunteers her time to our local community of defense attorneys and to the community as a whole.

In addition, Ms. Laubach is also particularly fair. She is very even-handed which I believe will translate well into judicial temperament. In my experience with her she always treats every individual, whether a client, friend, complaining witness, adversary, witness, co-worker, politician, or alleged criminal as a human being worthy of dignity. She does not pick favorites or unfairly discriminate. She is sympathetic, logical, and just. These are traits that the best judges exhibit and that inspire the people who appear before them to respect the system.

Sincerely,



Mirtha Oliveros

From: [junior tuyo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:46:26 PM
Importance: High

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Oladisun Tuyo-Scanlan

Aloha:

I am writing this comment in support of the appointment of Kanani Laubach to fill the position of District Family Court Judge. In my 6 years of knowing Kanani, I've come to admire her very much. She is an individual of good sound judgment, moral fiber, and integrity. In addition she is very community and family orientated. She conducts herself very professionally, has the respect of her fellow peers. As a deputy sheriff, I've observed Kanani in the court room. She is intelligent, very knowledgeable of the law. Kanani is a very calm and collected person. I believe she will serve the position of District Family Court Judge with due diligence, integrity, and fairness.

I conclude by saying, it's my humble opinion that you all confirm Kanani Laubach's appointment as District Family Court Judge

Mahalo for taking the time in reading my comment
Oladisun Tuyo-Scanlan

From: [Patrick Munoz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:51:47 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate
Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Patrick Muñoz HSBA #9821

Re: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Dear Selection Members,

I have known Mrs. Kanani Laubach for three and a half years, from when I started with the Public Defenders Office in Hilo. Kanani has always been helpful in handling jointly held cases and also in sharing advice on how to handle difficult cases or problems that can arise while in court. Her knowledge of criminal law and procedure is impressive, which results from her many years of experience in both prosecution and defense.

Kanani has a great reputation of competence as an attorney, knowledge of the law, and integrity in her dealings with both defense and prosecution attorneys. She has always acted professional in both court and at out of court get together events. She also has a great reputation among her clients, as many who have had her praise her hard work and diligence on their cases, when I have also represented them on other matters.

In my opinion, Mrs. Kanani Laubach will make an excellent Judge. She knows the law, is diligent in her duties, and has a calm even keeled demeanor that elicits respect from both attorneys and clients. Additionally, she is not afraid to do what is right and her integrity is unquestionable.

Sincerely,

Patrick Muñoz

From: [Raquel Chang](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of Support to the Senate
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 11:12:00 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Raquel A. Chang

I would like to submit a letter of support on behalf of Michelle Kanani Laubach. (Kanani Laubach)
Last year I had the opportunity to work with Kanani Laubach, when my husband needed to seek legal council due to an unfortunate circumstance that we went through with our then, teenage daughter.

I researched a variety of different legal counsels and Kanani came highly recommended. She was highly intelligent and reliable. We put our complete trust in her. I am glad to say that we made it through our ordeal and Kanani was there every step of the way to support us through this process.

Every interaction that we had with Kanani was professional. She handled our case with compassion, fairness and integrity. From the first conversation that I had with her I knew that we were in capable hands and that we would be able to get through this ordeal with her support. A feeling of comfort washed over me when I hung up the phone with her, the very first time I spoke to her.

Each time Kanani was able to answer all our questions, help us at every turn and give us sound advice on how to proceed. This was our very first experience in a court room. We didn't know what to expect or how to proceed. She put us at ease and explained everything that we needed to in order to be prepared. We will forever be indebted to her. Without a doubt we knew that we could rely on her legal ability and expertise. I would highly recommend her to our closest friends and relatives if they ever need legal counsel.

Her commitment to the field, legal ability and her work ethic fits in line perfectly with her future endeavors in the judicial field. She will be an impeccable representative.

Please accept my letter of support.

Sincerely,

Raquel A. Chang

June 20, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1-Chief Justice Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Rena Perreira

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Island of Hawai'i.

Over the last decade, M. Kanani Laubach has enhanced her experience by investing in our educational system as well as our community. Her work as a deputy prosecuting attorney with the City and County of Honolulu and Hawai'i Island further her experience and perspective. The last 5 years in private practice has enabled Laubach to expand her extensive experience in District, Family and Circuit Court.

M. Kanani Laubach has genuinely distinguished herself through her outstanding intellect, her professional credentials and her deep respect for the rule of law establishing herself beyond question as fully qualified and ready to serve on Circuit Court of the Third Circuit.

Sincerely,
Rena Perreira

June 20, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members
of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Consideration of M. Kanani Laubach for Third Circuit District Family Court
JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in strong support of M. Kanani Laubach’s consideration for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I had the opportunity and the pleasure of supervising Ms. Laubach when she was first sworn in as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. I was then the Chief of the Misdemeanor Traffic Division and worked with her on a daily basis. She was always extremely dedicated, motivated, and resolutely prepared for court. Among the over one hundred new deputy prosecutors whom I supervised over the years, Ms. Laubach clearly stood out for her intellect, compassion, energy, and outstanding work ethic. She is highly effective not only because of her ability to spot and analyze legal issues from all perspectives, but also because of her ability to respectfully communicate with others.

Our career took us on separate paths when Ms. Laubach moved to the Big Island. By way of background and context, I am now the Sheriff, Department of Public Safety, after having served as the deputy attorney general for the Department of Public Safety. When I appeared on an unrelated matter as a deputy attorney general, I had a more recent opportunity to observe Ms. Laubach in court in the Third Circuit. I also had the opportunity to observe her when I appeared with the then-Director of the Department of Public Safety in a chambers discussion with the Court, the Prosecuting Attorney, and Ms. Laubach as member of the defense bar in a discussion regarding defendants being sentenced to jail at the correctional center. Just as she was many years ago, Ms. Laubach was well-prepared in court. In the chambers discussion, she was animated, fair, respectful, and open-minded, seeking creative solutions to the challenges faced.

Ms. Laubach has routinely demonstrated that she is committed to seeking justice and serving the community. Dedicated and skilled, Ms. Laubach will perform her duties fairly and efficiently. She has the heart and intellect to serve the community well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Very truly yours,


Renee R. Sonobe Hong

From: [Sherlock, Richard](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Chief Justice's Appoinnemetn Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:30:00 AM

To the Honorable Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

I am humbly sending my comments regarding the confirmation hearing of M. Kanani Laubach for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit vacancy.

I first worked with "Kanani" when she was a Hawai'i County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and I was assigned as a Detective with the Hawai'i Police Department's Criminal Investigation Section. I looked forward to working with her due to her positive attitude, intelligence, sense of responsibility, and integrity.

When she left the Hawai'i County Prosecutor's Office for private practice, I felt it was a great loss to the County of Hawai'i 's Criminal Justice System, but also felt comfortable working with her due to her character, sense of responsibility to the community, and most of all, her integrity.

M. Kanani Laubach will represent the State of Hawai'i Judicial System effectively and professionally with a great sense of Kuleana and most importantly, 'Ike Pono.

Mahalo for your time,

Captain Richard Sherlock
South Hilo Patrol

Fax

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and
Committee Members **From:** Ricky R. Damerville

Fax: **Date:** June 20, 2016

Phone: **Pages:** 2.

Re: JC1, Chief Justice's Appointment Order
No. 2016-2, Nomination of M. Kanani
Laubach to the District Court of the Third
Circuit **CC:**

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

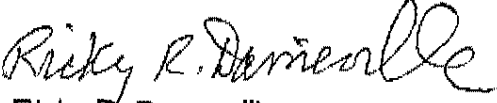
Dear Senate Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Mrs. Laubach to the district court bench. She comes from a family of dedicated public servants. I have known her mother for more than a quarter of a century. I have followed Mrs. Laubach's career as an attorney since in 2003. She was a colleague of mine with Office of the Prosecuting Attorney from 2006 through 2011. She quickly established herself as a dedicated and highly capable advocate such that she was appointed to the violent crimes unit very early in her career, which is testament to her skills, dedication, and the confidence that she instilled in her colleagues and the victims that she fought for in court. I have watched her work countless hours of overtime in highly stressful situations while still being able to maintain stellar demeanor and answer the call and demands of her young children. I have the utmost confidence in her skills as a lawyer and more importantly as a person.

If you have any questions regarding this outstanding judicial nominee, I can be

reached at

Sincerely,


Ricky R. Damerville

ROBERT D.S. KIM, INC.

A Hawaii Law Corporation

81-6627 Mamalahoa Highway, Ste 109 | P.O. Box 188 | Kealahou, HI 96750

Phone: 808.329.6611 | Fax: 808.329.6676

Email: konalaw1@hawaii.rr.com

June 15, 2016

Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
And Labor Committee

RE: Michelle Laubach
District Court of the Third Circuit
JC1 – Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Dear Chairman Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

I am sending this letter regarding the above referenced nomination. I strongly support this appointment of Michelle Laubach to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

As the former President of the West Hawaii Bar Association, I have spoken to many attorneys in West Hawaii who support this nomination. I have worked on various bar committees with Ms. Laubach and can tell you without reservation that she is respected in our legal community on the Big Island as a person of high integrity.

I have personally observed her in court proceedings. I can state with no reservation that she is a skilled attorney who has a background in criminal, family and civil law. We need Ms. Laubach to help with the caseload in Waimea, which requires a background in various fields of the law. She has an even temperament. Because she is a private attorney, she will be able to immediately participate in criminal cases, as there is no bar to her participation.

Ms. Laubach is intelligent, articulate and compassionate. I recommend her for this position without reservation. This was a good selection for the Big Island.

Very truly yours,



Robert D. S. Kim

From: [Robert Fujitake](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Michelle K. Laubach Appointment
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 9:04:05 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

My name is Robert Fujitake Jr. I am submitting a recommendation for Michelle K. Laubach, regarding her nomination for the District Family Court Judge position.

I work for the Hawaii Police Department in Hilo as a Police Lieutenant, and have been employed with the department for over 16 years. I have personally known Michelle K. Laubach for approximately 15 years. Within that time that I have worked with Ms. Laubach in a law enforcement capacity, I have known her to be an honest, trustworthy individual.

While Ms. Laubach was employed as a prosecutor, I worked with her on criminal cases as an officer in patrol, and as a detective within the Criminal Investigations Section. During that time I could count on Ms. Laubach to give straight forward and unbiased advice regarding criminal prosecution. Whenever we discussed the cases she never swayed from her decisions, nor took things personally. From a law enforcement perspective, I respected her decisions as I knew that she was always being fair.

Prior to that I remember Ms. Laubach in High School, as we both attended Waiakea High at the same time. She has never wavered in her character and demeanor from high school until now.

In my opinion, I feel that Michelle K. Laubach is well suited and qualified to be the next District Family Court Judge. She is knowledgeable, compassionate and a very well respected individual in our community.

Sincerely,

Robert Y. Fujitake Jr.

From: [RPilla5773](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 10:55:28 AM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

From: Robyn Arakaki

Dear Sir and Members,

I have worked with M. Kanani Laubach (Kanani) when I was her support staff at the Honolulu Prosecutor's office during her time in the Misdemeanor and Felony divisions. I support her and hope that you all will confirm her in her appointment. The people of the Big Island is lucky to have Kanani as one of their judge's because of her professional ethics and fairness.

Very truly yours,

Robyn Arakaki

Legal Clerk

June 19, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Robyn Faumuina

Dear Sir,

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of Michelle Kanani Laubach. Michelle, or “Kanani” as I know her, has been both a professional and personal friend for over 20 years. I originally met Kanani when I was her supervisor at the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Family Visitation Center. During her tenure there, Kanani was tasked with supervising visitation between children and their parents or caretakers who had lost custody of them due to abuse or neglect. Kanani was the consummate professional. This job took moral courage and integrity as we knew of the parent’s offenses, yet we were to supervise them visiting with the same children they had abused or neglected. At this time, Kanani also had to learn legal aspects of each case she dealt with; she did this in a compassionate and fair manner at all times. I can safely say that the parents never reported that Kanani was unfair or unprofessional in any manner. As her supervisor, I took great pleasure in watching her personal and professional growth.

Over the years Kanani and I have maintained contact and it has been a pleasure to watch her professional and personal successes as a wife, mother, and an attorney. In my opinion, Kanani will make a wonderful judge as she can be both decisive and fair while weighing all aspects of a case before making judgement. It is my opinion that she will do her best at all times and provide everyone she comes into contact with, with superb customer service.

Kanani is a “go-getter” and she always strives for the best in her personal and professional life. She will make a wonderful addition to any organization that is lucky enough to have her! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robyn L.K. Faumuina, M.S.

From: [Rose De Lima](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016 12:26:39 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Rose Anne De Lima

I am writing to ask you to support the appointment of M. Kanani Laubach by Judge Mark E. Recktenwald to fill the position in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

I first met Laubach in 2009, when I was a probation officer and she was a deputy prosecutor. As a dedicated and tireless public servant, she always believed in the rights of the victim but never ignored the rights of the accused. She was always prepared for court and was always fair and impartial. She would not overlook the smallest of details, regardless of whether or not that detail would benefit her case or the defense's case.

A few years after we met, she left the prosecutors office to establish her own business. Her superb work ethics and ability to keep an open mind continued as countless hours were spent working as a team to determine the best interest of our mutual clients. Even in disagreement, she was respectful, fair, and understanding.

In her extensive career serving the Hawaii county, she has worked both arms of the judicial system with skill and compassion. I believe she possesses the qualities and experience to be an excellent judge.

From: [Rose A Zastrow](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Nominee Michelle K. Laubach
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 7:16:52 AM

I am writing today to express my unequivocal support of the nominee Michelle K. Laubach.

As a Probation Officer for the Third Circuit I have worked closely with her on many different cases. I have always been impressed with her ability to see all sides of an issue and her knowledge of the law. Ms. Laubach possesses the experience and intelligence to be a jurist that the State of Hawaii can take pride in.

Ms. Laubach's experience as a therapist, and both a prosecuting attorney, and defense attorney highlight her innate qualities of integrity, compassion and fairness. Her expertise has instilled her with the wisdom, and abilities that emphasizes her judicial temperament. I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with her and I have gained knowledge and insight about the judicial system from this intelligent, courageous, and compassionate woman.

Ms. Laubach is the perfect choice for the position and it is my hope that you will award it to her; we need this fair and impartial jurist in our circuit. Thank you for consideration of my input.

Sincerely,
Rose Zastrow

Rose Zastrow, MPA
Senior Probation Officer

June 20, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members
of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Consideration of Michelle Kanani Laubach for Third Circuit District Family
Court

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter in strong support of Michelle Kanani Laubach's consideration for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I am currently a captain with the Honolulu Police Department; however, when I was a sergeant in charge of the department's DUI/DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) Team I had many cases with Ms. Laubach as a new deputy prosecutor in the Traffic and Misdemeanor Section. Ms. Laubach's commitment to identifying dangerous drivers and protecting the innocent never interfered with her ability to carefully look at the facts of the case and recommend lesser charges or dismiss based on a lack of evidence.

Ms. Laubach has shown that she can evaluate each case on its own merits and possess the ability to fairly prosecute or recommend dismissal. I have known Ms. Laubach for over 10 years and I truly admire her commitment for justice for all, her intellect, and her courage to do the right thing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 723-3571.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan T. Nishibun', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan T. Nishibun

SANNA SCHWEITZER
P.O. BOX 634I
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PHONE: (808) 936-8583

June 20, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2 (M. Kanani Laubach)

Dear Senate Chair Keith-Agaran and Senate and Labor Committee members:

Please kindly accept this letter in support of M. Kanani Laubach’s appointment to fill the District Family Court of the Third Circuit position indicated above.

My name is Sanna Schweitzer. I am an Adult Probation Officer with the Adult Client Services Branch, Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii). I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Laubach for several years as she has been the court-appointed counsel for cases I have been assigned to supervise. Ms. Laubach has always been courteous and respectful even in instances when she disagrees with my recommendations. She exemplifies professionalism and a strong work ethic. Additionally, her patience, knowledge, and commitment to fairness when working towards resolving cases are at the core of what I believe will make her a great judge. She has never been too busy to discuss or seek resolution of a case.

Furthermore, on occasions that I have encountered Ms. Laubach outside of the work arena, she retains a professional, yet friendly disposition.

I thank you kindly for the opportunity to submit a letter in support of Ms. Laubach. She will be a great asset to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (808) 936-8583.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanna Schweitzer

SANNA SCHWEITZER

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**

June 21, 2016
Conference Room 325
Hawaii State Capitol
10:00 a.m.

**Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2
(Michelle Kanani Laubach)**

Sean K. Sanada, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer
HHSC, Oahu Region

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Michelle Kanani Laubach’s confirmation to the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

I had the genuine pleasure of working with Ms. Laubach for several years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu. Through our daily interactions and my observations of her in court proceedings, I quickly came to see that Ms. Laubach possessed an iron-clad work ethic and was always well-prepared for her cases irrespective of their size or complexity. I believe that this trait will enable Ms. Laubach to efficiently and judiciously handle the heavy caseloads in District Family Court.

Through her words and actions, I am also certain that Ms. Laubach possesses the highest degrees of integrity, compassion and intelligence. These traits played a significant role in Ms. Laubach’s success as a deputy prosecutor in Honolulu and enabled her to transition into an effective criminal defense and family law attorney in Hilo. Likewise, I believe that these traits will enable Ms. Laubach to be a very well-respected District Family Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Laubach’s confirmation. She will be a true asset to the judiciary.

From: [Serena Thomas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2017-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:09:00 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1-Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2017-2

From: Serena O'Grady

I am writing to submit my recommendation of Michelle K. Laubach, Esq., for the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. As a law clerk and bailiff at the Third Circuit Court, I have interacted frequently with Ms. Laubach for the past ten months. During that time, she has consistently displayed an ability to handle both civil and criminal cases, and carries out her court appointments effectively. She is proactive and passionate about resolving her cases, but is always fair, respectful and courteous. I believe that together, these qualities indicate she has the temperament necessary for District Court Judge and I strongly recommend her. It has been a pleasure to work with her.

June 20, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate
Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1-Chief Justice Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Sharon A. Perreira, Citizen
165 Kapualani Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

I am writing in support of M. Kanani Laubach to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Island of Hawaii).

Kanani is well suited for the position of a family court judge. I know her to be thoughtful and unbiased. She is always searching for the truth and fairness in all things.

Kanani is dedicated to the law and to the service of the people of Hawai'i. We will be lucky to have her in our judicial system.

Sincerely,
Sharon A. Perreira

From: [Stacie Mandaloniz](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 8:33:33 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Stacie Mandaloniz

June 19, 2016

Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI. 96813
email: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and the Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

This letter is to lend my support to Michelle K. Laubach's nomination to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawai'i), State of Hawai'i. I know her as Kanani.

We both call Hilo our home. I know that in this new position Kanani will quickly gain the Public's trust. I have complete faith in her to be open-minded to all sides as she makes important decisions. I trust her judgement and ability to be fair, yet firm.

Kanani is someone that I turn to for her legal expertise. She is an amazing listener and remembers details that I share with her. Our personal joke is that we both have super powers, she is super smart, I on the other hand am super forgetful.

Her super powers do not stop there. I admire her for her fearlessness for taking on what I consider the "hard cases". An ordinary criminal case is not a challenge enough for her, she needs to work on the violent crimes. Her experience in family law cases shows her wide range of involvement. She is tough, yet compassionate.

I am a single mother, and as a friend, Kanani has opened her home to my children and I on a number of occasions to join her family for gatherings. I can attest to her patience and calmness with my observations of her with her two boys. She is gifted with the ability to deal with stress. Kanani has done a wonderful job of prioritizing her personal and professional life. Juggling the full time roles as a mother, wife and attorney makes her nothing less than a super-mom.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stacie Mandaloniz

From: [Stanton C. Oshiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: M. Kanani Laubach
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 12:41:26 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Please be advised that consistent with my earlier letters to the Chief Justice as well as to the Judicial selection commission nad my response to the inquiryby the HSBA regarding Ms. Laubach I whole heartedly support her appointment without reservation or hesitation of any kind. She will be an asset to the judiciary and is more than well qualified for the position. I humbly submit this letter in support and thank you for this oppportunity to provide input relative to this important position.

Stanton C. Oshiro

June 16, 2016

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: RE: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: Tharrington T. Trusdell:

I am writing this letter in support of Michele Kanani Laubach for judge for the District Court of the Third Circuit (County of Hawai'i).

I met Ms. Laubach in 2006 when she began her employment with the Prosecutor's office and I have continued my relationship with her to the present.

I believe that she a good candidate for the position for judge for the following reasons:

Ms. Laubach has a good reputation in the community for honesty, trustworthiness, and citizenship.

Ms. Laubach is extremely intelligent and hard working and has done an outstanding job with the cases that she has handled. I have observed her to be very good at spotting evidentiary and legal issues in the cases she has handled and is very good at articulating and explaining the strengths and weakness of each case. This ability will help her as a judge and I am confident that she is more than competent to handle the cases that would come before her in District Court.

Ms. Laubach has taken an active role in developing the reputation and outreach of the Legal community in Hawai'i island. I have observed and/or participated with Ms. Laubach in such activities as Junior Judges, the Free Legal Clinic, and the Bench Bar Committee for the Third Circuit. She has donated her time to develop programs that encourage access to the law.

I believe Ms. Laubach will display excellent judicial temperament given her broad background in the law, psychology and counseling. I have seen her interact with a large variety of individuals from all walks of life and have treated them fairly and with respect.

Ms. Laubach also has a history of mentoring young people through a mentoring program as well as mentoring younger attorneys she has worked or interacted with in Prosecutors office and through her legal practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Ms. Laubach's nomination for judicial office.

Very truly yours,

THARRINGTON T. TRUSDELL

June 20, 2016

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chairperson
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee & Committee Members
E-mail: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2

To the Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran & Distinguished Committee Members:

This letter is sent in strong support and whole-hearted recommendation to appoint Michelle K. Laubach as a Judge in the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawai‘i.

I am a paralegal and worked with Ms. Laubach at the Honolulu Prosecutor’s office. She was a very capable prosecutor and worked well with the staff. She was definitely committed to seeking justice for the community, especially the victims and their families. Ms. Laubach worked tirelessly in preparing her cases for trial and was very well respected and appreciated by the other DPAs, her supervisors, the staff and the administration as a whole.

It is my firm belief that Ms. Laubach will make an excellent judge. She possesses the necessary legal knowledge, experience and temperament to be an outstanding addition to the District Court bar in the Third Circuit. Ms. Laubach has a masters degree in Psychology in addition to her juris doctorate. She is experienced as a case worker, a government attorney and she is currently running her own law practice where she takes a broad range of cases from family law, criminal defense and civil practice. Accordingly, Ms. Laubach’s extensive education and work experience will provide her with the necessary tools to be an effective and well-respected judge.

I absolutely recommend Ms. Laubach for the appointment as the District Court Judge in the Third Circuit. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Van Ohumukini

**TORKILDSON, KATZ, MOORE,
HETHERINGTON & HARRIS**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION
120 PAUAAHI STREET, SUITE 312
HILO, HAWAII 96720-3048
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VAUGHN G.T. COOK
DIRECT DIAL: (808) 961-0406
E-MAIL: VCOOK@TORKILDSON.COM

June 14, 2016

Via E-Mail JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support for Nomination of Judge M. Kanani Laubach
For Judge of District Family Court of the Third Circuit
JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of M. Kanani Laubach's nomination to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. While I have not had the opportunity to work with Ms. Laubach on cases before the courts, I can speak to her good character from our volunteer work and interactions through the Hawaii County Bar Association (HCBA).

I first met Ms. Laubach when I was a board member of the HCBA. She was a volunteer judge for the high school moot court program and generously gave of her time and wisdom to the youth participants. Ms. Laubach has also served as a board member and officer for the HCBA. She also volunteered for various events such as law day and the legal self-help center. Most recently, I was happy to join Ms. Laubach on the Waiakea High School Foundation board where, as the sole attorney, she assisted that organization with various legal issues. Despite the time demands of a private practice and a busy personal life, it was my experience that Ms. Laubach has always been a willing volunteer to help our legal community as well as the larger community. I have never known Ms. Laubach to get angry or lose her temper in my dealings with her but have found her to have a fair and even temperament. I humbly request that your committee support Ms. Laubach's nomination.

Very truly yours,

TORKILDSON, KATZ, MOORE,
HETHERINGTON & HARRIS
Attorneys At Law, A Law Corporation


Vaughn G.T. Cook
2022531.V1

To: Senate Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: JC1 – Chief Justice’s Appointment Order No. 2016-2;
In support of the confirmation of M. Kanani Laubach, Esq. as District Family Court Judge, District Family Court of the Third District.


From: Wade H. Hargrove III
465 S. King Street, Room 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-3050
wade.h.hargrove@hawaii.gov

I write in support of Michelle Kanani Laubach and the Senate’s confirmation of her judicial appointment to sit as a District Family Court Judge on the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I am a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii with the Health and Human Services Division of the Department of the Attorney General, where I have worked since 2006. I have known Ms. Laubach since at least 2003, where she and I both served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys for the City and County of Honolulu. I know Ms. Laubach to possess the good temperament and sound judgment necessary to properly evaluate the variety of legal issues she will confront as a District Family Court Judge. She will make a fine addition to the Judiciary and her presence there will undoubtedly be in the service of the people of Hawaii.

Ms. Laubach and I both served as Deputy Prosecutors in Honolulu in the Domestic Violence -Misdemeanor Division, a very challenging and stressful legal assignment that is as good a test of character and mental agility as any I have ever experienced. We were later placed on the same Felony Trials Team where a methodical and deliberate approach to cases is an absolute necessity. In my time as a Deputy Prosecutor, working alongside Ms. Laubach, each new case file could feel like a minefield waiting impatiently for your next step. Ms. Laubach was that special attorney that not only did good work, but somehow always made the work of others better also.

It was a privilege to work with Ms. Laubach early in our legal careers and I’m confident that she will continue to show the same respect for the rule of law as a judge that I saw her exhibit as a prosecutor. Simply put, she has the integrity, professionalism and compassion required of a District Family Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Wade H. Hargrove III

From: [Wendy Asato](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: re: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 8:52:20 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

RE: JC1- Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

from: Wendy W.Y. Asato

Dear Sirs -

I would like to urge the appointment of Chief Justice Recktenwald's selection of Ms. M. Kanani Laubach to fill the vacancy in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Island of Hawaii.

I have worked with Ms. Laubach when she was with the County of Hawaii prosecutor's office as well as during her time as a private attorney. I work with juvenile delinquents and their families, and I have found Ms. Laubach to be patient and caring with her clients. She is willing to take the time to explain to them the court system, and work with them as they navigate through their cases in Court whether their cases are simple theft cases to more serious felony cases. She takes the time to establish a rapport with them so that she can best represent them within the legal system, but still accept the responsibility for their behaviors as warranted.

Ms. Laubach has worked with many of government and non-profit agencies within our county. She has proven to be an excellent communicator with all of them, and she works hard to ensure that both sides are kept in the loop throughout her entire case. She has been a pleasure to work with, and I encourage the committee to confirm her selection to this position.

Thank you for allowing me to present this testimonial. Should you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely yours,

Wendy W.Y. Asato

From: [William Li](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2
Date: Sunday, June 19, 2016 10:33:08 PM

To: Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

From: William K. Li

I am writing in support of the Chief Justice's appointment of M. Kanani Laubach to a position in the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I believe Ms. Laubach is highly qualified to serve as a judge.

I had worked with Ms. Laubach at the Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney from 2003 to about 2006. During that time, I was impressed with Ms. Laubach's diligence and hard work. She put in a lot of time to prepare for court. She was not one to simply leave a problem in a case for the next prosecutor to fix; she would take care of it first.

In court, Ms. Laubach always treated people with patience and respect, including opposing counsel and pro se defendants in Traffic Court. I believe this professionalism will carry over to the bench and that Ms. Laubach will maintain a patient and respectful demeanor as a judge.

I cannot give an opinion on Ms. Laubach's work in the Third Circuit but I see her occasionally when she flies to Honolulu. Since we used to work together and are still friends, we sometimes bounce ideas off of each other. She is one of the attorneys I go to when I am in need of advice or insight.

I am unable to attend the hearing on June 21 but I hope this email helps. Please contact me if there are any questions.

Thank you,
William Li
Bar #: 7941

June 20, 2016

Senate Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
& Members of the State Judiciary
and Labor Committee

Re: JC1 - Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2

Aloha,

My name is William S. Perreira, retired and former Police Captain and Investigator of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii. I am writing this letter in support of Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2016-2.

I have known Kanani Laubach and her family for many years. Her mother, Dolores, was the Evidence Technician at the Hawaii County Police Department. Dolores was very honest and committed to her work and always displayed integrity and humility. During my 16 years in the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, I had the opportunity to work with Kanani who was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. It was a pleasure working with her as she was confident, bold, very knowledgeable, and always pleasant and level headed. I have also observed Kanani in court as a Defense Attorney and she displayed the very same qualities in that role.

I strongly support the appointment of Kanani Laubach and know that she is very qualified to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Third Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Perreira', written in a cursive style.

William S. Perreira
Investigator V (Retired)
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
County of Hawaii