

GM 1

Submitting for consideration
and confirmation as
Associate Justice to the
Hawaii Supreme Court,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
TODD W. EDDINS,
for a term to expire in ten
years.

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: mtrtjjerina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Testifying Remotely)
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:59:51 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/12/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Maria Roth-Tijerina	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Your comments: Judge Eddins' famously known kangaroo court has faced more controversy than most judges face in a lifetime. Yet, it has hardly been a lifetime since the publicly questioned nomination of judge Eddins in 2017 after representing Mayor Billy Kenoi in 2016. Todd Eddins' long pattern of publicly documented extremist comments make him unsuitable for any court. I believe that he should have never presided over the case in which my daughter was a victim (Hawaii vs. Bruggman) as he has openly and repeated expressed his true feelings about such cases provivng him bias. He challenged the supreme court claiming having to register as a sex offender was an unconstitutional barbaric act whose only purpose was for public shaming. He then compared the act of his client having to register as a sex offender to a modern day scarlet letter portraying an image of two lovers wrongfully ripped apart and punished too harshly by an overly prudish society when describing his client who was found guilty of repeatedly having sex with a five year old girl. He should have recused himself from any case in which a guilty verdict would mean the defendant having to register as a sex offender, instead he used the oppertunity to hand out as many get out of jail free cards as he could. I whole heartedly believe he willingly played a big role in coercing my family into unwilling accepting a plea deal so he could do just that. November 19th has been dedicated as the world day for prevention of child abuse. I,m not too religious but some would say the lord is trying to tell you something.

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.

Requests to testify remotely via videoconference must also be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the hearing. If you submitted your written testimony and your request to testify remotely at least 24 hours prior to the hearing, you will receive an email with a link to join the online meeting. This link will be sent approximately 8-12 hours before the start of the hearing. Therefore, please don't be alarmed if you don't receive it

immediately. Tips and guidelines for remote testimony for this special session can be found on the capitol website [here](#) or www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/RemoteTestimony.pdf

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From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: lbhawplc.ww@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Testifying Remotely)
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 12:11:14 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/13/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Warren Wichman	Individual	Support	Yes

Your comments: Dear Senate Committee on the Judiciary, In favor of Justice Todd Eddins, Todd Eddins and I met on our first day in law school and we became close friends, spending countless hours together during our years there, both inside and outside of classes. I consequently got to know him very well and it is on that basis that I make the following statement here before the Senate of the State of Hawaii. With a razor sharp intellect, in combination with an indefatigable work ethic, a superb ability to speak and write intelligently and eloquently, and with his wide range of experience in work and life to draw on, there won't be an issue or problem facing the Courts of Hawaii, no matter how important or difficult, that Justice Eddins won't be able to get to the bottom of in a manner that will make the State of Hawaii and her people proud. Best of all, justice and fairness for all, the rule of law, protection of the weak, a veneration for the Constitution: these are not just words for the Todd I know — these are things he really truly and strongly believes in and will fight for, it's part and parcel of his character and indelibly so. In these unprecedented and perilous times for our Democracy, if you are searching for a bona fide champion to defend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, there is no need to look further than Justice Todd Eddins. Thank you, Warren Wichman

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November 9, 2020

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Honorable Todd W. Eddins
Appointee for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

I am submitting this letter as written testimony in support of the Honorable Todd W. Eddins for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I was admitted into the Hawaii State Bar in 2002 and have served as a Deputy Public Defender for the last 17 years. I've had the opportunity to observe Judge Eddins as a trial attorney when he was a Deputy Public Defender and Attorney in private practice. I am a trial attorney as well and have appeared in his court room numerous times over the last few years. I've tried dozens of cases and completed two jury trials including a murder trial there. I can say that based on those experiences Judge Eddins' character and legal ability are second to none.

As a trial attorney, he was very effective because his style was never over the top or overly aggressive. He was one of few attorneys that I've ever known that possessed a brilliant legal mind while being able to relate to those around him like a normal, every-day person. As a Judge, the 8th Division operated smoothly and commanded respect from both the Prosecutor's Office and Defense Bar. His rulings were always fair and well thought out. In short, I strongly feel Judge Eddins is perfectly suited to serve our Supreme Court as an Associate Justice because he is highly intelligent, diligent, and most importantly, will continue to employ a common-sense approach as he did as an attorney and Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,

/S/ Alan J.T. Komagome

Alan J.T. Komagome
Deputy Public Defender

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: kikulani@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 3:49:32 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/11/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Anna Ishikawa Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Dear Committee Members: I submit this testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I've appeared before Judge Eddins for the past few years on numerous criminal matters. He is an exceptionally fair and reasonable judge to both the prosecution and defense. He is well respected and knows the law and rules of the court. He is also compassionate and I've seen him show kindness and fairness to all who comes before him. I believe that he will make an excellent Hawaii Supreme Court justice.

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

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November 12, 2020

Hawaii State Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Testimony for Todd Eddins

Aloha Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of Todd Eddins, who's appointment as an Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, I'm writing this character reference. My name is Bart Nakamoto and a friend of Todd for over forty years. As co-captains of HBA's basketball team, we forged a bond that continues today with family gatherings, UH and high school sports events, and alumni functions. Throughout the years, starting from high school through his return home from college to adulthood, he remains the same well-rounded, compassionate intellectual that always highly focused on family, friends, and the community.

Todd has always been a person of high ethics, humility, and sense of humor. His competitive nature on the basketball, tennis, and, now, judicial courts are driven by these principles. Over the many years, I've met many of his professional colleagues and can vouch on his character based on the length of friendships he's kept with people, including high school classmates as we approach our 40th year reunion.

I hope the committee on his judiciary appointment can take this reference of Todd's character and get a clear idea of this proud husband and father of four great kids. Thanks for taking the time and should you need further information, please contact me. Bart Nakamoto, DOE CDO PRO at 307-3939.

Mahalo,

Bart Nakamoto



THE LAW OFFICE OF BENJAMIN R.C. IGNACIO

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November 13, 2020

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
State of Hawaii Legislature

RE: Todd Eddins

Dear Senators:

I would like to register my support for Todd Eddins, who has been nominated for appointment as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins personally and professionally since the mid-Nineties when he was Deputy Public Defender and I was an associate attorney practicing private criminal defense. Through the years I also came to know him and his family and children socially.

It has always been apparent to me that Judge Eddins has held himself to the highest professional standards. I knew him as a defense attorney who was always ready and willing to go to trial, and litigate legal issues no matter how big, small, or novel. I also knew him as a creative negotiator who was able to see the appropriate and just resolution of a case, with an authority and credibility which would help his clients recognize it also.

I have appeared in front of Judge Eddins countless times, including several felony jury trials, and he has always been fair, just, and efficient. I believe he elevated the practice of law in his courtroom by keeping high but reasonable standards for attorneys appearing before him. His demeanor inspired confidence in the institution of the courts, and I doubt that any parties ever questioned his authority or commitment to justice.

Briefly, I have camped with Judge Eddins and his family on a number of occasions, and probably shared many meals and conversations with him and his wife, Rowena. My only son and their third child were born the same year, and I feel connected to the Eddinses in that way. I also know their two older children, both grown into young adulthood, successfully and vigorously establishing their place in this world. I have a very high opinion of the Eddins family, and I obviously believe the credit belongs to Judge Eddins and Rowena.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support Judge Eddins for appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court. He will be a credit to that institution and to the State of Hawaii.

SINCERELY
Benjamin R.C. Ignacio

BERVAR & JONES

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Keola Fong
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Of Counsel
Jacqueline E. Thurston

November 9, 2020

Via email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Committee on the Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **GM1**
Todd Eddins
Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Committee Members:

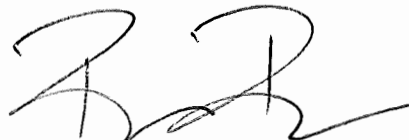
I highly recommend Todd Eddins for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mr. Eddins' intelligence, character and experience would make him an excellent justice.

I first had an opportunity to work closely with Todd ten years ago when we were co-counsel for co-defendants in a complex federal racketeering case. I was extremely impressed with Todd's diligence, demeanor, legal knowledge and ability. After that, whenever I needed to find co-counsel to work with on a case, I recommended Todd. We worked on four other cases together in the years after that, and Todd's legal skills continued to impress me.

Todd would make a superb Supreme Court justice. He is hard working, compassionate and fair. Todd has an excellent reputation in the legal community and the community in general.

I strongly recommend Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



BIRNEY B. BERVAR

BBB:pg

From: [Blake Bushnell](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony In Support of Todd Eddins" appointment as an Associate Justice with the Hawaii Supreme Court
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 11:51:56 PM

To Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Blake Bushnell and I am the founding partner of a local law firm called the Bushnell Law Group, LLLC. I have been a practicing lawyer in Honolulu, Hawaii since 1987. I have known Todd Eddins for almost thirty (30) years. I do not practice in the same areas as Todd and never appeared before him in his capacity as a circuit court judge. What I can tell you about Todd has to do with his character, his intellect, and his desire to help people. Todd is a person with high integrity who believes strongly in the judicial system as an institution. It is my opinion that he will always do what he thinks is correct under the law and the facts of every case that comes before him. He will not be beholden to special interests or politics and will always honor his independence as a Supreme Court Justice. Of these things I feel very confident.

I endorse Todd for appointment as an Associate Supreme Court Justice.

Blake W. Bushnell

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BRADLEY CHONG

ATTORNEY AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION

Dillingham Transportation Bldg • Suite 421 • 735 Bishop Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Friday, November 13, 2020

Senate Committee On Judiciary
Karl Rhoads, Chair
Jared Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: Circuit Court Judge, Todd Eddins Nomination to Supreme Court (SOH)
Dear Senators:

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you in support of Todd Eddins, Nominee for the Supreme Court Vacancy. I met Todd in the UH Bookstore a week before the start of our first year at the William S. Richardson, School of Law. Todd and I became close friends in law school and we worked together during two summers as law clerks (Protection and Advocacy, Public Defenders Office as APIL recipients (Advocates for Public Interest Law). During these summers I noticed how diligent and passionate Todd was about every case that was assigned to him. At the PDs he wrote 2 appeals that were successful and he was able to get the clients a new trial.

After law school, Todd clerked for Justice Yoshimi Hayashi at the Hawaii Supreme Court where he reviewed many briefs and wrote many legal memorandums and consulted with the esteemed Justice Hayashi. Thereafter, Todd worked as a Deputy Public Defender where he worked tirelessly fighting for the freedom and rights of hundreds of destitute clients. During his 13 years at the PDs, Todd ascended through the ranks (PD 4) and successfully litigated many felony cases as well as many highly publicized and unpopular cases. Todd fearlessly and zealously represented his clients within the bounds of the law and his thorough preparation and attention to detail made him a formidable advocate. From 2004 through 2017 Todd worked in private focusing on criminal defense, personal injury and a countless number of pro bono cases including representing the Waiahole and Waikane Community Association for several years. I grew up in Kahaluu (maternal Grandfather owned *Hygenic Store*) and my paternal Grandfather, Eddie Spencer, lived in the last house in Waiahole Valley.

Todd's work ethic, intelligence and open-mindedness makes Todd a clear thinker in my opinion. Todd is extremely independent and is anchored by his personal beliefs, moral convictions and astute knowledge of the laws of Hawaii. Its not only what people see of Todd's work that is occasionally captured in a TV news clip or in Star-Advertiser article or comment; but it's the work that Todd puts in when no one is looking, when no one is around except him and a stack of files, records and transcripts. I believe that this is precisely what a Supreme Court Justice does on a daily basis. To be a servant of the Court, a servant of the public and the ultimate arbiter and interpreter of the laws that govern our State. Todd is the hardest working and thought provocative attorney that I have ever met.

In addition to his superb lawyering skills, Todd's professionalism and knowledge of the District Court and Circuit Court procedures and evidentiary rules is second to none. Todd's work in the judiciary has been nothing short of unprecedented, and amazingly efficient over the last 3 years. Todd is a family man who has 4 beautiful children and has been married for about 19 years. Todd has coached youth baseball and youth basketball in Kailua for years and is a pillar of the Kailua community. Todd has been an avid UH Football, Basketball and Baseball fan for 5 decades. Most of all, Todd can relate to just about everyone and his kindness to people is his best quality.

Mahalo,
Bradley Chong

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Submitted Via E-Mail To JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

November 11, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole,
and Other Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

At 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020, in Conference Room 016 of the State Capitol, you will be holding a hearing on Governor David Ige's nomination of the Honorable Todd W. Eddins to serve as an Associate Justice on our Hawaii Supreme Court. This letter constitutes my written testimony in strong support of confirming that nomination.

By way of brief introduction, I have been a member of the Hawaii bar since 1968, practicing primarily in the field of criminal defense law. I served as Hawaii's first Chief State Public Defender between 1970 and 1972. During that time, my office contracted with the Chief Judge of the United States District Court, the Honorable Martin Pence, to represent most federal indigent defendants whose cases came before the Hawaii federal court throughout that time period. Notably, I have extensive experience in appellate litigation, including litigation of cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. I am also a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court. The leading

national attorney rating service Martindale-Hubbell has awarded me their highest rating (AV Preeminent), and I have been selected by my peers for listing in the national reference book Best Lawyers in America since 1983 through 2021. I am also listed in Honolulu Magazine's Best Lawyers in Hawaii and on Super Lawyers. Additionally, I am an elected Fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, an elected Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and a Life Member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. I previously served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Hawaii Law School for fifteen years, co-teaching the Hawaii Innocence Project seminar and co-representing numerous Hawaii Innocence Project clients.

I have followed the impressive legal career of Todd W. Eddins with interest and admiration. Todd graduated from the University of Hawaii Law School in 1991. During law school, he served as Executive Editor of the University of Hawaii Law Review, and was also among a group of law student leaders who helped institute a public service requirement for graduation. While a law student at UH, Todd won American Jurisprudence awards in both Civil Rights and Criminal Procedure. Todd was selected to serve as a law clerk for Associate Justice Yoshimi Hayashi of the Hawaii Supreme Court, which provided Todd with valuable experience and day-to-day exposure to the inner workings of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

It is very useful for an appellate judge to have prior experience in varied areas of the law, and Todd definitely fulfills that status. After completing his Hawaii Supreme Court clerkship, Todd gained professional knowledge and experience in a variety of legal positions: as a Deputy Public Defender for the State of Hawaii; as a Staff Attorney at the Hawaii State House of Representatives; as a civil litigator with the law firm of Galisher DeRobertis Ono; and in private practice with his own law firm, handling criminal, civil and appellate litigation. Todd has been lead counsel in more than 100 jury trials and 200 bench trials, and he has represented clients in all of Hawaii's circuit courts. In the criminal law context, Todd has represented approximately 24 defendants charged with murder, and countless defendants charged with a wide range of other criminal

offenses.

Compassion is another valuable quality that should be exhibited by a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. Todd Eddins has demonstrated compassion, particularly when representing in complex litigation Pearl Harbor shipyard workers and U.S. Navy veterans who were suffering from mesothelioma because of asbestos exposure; when representing a young widow and her child whose husband/father died from a negligent oil tank explosion in the Campbell Industrial Park area; and when representing (pro bono) a domestic violence victim in divorce and child custody litigation.

Another important quality to consider when selecting an individual to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court is that person's record of service to the legal profession and to the community at large. Todd has taught appellate advocacy at the University of Hawaii Law School as an adjunct faculty member; has been an HSBA trial academy instructor; has been a presenter and panelist at Hawaii Judicial Conferences; and has been a lecturer and panelist at other seminars and legal education events. He has served as a member of the Special Committee on Judicial Performance and as a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions. As a fellow member of the Permanent Committee on the Hawaii Rules of Penal Procedure and Circuit Court Criminal Rules, I have personal knowledge of Todd's expertise in regard to those rules and his substantial contributions to the work of that committee. Todd's service to the community includes his prior membership on the McCully-Moilili Neighborhood Board and on the Waipahu Neighborhood Board; his coaching of a Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility/Olomana mock trial team; and his service as a judge for Hawaii high school mock trial competitions, including the 2018 Hawaii State Finals.

From 2017 to the present, Todd has served with distinction as a Judge of the First Circuit Court, presiding over more than 100 trials, resolving thousands of motions, and sentencing hundreds of offenders. Plus, Todd has already gained appellate judicial experience by serving as a substitute Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court in several appellate cases.

Todd has lived in Hawaii for nearly his entire life, and he is a family man, married with four children. In his leisure time, he has enjoyed the outdoors and coached youth basketball and baseball.

Based on my personal knowledge of Todd Eddins and his reputation in the legal community, he has the appropriate evenhanded temperament to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court. In my judgment, he will make fair decisions and respect attorneys and litigants; comport himself with dignity; and maintain his composure and equilibrium. To the best of my personal knowledge, Todd maintains a fine reputation for honesty, trustworthiness, good character, integrity and citizenship. I have no reason to believe that he has ever been a law violator, and I am unaware of any negative information about him or any facts that would adversely reflect upon his suitability to serve as an outstanding Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Hence, the combination of all the various factors addressed above makes Todd Eddins very well qualified for confirmation as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and I strongly urge that he be confirmed for that position.

Aloha,

/s/ Brook Hart

Hawaii State Bar No. 723

Catherine Gutierrez
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
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November 11, 2020

Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
415 S. Beretania Street
Judiciary Committee, Room 204
State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter in support of the nomination of Judge Todd W. Eddins
as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Chair Karl Rhoades and Members of the Senate Committee:

This letter is being submitted in support of the nomination of Judge Todd W. Eddins as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I submit this letter in strong support of his nomination. Judge Eddins possesses the character, intellect, and professional experience to fill this honorable position.

He has many years of trial experience both on the bench and as a trial attorney. Having dealt with many difficult cases, he has the knowledge and experience to navigate the complexities of both civil and criminal cases. As a Circuit Court Judge he has built a reputation not only to be fair to all parties, but also to be expeditious. Parties can always rely on the fact that his decisions were dealt after full consideration of the issues and the applicable laws.

Judge Eddins is contributing member of our community. As an active member of various neighborhood boards, he understands his community and its needs. He is also a very proud parent of four very astute children who share his love of sports and adventure. Sharing his passion for sports with neighborhood youths, he has also coached community basketball teams in Kailua.

Judge Eddins is very experienced, intelligent, open-minded, and compassionate. I recommend him to you enthusiastically and without reservation. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,



Catherine Gutierrez

From: [Cryan, Charles M](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Judge Todd W. Eddins' Appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 12:04:26 PM

November 15, 2020

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express my strongest support for the confirmation of Judge Todd W. Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I am an attorney at the Office of the Public Defender of the State of Hawaii and have had the opportunity to appear before Judge Eddins numerous times during his tenure as a Circuit Court Judge. During that time, I have always been impressed by Judge Eddins' intellect, dedication, and obvious depth of experience. It has been a privilege to practice in front of Judge Eddins and believe that he has had a positive influence on my development as an attorney.

Judge Eddins is respected within the legal community as both a brilliant trial attorney and as a cerebral, industrious Circuit Court Judge. It is clear that Judge Eddins is a very hard-worker and displays an intense commitment to the important work the Hawaii State Judiciary does on behalf of the State of Hawaii. Despite his obvious intellect and stature within the legal community, Judge Eddins treats everyone who appears before him with respect and compassion. I have been counsel in several jury trials that Judge Eddins presided over and have always appreciated the clear, logical, and respectful way that he interacted with the parties and with the general public.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Judge Eddins' appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I can say without reservation of any kind that Judge Eddins' judicial temperament, integrity, and professional competence will reflect positively on the Hawaii State Judiciary and have no doubt that he will make an excellent addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Charles M. Cryan

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF TODD W. EDDINS AS
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAI‘I SUPREME COURT

From: Chase Livingston

Date: 11/13/20

Position: SUPPORT

I write to express my strong support for the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court. I had the opportunity to clerk for Judge Eddins in his second year as a circuit court judge. Judge Eddins' profound dedication to the fair and equal application of the rule of law was evident in all aspects of his work.

He took his work at the court extremely seriously, spending countless hours outside of work hours to ensure that his decisions were based on the most accurate and just legal analysis possible. No matter how small or seemingly insignificant the issue, Judge Eddins would seriously consider each party's position and make his decision based on the law. He is also the type of person who continuously works to improve himself and the institutions of which he is a part. During my tenure, he undertook a project to help the judiciary create permanent hyperlinks to URLs in opinions that were being published. Although it was not his kuleana to do so, Judge Eddins saw an opportunity to help make judicial opinions more accessible and accurate and he took the initiative to help educate the rest of the judiciary about best practices. All the while, Judge Eddins and his extremely qualified staff were working through (and successfully processing) an enormous back-log of cases. His time management and work efficiency are unrivaled.

I recently completed my tenure as a law clerk for Justice Michael Wilson at the Hawai‘i Supreme Court. I am intimately familiar with the work, dedication, and intellectual challenges inherent in the job of a Supreme Court Justice. I am confident that Judge Eddins would excel as a Justice on the Supreme Court, where he will be a tireless servant of the public interest. He is eminently qualified and able to undertake the large workload that I know is waiting for him at the Supreme Court.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Chase Livingston

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation for Judge Todd Eddins for the position of associate justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I first met Judge Eddins as I was an intern with the Hawai'i State Office of the Public Defender and was observing a murder trial being conducted in his courtroom. Despite the fact that I had just finished my first year of law school it was clear that Judge Eddins was far and away the sharpest attorney in the courtroom. I was truly in awe the first day of trial as he would dance from one area of law to the next, citing the most recent and on point cases, seamlessly weaving fact and law.

I went on to work for Judge Eddins as a legal intern after my second year of law school. I observed 278 hearings that summer. Not once did I waver in my belief that Judge Eddins was the sharpest attorney in the courtroom. I was also impressed with how much he wanted to pass along to my co-intern and I. After each hearing Judge Eddins would go back in chambers and explain to us why he ruled the way he did, explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the attorneys' arguments. This experience was invaluable to a budding attorney.

I now have the privilege of being employed as Judge Eddins' law clerk. I could not be happier with my job. It is highly fulfilling largely because Judge Eddins is respectful, diligent, and kind. It has been particularly fulfilling to work on problems with Judge Eddins outside of the criminal law context. While he is known largely for his work in the area of criminal defense, Judge Eddins is no one trick pony. Judge Eddins calls on his diversity of practical experience when solving these problems and offers workable solutions.

If nominated to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Judge Eddins will work tirelessly to ensure that he completely understands the law and then fairly applies it. Just as he has done at the Circuit Court, Judge Eddins will work diligently to seek an expeditious and thorough resolution of the cases before him.

In short, Judge Eddins' character is beyond reproach, he is universally trusted and respected by his peers, attorneys, and court staff. He is a good family man who exemplifies the values of Hawai'i. He is deeply committed to the betterment of the legal community in Hawai'i and the community of Hawai'i as a whole.

It is without reservation that I recommend Judge Eddins for the position of Associate Justice. His strong academic record, wealth and diversity of practice experience, and unparalleled judicial service make him the perfect candidate for the position.

Mahalo,

Chris Phillips

**Trecker
Fritz &
Williams**

Attorneys At Law

November 10, 2020

Re: Testimony on Behalf of Judge Todd
Eddins to Hawaii Supreme Court

Collin M. (Marty) Fritz
Allen K. Williams

Suite 701
820 Mililani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 528-3900
Fax: (808) 533-3684
Toll Free: (800) 237-9300
www.treckerfritzlaw.com

Dear Senator Rhodes and Judiciary Committee:

I am the managing partner of the law firm of Trecker, Fritz and Williams. I have been a practicing attorney in Hawaii for almost 50 years concentrating in trial practice with wide ranging appellate experience. I have been and am currently recognized by Best lawyers in America and Best Lawyers in Hawaii.

Of Counsel:
Steven J. Trecker
Magali V. Sunderland
Wayne D. Parsons

I have also been a Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association and currently am a Director of the Hawaii State Bar Foundation.

I heartily recommend Judge Todd Eddins for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins for many years as both a practicing attorney and a judge. He is highly ethical, experienced and competent.

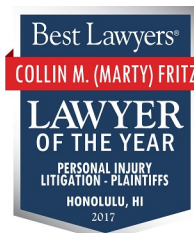
Judge Eddins would make superb addition to the court.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Collin M. (Marty) Fritz



LAW OFFICE OF CRYSTAL GLENDON, LLC

1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Ste. B-229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

T (808) 532-3802 ext. 3
F (808) 206-9948
E crystalglendonlaw@gmail.com

November 12, 2020

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation as Associate Justice to the
Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee TODD W. EDDINS

Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I fully support the nomination of the Honorable Todd W. Eddins to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. Judge Eddins is an incredibly talented, intelligent and dedicated jurist. He would bring immeasurable experience and contribution to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Judge Eddins excels as a Circuit Court judge who adeptly manages his calendar and all matters before him. His experience and knowledge of the law enable him to handle his courtroom with professionalism and decisiveness. He is well-prepared, reads all pleadings, issues timely orders and decisions, and presides efficiently and effectively over trials. I have appeared before him on many occasions, from trial to sentencing. He is a very practical judge, and I firmly believe my clients receive fair treatment when they appear before him. I have seen Judge Eddins handle himself well in many tense situations; he presided over a heated sentencing I argued for a young man who plead guilty to manslaughter. Judge Eddins maintained control over a courtroom crowded with family members of the decedent in a respectful yet firm manner, which kept outbursts and reactions to a minimum. I was impressed with his ability to keep his composure and control while still exhibiting compassion, all while the cameras were rolling. Whether under fire or in a normal situation, Judge Eddins is fair, measured, prepared.

His talent as a jurist comes from skills honed over the many years of his legal practice. He has litigated at the highest levels of our practice, and it is evident when you appear before him that he knows what he is doing and has a wealth of experience to draw on. He is also a voracious reader and researcher, which is evident in his rulings. He issues rulings with well-thought-out,

well-reasoned legal support and practical application, and yet I've seen him correct himself when presented with arguments and research that contradict his position. He does not always have to be right; he is willing to be corrected. This stands out to me; he listens, he respects the law, and he is willing to change his position based on reasoned arguments. It is not about ego – it is about what the law is, what is fair, and what is the right thing to do. Above all else, Judge Eddins is fair and hardworking, and he would serve our community well on the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I know Judge Eddins to be utterly dedicated to his wife and four children, as well as his extended family and friends. He is a very active father; he coached his kids' sports teams and cheers them on in their work and academic successes just as easily as he enjoys the beach and camping days with his family and friends. His relationships ground him and remind him of what is important. These are the values he brings to Circuit Court bench every day he puts that robe on and presides over other people's lives. These are the values he will bring to Supreme Court should you choose him.

I firmly believe that Judge Eddins is the right choice for the Hawai'i Supreme Court. He is a man who respects the law and cares deeply for his community. The Circuit Court's loss would be the Supreme Court's gain.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email crystalglendonlaw@gmail.com or at (808) 532-3802.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Crystal K. Glendon

CYNTHIA K. WONG
Attorney at Law, LLLC

2035 Main Street, Suite 2
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
E-Mail: cyn@legalmaui.net
Phone: 808-727-2921
Facsimile: 808-727-2924

November 12, 2020

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Support of Judicial Nominee Todd Eddins**

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins for the past 29 years. We both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. Judge Eddins was in the graduating class of 1991, which was two years ahead of me. Throughout the many years of his career, Judge Eddins devoted himself to our profession as a compassionate attorney representing both criminal defendants and civil plaintiffs. He always conducted himself with the highest level of integrity. Although I have resided and worked on Maui since 1995, I remained in contact with Judge Eddins over the many years. I consider him a valued colleague and a friend.

In 2017, Judge Eddins became a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Although I have not personally appeared before him, I have no doubt that he is of the highest judicial integrity. With his vast experience in both criminal, civil, and appellate law, Judge Eddins is well versed in the law, rules of evidence, rules of procedure, and, without a doubt, will be an excellent Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

State of Hawaii

November 12, 2020

Page 2

Judge Eddins is someone who gives selflessly in our profession. He has done pro bono work and non-profit work. He has excellent advocacy skills and excellent judicial demeanor. On a personal level, Judge Eddins is kind, compassionate and respectful of all those with whom he interacts. He is a family man who balanced his career and family and cares very much about Hawaii, Native Hawaiians, and our community.

I have no doubt, based on my experience with Judge Eddins, that he has the ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of this position.

I fully support Todd Eddins for the nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely,


CYNTHIA K. WONG

CKW:kkw



DALE K. MATTICE ESQ., LLLC

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 1503

Kailua, HI 96734, U.S.A.

Tel: 808 256 4298

Fax: 808 230 8621

Email: dalemattice@yahoo.com

TO: Hawai'i Senate Committee on the Judiciary

RE: Todd W. Eddins appointment as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court

I am Dale K. Mattice. I have been an attorney licensed to practice in the State Hawai'i since 1989.

These comments were submitted to Justice Recktenwald when Judge Eddins was initially appointed to serve as Hawai'i State Court Judge, and subsequently to Governor Ige upon his recommended appointment as an Associate Justice.

I first met Todd when he was a law student. He came to work as an intern in about 1990 at the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawai'i where he produced excellent work as a legal researcher on behalf of the disabled community.

Subsequently, I worked with Todd as a fellow Deputy Public Defender for over eleven years. Todd was known throughout the office as one of the very bright lights and was often sought out by colleagues for his insight and creativity in the defense of the indigent.

For the next decade and more, Todd diversified his experience in the world of private practice. Though my contact with Todd over these years has been less, I have had the privilege and opportunity to consult with him on occasion. My esteem for his intellect and abilities has only grown. His resume of diverse legal advocacy and accomplishment is unparalleled.

I have appeared before him in Circuit Court on several occasions. His judicial experience and conduct as a judge has demonstrated a unique, practical and enlightened approach in both simple and complex matters. In my opinion he has been arguably the very best of judges among his peers.

Todd's qualifications, character and integrity are of the highest caliber. He is honest, hard working, patient, measured in his thinking, extremely smart and fair minded. I can think of no one better suited to sit as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. The Chief Justice, the other Associates, and indeed, the State of Hawai'i will be very lucky to have him.

Signed: /s/DALE K. MATTICE
Attorney

Dated: November 13, 2020

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: judgefoley2000@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:00:48 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/12/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Daniel Foley	Individual	Comments Only	No

Your comments: Dear Mr. Chairman, I submit this testimony in support of the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins since he was a student of mine in my Civil Rights Litigation class at William S. Richardson School of Law in 1991. I have followed his career ever since. He has distinguished himself as a student, lawyer and judge. Judge Eddins has extensive trial and appellate experience. He has a brilliant legal mind, is an excellent writer and is of unquestioned integrity. I believe he will make an outstanding Associate Justice. Respectfully submitted, Daniel Foley

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: [Daniel Fong](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins' Appointment as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:10:49 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email in support of the Supreme Court Associate Justice appointment of Todd W. Eddins.

Approximately twenty-five years ago I met Todd and have had the pleasure to get to know him on both a personal and professional level. In my dealings with Todd, he has exhibited that he is a hardworking, intelligent, moral, open-minded, fair, and an ethical individual. With these characteristics and virtues I believe he would be a great asset to the Hawaii State Judiciary and the State would be lucky to have him serve as a Justice on the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

Todd's overall experience as a seasoned litigator and having been on the Circuit Court bench over the past few years will also benefit the Supreme Court. The insight and knowledge he has gained through his professional career will undoubtedly benefit him in his assessment and review of the appeals that are presented before him. With everything he brings, he will be an asset to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

For the above reasons, I humbly support the nomination and appointment of Todd W. Eddins as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration and time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel C.H. Fong
HSBA Bar # 6477

[Daniel Fong](#) | Senior Vice President – General Corporate Counsel and Compliance Administrator | [Hawaii National Bank](#) | 45 North King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 | Office 808.528.7847 | Fax 808.528.7728 | Email: daniel.fong@hnbhawaii.com | Home of *warm-hearted* Bankers | Visit our Website  Like Us  Follow Us 

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From: [David Callies](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Judge Todd Eddins
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 3:00:06 PM

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins to fill the associate justice vacancy on the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have been acquainted with Judge Eddins since his student days at the William S. Richardson Law School, at which he took several of my classes. He was a superb student and compiled an excellent record, as I suspect you know. I have not had the opportunity to try cases before Judge Eddins and indeed have had little contact since his swearing-in ceremony as circuit judge, which I was privileged to attend. However, prior to his appointment to that position and while he was in practice, I had occasion to twice ask him for help on behalf of acquaintances on a couple of sensitive matters involving personal harassment. He dealt with these professionally and sympathetically and as a result, they were resolved favorably. In my estimation this experience goes to the kind of associate justice he will be if confirmed: smart, professional – and compassionate.

Respectfully yours,

David L. Callies, FAICP
Benjamin Kudo Chair in Law
William S. Richardson Law School

From: [David Hayakawa](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: GM1: Confirmation of Todd Eddins
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:41:47 PM

Senator Rhoads and the members of the Judiciary Committee:

I submit this email in complete support of Judge Todd Eddins' nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have practiced criminal law in Hawaii for over 30 years and I am very aware of Judge Eddins' accomplishments as a Deputy Public Defender (where we served together), private attorney and as a Circuit Court judge. Judge Eddins possess an amazing legal intellect which he effectively applies in a common sense manner. I can't think of a better qualified candidate for this vacant Supreme Court position that Judge Eddins. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, David Hayakawa

David M. Hayakawa
Law Office of David Hayakawa
Davies Pacific Center | 841 Bishop St., Suite 410 | Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: 808-537-1529 | Fax: 808-523-9137

From: [David Lo](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: GM 1 - November 16, 2020 - Todd W. Eddins
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:08:20 AM

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I am Judge David W. Lo (retired) and submit for your committee's consideration my testimony on behalf of Judge Todd W. Eddins, the gubernatorial nominee as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As a private legal practitioner and before being appointed to the Circuit Court, Judge Eddins appeared before me on multiple occasions representing criminal defendants. I consistently found Judge Eddins to be punctual, prepared, respectful and fair to all involved.

Although I had retired from the bench when Judge Eddins became a Circuit Court judge, I am aware that he has stood out as one who has ably tackled complex and high profile cases assigned to his division. He has been efficient in clearing pending motions and trials on what were deemed as heavy calendars.

I have no doubt that if confirmed, Judge Eddins' above mentioned characteristics and judicial abilities would be carried on to the Supreme Court. He would be a tremendous asset to the Judiciary and State of Hawaii. As such, I wholeheartedly support his nomination as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court, and request your committee's confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

David W. Lo

Name: Dennis Potts

Title: Attorney

Organization: Dennis W. Potts AAL ALC

Phone: (808) 537-4575

Email Address: dwpotts@denniswpottslaw.com

Address: Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop St., suite 1628
Honolulu, Hi. 96813
United States

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in Hawaii, and have been so licensed since 1971. I have known Todd Eddins for almost 40 years, both on a personal and professional basis. I can state without qualification that on a personal level Todd's character is top-notch. Todd's superb abilities as an attorney and judge speak for themselves. However, I had the opportunity of working as co-counsel with Todd on several civil cases, including one involving an appeal to the Hawaii Supreme in which we established new law. While the great majority of Todd's legal experience has been in criminal law, I have seen first hand that he was a "quick study" in being able to grasp and understand the nuances of civil law, a quality that he will bring to the Supreme Court should he receive this appointment. Finally, I can personally attest to the fact that Todd has an excellent temperament which I believe he has already demonstrated as a Circuit Court Judge, and which he would carry to the Supreme Court should he receive this appointment. Dennis W. Potts



11/12/2020

DEREK R. KOBAYASHI

TOPA FINANCIAL CENTER
745 FORT STREET · SUITE 1500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 523-6060 · FAX (808) 523-6030
EMAIL: dkobayashi@schlackito.com

November 15, 2020

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 1, TESTIMONY *IN SUPPORT* OF
NOMINATION OF HON. TODD W. EDDINS
Hearing: November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to express my *strong support* for the nomination of The Honorable Todd W. Eddins to the position of Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins since our years as schoolmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law and have known him to be a very skilled and knowledgeable attorney and jurist. He is of the highest integrity and is hard-working. I have always known him to be very dedicated to public service, considerate of other's views, and a person who treats others with professional respect.

Judge Eddins will certainly fulfill all of the responsibilities and duties of the position to which he has been nominated – Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I urge your Committee on Judiciary to recommend that the Senate advice and consent be given in support of his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Very truly yours,



Derek R. Kobayashi

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: dianetono@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:16:12 AM
Attachments: [Eddins SC Senate conf.docx](#)

GM1

Submitted on: 11/13/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Diane Ono	Individual	Support	No

Your comments:

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

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

I am writing in support of Judge Todd W. Eddins' confirmation by the State Senate as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins since 1988 or for 32 years, first when we were law students at William S. Richardson School of Law, and later I worked with Judge Eddins at Galiher DeRobertis Ono from 2010 until 2013.

Judge Eddins possesses superb legal skills and acumen in jurisprudence. He would make an excellent Supreme Court Justice. He is highly intelligent and loves studying the law. He has the unique skill set of having practiced in both criminal and civil cases. When Judge Eddins and I worked together at Galiher DeRobertis Ono, Judge Eddins was actively involved in motions practice in complex civil litigation in asbestos and other personal injury cases.

Judge Eddins is an excellent legal writer and can succinctly identify the issues at hand, apply the law, then make the necessary legal analysis to arrive at the conclusion. Because of his experience and ability which now includes being on the lower court as a Circuit Court judge, Judge Eddins is well-positioned to be on the appellate court bench. With regard to his temperament, Judge Eddins is always level-headed and even keeled. As a Circuit Court judge, Judge Eddins is a good mediator and arbiter of disputes while always being fair and respectful of all who come before him. I had the uncanny experience of being in a large jury pool in a criminal case with Judge Eddins presiding. It was a fascinating experience because Judge Eddins started by telling all of us potential jurors, the history of trial by jury in the United States. He explained the history in plain language, making it interesting and understandable. I could tell there was a sudden appreciation by the jury pool for what the whole process was about and why it is important for citizens to serve on juries. My name was not selected so I went home.

While in law school, Todd was known by all of our classmates because he was an outstanding student although I did not know him well at the time. He always came to class prepared and engaged in interesting discourse with our professors. He then went on to become a criminal defense lawyer during which time he did more than 125 jury trials and countless court appearances. In 2010, the firm Galiher DeRobertis Ono where I became the managing partner recruited him to come and work with us.

As you can see, my personal knowledge of Judge Eddins is longstanding, and I write this testimony in support of his confirmation to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as an Associate Justice with this depth and breadth of what I know of Judge Eddins' ability and character. His credentials are impeccable, and he is hardworking, honest and trustworthy. He has an excellent reputation not only in the legal community but in the community at large as well. Judge Eddins loves the United States and Hawai'i Constitutions and believes in his core in protecting and upholding the Constitution as well as the rule of law in our state and country. He will be a strong asset to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as an Associate Justice. I can think of no one better to serve.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony. I feel honored to do so in support of Judge Eddins' appointment and confirmation as Associate Justice for the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

From: [Bambi Hifo](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting Todd W. Eddins (GM1) Nomination to Hawaii Supreme Court
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:39:58 PM

Dear Chair Senator Rhodes and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of Todd W. Eddins' nomination as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Todd and his family for decades (his wife was a law clerk in our chambers many years ago) and find him highly qualified for this important position. I respectfully urge you to review his succinct resume which shows solid and varied statewide litigation experience on neighbor islands and Oahu before taking the First Circuit Court bench, thus giving him judicial trial experience as well. He is recognized as an excellent attorney, and those skills plus having grown up here since he was four years old will surely inform his deliberations, collegiality and wisdom gained from the Aloha spirit.

For these reasons I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Todd Eddins' nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Eden Elizabeth Hifo (aka Bambi), Retired First Circuit Court Judge

November 13, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarret Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee On Judiciary

Re: *GM 1 – Consideration and Confirmation as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD W. EDDINS, for a term to expire in ten years*

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate:

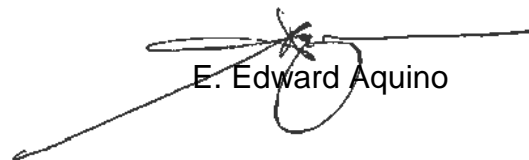
I am writing in strong support of Judge Todd W. Eddins's nomination as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I first met Judge Eddins in 2002 when we became colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender. Judge Eddins, as a Deputy Public Defender, was someone whose practice I admired and emulated. Over the years, I have come to know him very well and have respected him tremendously.

Since his appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and assignment to the Criminal Calendar, I have appeared before Judge Eddins numerous times. As a trial judge, Judge Eddins has demonstrated an impressive acumen and keen understanding of the law. Most importantly, Judge Eddins has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to ensuring justice when confronted with difficult legal and factual issues arising from the cases that come before him.

I urge you to confirm his nomination to serve as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Sincerely,


E. Edward Aquino

LAW OFFICES OF EMMANUEL G. GUERRERO

A Limited Liability Law Company

Suite 202 ♦ 8 South King Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 532-2950 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 545-2628
E-Mail: AttyEGG@aol.com

Emmanuel G. Guerrero
Attorney-at-Law

November 9, 2020

Committee on the Judiciary
Hawaii State Senate
State of Hawaii

RE: Letter of Recommendation and Support
(re: Todd W. Eddins for Appointment as Supreme
Court Justice)

Honorable Committee:

I am writing this letter of recommendation and support to the Judicial Nomination of Circuit Judge Todd W. Eddins for Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Todd Eddins for over 30 years. I first met him we were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. We worked together as Deputy Public Defenders at the Office of the Public Defender. I have appeared before Judge Eddins in the Circuit Court upon his appointment to the bench. I can state without hesitation that on both a **personal** and professional basis that Judge Eddins would be an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

He was an amazingly brilliant lawyer, having numerous extensive jury trials and appearances before the Hawaii appellate courts in cases of great importance, resulting in establishment of legal precedents of significant importance, not only to Hawaii but to other jurisdictions. As a Circuit Judge he exhibits excellent judicial temperament. He has a good sense

Committee on the Judiciary

November 9, 2020

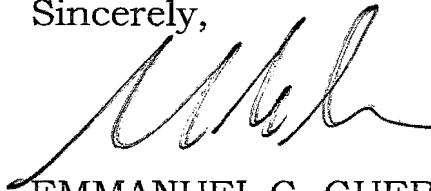
Page 2 of 2

of humor, is self-disciplined, and he enjoys various other interests outside of the law. He loves his family and is a good husband and father. His work product is superior because of his keen legal mind and has demonstrated time and again his ability to analyze complicated legal issues and apply the law appropriately. His decisions are just and fair. He is unbiased and impartial. He is intelligent, wise, and patient.

I hope it is obvious that I hold Judge Eddins in the highest of regards. He has all of the credentials, experience and wisdom to be an exemplary Supreme Court Justice for the State of Hawaii, and that I would be proud to see his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

EMMANUEL G. GUERRERO, Esq.
Hawaii State Bar #5275

Eric Higashihara
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 788
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

November 14, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM1 – Nomination of Todd W. Eddins as Associate Justice to the
Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole & Committee Members:

I am privileged to provide the Committee with this strong letter in support of the nomination of my good friend and former neighbor, Todd Eddins as Associate Justice.

I moved next door to the Eddins' in 2008 and we immediately became family friends. Robert Frost said, "good fences make good neighbors." However, there was no fence between our homes, because it was not needed due to mutual respect.

I have observed Mr. Eddins to be a very supportive father by going to his children's sports and school activities. He also organized bike trips to the beach, and ball games for the neighborhood children, which included my two sons.

Over the years, I have seen Todd Eddins to have the integrity, intellectual capacity, commitment and temperament to be an excellent Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I urge the Senate's favorable consideration of this fine citizen.

Respectfully,
/s/ Eric Higashihara

November 13, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads,
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **Testimony in Support of Gm1 – Confirmation of Todd W. Eddins for
Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court**

Dear Senators Rhoads and Keohokalole,

I support the confirmation of Todd W. Eddins for the position of Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Todd for approximately twenty-eight years and believe he will be an excellent addition to the Court. Todd and I were on opposing sides when I was a prosecutor and he was a public defender, and when he went into private practice. We both entered civil litigation at different firms approximately the same time. Todd is an excellent trial lawyer who has both criminal and civil litigation experience.

I believe that Todd has the judicial temperament to be an excellent Associate Justice. Todd has the ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. In addition, he can comport himself appropriately, without losing his composure or equilibrium even under fire. When I was a deputy prosecutor prosecuting a highly publicized assault of a military member and his wife, Todd was opposing counsel representing the Defendant. We were able to fashion an appropriate plea agreement that benefitted all the parties involved, and the Court approved the plea agreement.

As long as I have known Todd, his reputation in the community is that he is an honest, trustworthy person that has tremendous character, integrity, and citizenship. He has the legal experience and has all the attributes that would make him an excellent Supreme Court Justice. He has a wonderful family; I know his wife Rowena and have met his four children. As a Kailua resident, I know that Todd was active in coaching basketball and baseball in our community.

I'm confident that if confirmed, Todd will be an excellent jurist and make sound decisions of law. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 255-9944 or fdpacarro@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

November 13, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD W. EDDINS

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing this letter to encourage you to confirm Todd Eddins as our next Hawaii Associate Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Todd for the last 25 years. I met Todd in 1995 when I was hired at the Public Defenders Hilo Office. He was a Deputy Public Defender in the Honolulu Office. Although we only interacted annually, he was always very helpful and insightful in discussing legal issues.

Over the years, Todd has successfully handled many high-profile cases and has impressed me with his legal insight and knowledge of the law. In 2007, I was appointed to the District/Family Court of the Third Circuit, where Todd would occasionally appear before me before I retired in 2019. I was not surprised when Todd was appointed to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit by Governor Ige in April of 2017 where he continued to impress me with his judgments.

I am very confident that as an Associate Supreme Court Justice, Judge Eddins opinions will be well thought out, consistent with our State law and, where new issues arise, his opinion will be made in the best interest of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully yours;
Harry P. Freitas

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: hazelb@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, November 8, 2020 2:01:07 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/8/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Hazel Beh	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I wholeheartedly support Todd Eddins's nomination for judicial appointment to the State of Hawaii Supreme Court. Before becoming a Circuit Court Judge, Todd had unusually broad litigation experience as a public defender, civil litigator, and appellate attorney, and that experience. More importantly, Todd has all of the attributes to be a great justice. This testimony is based on my personal knowledge; I have known Todd since 1988, when we were classmates and law review members together. I am writing to you in my personal capacity and not on behalf of the Law School. As a justice, Todd will be a strong and positive role model for other lawyers. In his legal career, Todd acted in the tradition of Atticus Finch; and that is not an exaggeration. Over the years, Todd never shied away from an unpopular or seemingly hopeless case. In some instances, when other lawyers might say, "you couldn't pay me enough to represent this person," Todd saw that as a reason to take on the case pro bono! He embodies the highest ideals of our legal profession and has conducted his career accordingly. Todd might have chosen a more financially rewarding path because of his academic success in school, but he never defined his work by these shallow measures. In my view, his enthusiasm for the practice of law has not waned in twenty-plus years of practice because he has not pursued money, prestige, or comfortable predictability for their own ends. Todd is well suited for an appellate appointment because he has both the intellect and common-sense appellate cases require. Todd was an academic standout as my classmate, and he still enjoys thinking long and hard about a thorny evidence issue or a statutory ambiguity. As a Supreme Court Justice, Todd will challenge lawyers to be competent and thoughtful in their work product and to give their best effort to the representation of their clients. Because Todd demands no less of himself, I believe that lawyers will appreciate the high standard of practice he will expect of them.

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: [Howard K.K. Luke](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support for the Confirmation of Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:27:16 PM

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Fellow Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in very strong support for the confirmation of Circuit Court Judge Todd Eddins as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins for over twenty-five years, from the time he started employment with the Office of the Public Defender. In the course of his professional career, he has exemplified what it means to be a superb trial advocate, a brilliant researcher and writer, and an outstanding appellate attorney.

Most recently, Judge Eddins has distinguished himself as a Circuit Court Judge. He has handled a very demanding court calendar in a manner exceeding the highest standards expected of all members of the judiciary. His excellence as a jurist has been demonstrated in his ability to resolve even the most contentious and complicated legal issues with adherence to legal precedent, while showing great respect to all counsel and parties who appear before him. Additionally, he has disposed of the most cases among his fellow judges, without sacrificing the interests of due process or the legal and factual integrity of his rulings.

Our Supreme Court will be greatly enhanced by the addition of Associate Justice Todd Eddins. I respectfully urge that you confirm him to our highest court.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at your convenience at (808) 220-9523.

Very truly yours,
Howard K.K. Luke
Attorney at Law

The Law Office of
JACK SCHWEIGERT
A Professional Law Corporation
550 Halekauwila Street, Suite 309
Honolulu, HI 96813

JACK SCHWEIGERT, ESQ.

~*~

JOHN P. GILLMOR, ESQ.

Phone: (808) 533-7491

Fax: (808) 533-7490

jackschweigert@hotmail.com

www.jackschweigert.com

November 13, 2020

Senator Karl Rhodes
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

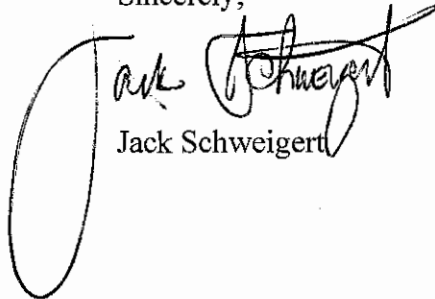
Re: Judge Todd Eddins Appointment as an Associate Justice to
the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Senator Rhodes:

The attached is a letter that I sent to Governor Ige that I would ask you to present to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, November 16, 2020 for the confirmation hearing at 1:00 p.m. for Judge Todd Eddins.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Schweigert

Enclosure

Re: Message from the Governor's Office: Governor to Consider Nominees for State Supreme Court

Jack Schweigert <jackschweigert@hotmail.com>

Sat 10/3/2020 8:40 AM

To: webinfo@hsba.org <webinfo@hsba.org>

Dear Governor Ige: I have found Todd Eddins to be the most qualified lawyer for your selection to the Supreme Court. As a Public Defender Todd represented his many clients well. Then as a private attorney his ability was front page news in defending the Big Islands Mayor. Now as a Circuit Court Judge he has shown he is a very capable jurist. Therefore my choice would be Judge Todd Eddins for Supreme Court Justice to keep the court even handed.

Aloha, Jack

The Law Office of Jack Schweigert

550 Halekauwila Street, Room 309

Honolulu, HI 96813

Telephone: (808) 533-7491

Facsimile: (808) 533-7490

Website: www.jackschweigert.com

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From: HSBA <webinfo@hsba.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 7:47 PM

To: jackschweigert@hotmail.com <jackschweigert@hotmail.com>

Subject: Message from the Governor's Office: Governor to Consider Nominees for State Supreme Court

[Click here to view the online version of this Email](#)



**Message from the Governor's Office:
Governor to Consider Nominees**

Date: 11/9/2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

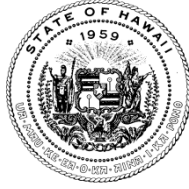
Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Nominee, Todd W. Eddins

Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee **the Honorable Todd W. Eddins** to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Jacquie Esser



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

November 16, 2020
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

G.M. 1

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD W. EDDINS, for a term to expire in ten years.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** G.M.1, Todd W. Eddins as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Judge Eddins is a graduate from the College of William and Mary and the William S. Richardson School of Law, where he was Executive Editor of the University of Hawai'i Law Review. He served as a law clerk to Justice Yoshimi Hayashi of the Hawaii Supreme Court and has worked as a trial lawyer at the Office of the Public Defender. In private practice, he concentrated on civil, criminal, and appellate litigation and represented clients in some of Hawaii's most high-profile, complex cases. In 2017, Judge Eddins was appointed to the First Circuit Court where he presided over 85 jury trials and resolved thousands of legal motions. Not only is he highly regarded by peers in the legal profession but also throughout the community. As a former member of the McCully-Moilili neighborhood board and coach of youth athletics he knows how to get people to work together.

The DOT believes Judge Eddins' impeccable credentials, unsurpassed qualifications, and proven commitment to equal justice under the law will affirm the prestige and respect of Hawaii's highest court. Having been a substitute justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court in numerous cases, his depth of experience provides him a head start to hear appeals and to administer justice in an impartial, efficient and accessible manner in accordance with the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair and the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

From: James H. Pietsch
Attorney and Professor of Law

Subject: Strong Letter of Support for Confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, Todd W. Eddins

November 8, 2020

I would like to express my strong support for the confirmation of Todd W. Eddins as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. I have known Judge Eddins since he was a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and I know that his reputation in the community for professionalism is very high, that his commitment to access to justice is very strong and that his tenure as a circuit court judge has prepared him superbly to be the next Justice on the Supreme Court. He has the skills, the experience and the temperament to make an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

Over the years, after graduation from law school, Judge Eddins developed very strong technical legal and advocacy skills, first as a trial lawyer at the Office of the Public Defender and later in private practice. In private practice, he was one of those attorneys to whom other well-respected attorneys would make referrals when there was an especially complex or contentious case, whether it involved civil, criminal, or appellate litigation. I have had the opportunity to witness the level of trust other lawyers had in him and to see what a powerful effect his advocacy has had on clients he has served as well as their families. He exhibits the civility and professionalism one would want to see in attorneys, in judges and in justices of the supreme court.

As a circuit court judge, Judge Eddins has had numerous high-profile cases assigned to him and he has continued to demonstrate his well-informed and reasoned grasp of the law and how it may apply to complex legal issues in both criminal and civil issues while exhibiting an unbiased and fair-minded approach to the parties who appear before him. As always, he is ethical, respectful, compassionate, reliable, hardworking and honest. He also has that certain wisdom that is evident yet reserved and modest.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. It is not often that I write a letter of support for a judicial candidate but I would be remiss if I did not express to you what a fine Supreme Court Associate Justice I know Judge Eddins will make.

From: [James Rouse](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Confirmation of Todd Eddins for Supreme Court
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 8:15:28 AM

I write to you to strongly support the confirmation of Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court. He is the perfect fit for this job. Then people of Hawaii will greatly benefit with Todd as a top justice. Thank you for your consideration..Jim Rouse Attorney at Law.
Hawaii State Bar Number 6326

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of James S. Tabe,
State Public Defender**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

November 13, 2020

GM1: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as Associate Justice, Gubernatorial Todd W. Eddins, for a term of 10 years

Hearing: November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I fully support the confirmation of the Honorable Todd W. Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as Associate Justice.

I have known Judge Eddins since 1993 when I joined the Office of the Public Defender, and I had the fortunate opportunity to work with Judge Eddins. Of the many extremely talented deputy public defenders, Judge Eddins stood out. I was impressed with not only his intellect but also with his work ethic and his commitment to those in the community who needed the most help. He was not only skilled in the courtroom but his research and writing abilities were equally proficient. He was a complete trial attorney. As a deputy public defender and in private practice, Judge Eddins effectively represented clients in some of Hawai'i's most high-profile complex cases.

Prior to my appointment as the State Public Defender, I was assigned to the Appellate Division of the Office of the Public Defender from 2000 to 2018, the last eight years as the supervising appellate attorney. As an attorney specializing in appellate work and having filed countless briefs in the appellate courts and read numerous appellate opinions, I am somewhat familiar with the demands and responsibilities placed upon a Supreme Court Associate Justice. An Associate Justice must not only possess the intelligence to grasp complex legal issues, but more importantly, he/she must also have the ability to explain and articulate his/her opinion in a clear, thorough and intelligent manner, as his/her opinion establishes precedent for judges and attorneys to follow. I can say without reservation that he possesses such qualities. Judge Eddins holds himself to high standards of preparation and performance. He is well respected in the legal community for his professionalism, integrity, and legal knowledge. Indeed, he has earned the reputation as one of the brightest legal minds in the State of Hawai'i. He also possesses a strong work ethic, good common sense, and practical judgment. And, he has the temperament, character, and integrity to be an outstanding Associate Justice.

Finally, the appointment and consent of a progressive associate justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court takes on a greater significance in light of the current composition of the United States

Supreme Court. The U.S. Constitution will certainly be interpreted very narrowly in the foreseeable future. Consequently, there is a very real danger of significant erosion of the constitutional rights and interests of women (e.g., right to choose), minorities (e.g., right to vote), LGBTQ+ community (e.g., right to marry, adopt, equal benefits), immigrants (e.g. right to due process), wage-earners (e.g. right to medical care, benefits), and the accused (e.g., right to fair trial). Fortunately, for the people of the State of Hawai‘i, when the U.S. Supreme Court’s interpretation of a provision present in both the U.S. and Hawai‘i Constitutions does not adequately preserve the rights and interests sought to be protected, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court has not hesitated to recognize the appropriate protections as a matter of state constitutional law. The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has consistently given broader rights and protections under the State Constitution than that given by the federal Constitution. Therefore, to ensure that the State Constitution continues to adequately preserve the broader rights and interests of the people of Hawai‘i, it is imperative that the next Supreme Court Associate Justice is someone who will be courageous and willing to recognize that the Hawai‘i Constitution bestows broader rights and protections than the U.S. Constitution. I strongly believe Judge Eddins is that someone.

In summary, Judge Eddins is extremely qualified. He has practiced law with competence, zealotness, compassion, integrity, and humility. He has demonstrated that he possesses the ability, the experience, and the qualities to be a Supreme Court Associate Justice, and I am proud to support him for a seat on the Hawai‘i Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

Sincerely,



James S. Tabé

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Monday, November 16, 2020
Conference Room 016; 1:00 PM

RE: GM 1 – Testimony in support of the nomination of Judge Todd W. Eddins for Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Ono. I am a partner in the law firm Watanabe Ing LLP. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins as Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Judge Eddins for approximately 12 years. We practiced law together at the law firm Galihier DeRobertis Ono for a couple of years in the late 2000s. It was during this period that I got to know Judge Eddins as a lawyer and a person.

Judge Eddins, as a practicing attorney, was a skillful trial attorney with experience in both criminal and civil jury trials. Moreover, he is an excellent legal writer and thinker. Judge Eddins has the necessary judicial demeanor and temperament to be an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

As a person, Judge Eddins is a devoted husband and father. He lives his life in the same manner that he practiced law – ethically and morally.

It is without hesitation that I submit this testimony in strong support of Judge Todd Eddins as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

The following is my contact information:
Phone number: (808) 554-9903
E-mail address: jeffreyono@gmail.com

Jeffrey W. Ng, Esq.
Jennifer D.K. Ng, Esq.
c/o 101 Aupuni Street, Suite 248
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 778-3924

November 14, 2020

Via <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimonyss.aspx>

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Re: GM1
Letter in Strong Support of the consideration and confirmation of
Todd W. Eddins as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Please accept this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of Todd W. Eddins' nomination and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. We have known Todd for over eighteen years, and can say with all confidence that he has the intellect, character, and experience necessary to be an outstanding Supreme Court justice.

We first met Todd when we were colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender. While there, we had the opportunity to learn from Todd's tremendous trial skill and academic ability. Todd was a great role model who would guide and advise newer deputies such as ourselves.

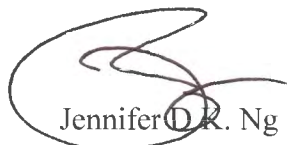
Over the years, we got to know Todd outside of the work environment. He is a dedicated father and husband with a wonderful wife and family. He is witty and down to earth, not to mention, a huge UH Rainbow football and Washington Football Team fan.

It is without reservation or hesitation that we offer this letter of support for Todd W. Eddins. We have no doubt that Todd's knowledge, demeanor and allegiance to the rule of law will serve him well as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey W. Ng



Jennifer D.K. Ng

CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

ANN H. ARATANI
JOHN BURKE
HALEY E. CHEE
ROBERT A. CHONG
STEPHEN G. DYER
PATRICIA T. FUJII
BLAINE W. FUJIMOTO
STEVEN L. GOTO
KENNETH T. GOYA
RYAN I. INOUE
DOROTHY P. H. MEISNER

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

1003 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 537-6119
FAX: (808) 526-3491

E-mail: Jeffrey.Sia@hawadvocate.com

GARY S. MIYAMOTO
RICHARD F. NAKAMURA
JOHN S. NISHIMOTO
ZALE T. OKAZAKI
RONALD M. SHIGEKANE
JEFFREY H. K. SIA
LAUREN A. SUGAI
PHILIP S. UESATO
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
STEVEN T. WALL
J. THOMAS WEBER

November 15, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, **TODD W. EDDINS**
Public Hearing: 11/16/20 at 1:00 p.m., Conf. Rm. 016

Dear Chair and Vice Chair Rhoads and Keohokalole:

This letter is submitted in support of the confirmation of nominee Todd W. Eddins, Esq., currently a judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii, as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known the nominee (“Todd”) for over 20 years in his profession capacity and on a personal and more social context, and without hesitation, can state that he is fully qualified for the position as an Associate Justice on our Supreme Court.

Todd has the requisite legal “smarts” to be an Associate Justice. I know from “shop talk” discussions with him through the years that he has the talent and ability to analyze and assess legal issues and questions required of the judicial position. He also has other important, and in my view, extremely beneficial qualities for the position: empathy, but with needed dispassion (i.e., an objectiveness), for litigants, parties, and victims; belief in the rule of law; and years of experience in criminal and civil law, including family law matters. If confirmed as an Associate Justice, Todd will bring actual “in-the-trenches,” real-life legal experience from a practitioner’s point-of-view to the Supreme Court. That experience is to be appreciated. In addition, his more recent judicial experience is another significant quality that he can bring to the Court.

On a personal level, I have known Todd through sports, and specifically, through basketball play in the Lawyers’ Basketball League for probably about 20 years. Todd and I have been teammates in the league for over half of that time. While basketball play may seem almost trivial with respect to an Associate Justice position, the competitive sports activity is, for me, an opportunity to observe what usually are the “true colors” of a person. Competitive sports for

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
November 15, 2020
Page 2

adults, and perhaps, especially for attorneys, can reveal the true person inside the player. Todd is a competitive, but fair player. He is a team-player, who listens and contributes, and is not over-bearing. He is a clean player, who displays the type of sportsmanship you would want, and perhaps, expect from all players. Those qualities are basic ones, but are especially important qualities that are foundational parts of his personality that carry over to his work and attitude in the legal profession.

As a civil litigator with over 35 years of experience in Hawaii, a Fellow with the American College of Trial Attorneys, a former President of the Hawaii State Bar Association (2008), and a former member of the Federal Judicial Selection Commission (an advisory commission established to assist Hawaii's U.S. Senators in selecting candidates to serve as federal court judges in Hawaii from 2009 to 2013), I have an understanding of the factors and qualities needed and desired in our judicial nominees in Hawaii. Todd is extremely qualified, and I respectfully support and request his confirmation as an Association Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Should you have any questions about the deposition, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter of support and of Todd's nomination.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jeffrey H. K. Sia

JEFFREY H. K. SIA

**Law Offices of Jerry M. Hiatt
46-3976 Puaono Road
Honokaa, HI 96727
Email: jh@hiattlaw.com
Telephone: (808) 937-4179**

November 7, 2020

Dear Senators,

Re: GM 1: Your consideration of First Circuit Judge Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court

It is my great pleasure to very strongly recommend Judge Todd Eddins for the current open position as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. My reasons are as follows;

By way of introduction, I have been a practicing trial attorney in Hawaii for 43 years. I know Judge Eddins well and have seen the quality of his work and thinking on legal matters that I referred to him and also in decisions he has made as a judge. I am a 1973 honors graduate of Harvard College and a 1977 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am currently listed in Best Lawyers in 8 areas and have four times been named the Lawyer of the Year for Hawaii in various litigation practice areas. I have appeared before Hawaii judges on every island and conducted many jury and non-jury trials. I was familiar with each of the nominees who were on the list for the current open position. In my view Todd Eddins is far and away the best of these candidates and a superb choice for the following three reasons:

1. First, the role of being an appellate judge means that one has the opportunity to preserve a lower court's decision and end the dispute--or reverse, or alter that decision. This power is immense because application of it has such far reaching effects--both on the parties and counsel involved in the case and on the judges and staff who heard the case at trial. I am personally familiar with these high costs, as I have been lead counsel in many appeals, some successful and some not.

That is precisely why the un-rivalled experience of Judge Eddins in handling hundreds of jury and bench trials, both as counsel and as the single hardest working circuit court judge in Hawaii--is so very impressive and so very important to your decision. This painful and hard won experience has allowed Judge Eddins to accumulate far more judgment and wisdom than any of the other candidates who were on the list of potential appointees to this position. These other candidates are fine people and fine lawyers-- but their level of experience in these critical areas simply did not compare to that of Judge Eddins.

2. Second, in the cases he has handled as an advocate and as a judge, Judge Eddins has demonstrated a kind, patient, fair and considerate judicial temperament--as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of the applicable law. His work has been upheld by other judges, cited to repeatedly in other decisions and it stands as a model of clear thought and dedication to high legal standards.

3. Third, Judge Eddins is energetic and hard working and he has clearly conducted trials and gotten out good, clear, fair decisions as quickly as reasonably possible--so that the parties to his cases can move on. That quality of dedication and efficiency is hugely important for our Supreme Court--which is presently far behind in its task of timely deciding the many cases before it. Delay in reaching decisions comes at a very high cost to the parties, the state and the public's

respect for the courts as the place to go for justice. Judge Eddins would help the Hawaii Supreme Court meet its important obligation to get current with its calendar.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to confirm the appointment of Judge Eddins--because he is far and away the best of the candidates for this post now before you.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter of support. I would be happy to speak with you, or your staff, if you have any questions about him.

Much aloha,

/s/Jerry M. Hiatt

November 13, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

FROM: Jill Leilani Nunokawa, Esq.

RE: Todd Eddins

I wholeheartedly support Todd Eddins nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court and humbly ask the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to consent and approve Governor Ige's selection. Governor Ige appointed Judge Eddins to the Circuit Court bench three (3) years ago. He has consistently proven himself a balanced, fair, even tempered, considerate, intelligent, and insightful jurist. I have known Todd for 30 years and I was confident he would do a just and honorable job on the Circuit Court bench, which he has.

Todd has the widest scope and depth of experience, diversity and excellence: Executive Editor-in Chief of the William S. Richardson School of Law's Law Review, excelled in writing while in law school. Licensed to practice law in Hawaii for almost 30 years, clerked for a Supreme Court Justice straight out of law school, deputy public defender with an unmatched reputation for advocacy and civility in our state, practiced at a small firm and excelled in civil litigation, opened and operated a solo practice, represented clients pro bono, handled administrative law cases, and has been an excellent Circuit Court judge for three (3) years. His resume is outstanding, but more importantly he is a man of flawless character and he is committed to the application and enforcement of the State Constitution.

It is with great enthusiasm and knowledge that I completely support the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's consent and approval of Todd Eddins as Associate Supreme Court Justice for the State of Hawaii.

Me ke aloha pumehana

**TESTIMONY OF ATTORNEY JAMES J. BICKERTON IN
SUPPORT OF NOMINATION
OF JUDGE TODD EDDINS TO HAWAII SUPREME COURT**

Dear Chair & Members of the Committee

I write in strong support of the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court. As a former Vice-Chair of the Judicial Selection Commission, I have seen many candidates for judicial office or retention, and have studied them closely. As a practicing appellate lawyer who still writes his own appellate briefs, and as Chair of the HSBA's 2003 Special Committee in Appellate Issues, I have a deep understanding of the appellate process and the work that appellate judges do. Thus, I believe I have a clear understanding of the qualities that go into making an excellent judge and, in particular, an excellent appellate judge.

I have known Judge Eddins and followed his career since he was a young public defender, including during his time in private civil practice with the Galihier firm as well as while running his own practice and most recently serving on the circuit bench. Thus I think I know his skills and attributes well. Above all he has a deep and abiding commitment to justice and fairness, and he applies that commitment with a strong intellect and a thorough understanding of the law. I believe that he will make an excellent Supreme Court Justice. Judge Eddins is highly qualified, and I strongly recommend that he be confirmed by the Senate to this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Bickerton", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Bickerton

The Law Offices of
JOHN W. SCHMIDTKE, JR.
Attorney at Law • A Law Corporation

November 10, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee of Judiciary
Room 204
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Recommendation of Todd Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

I strongly recommend that you confirm the appointment of the Honorable Todd Eddins as the next justice to serve on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. As I wrote in my letter to Governor Ige, I have admired Judge Eddins as a lawyer and a person since I met him twenty-five years ago. I immediately liked his lightening wit—his intelligent synthesis of facts and events into a pearls of humor. But it was not silly or mean humor, it was always thoughtful, insightful, and compassionate, the by-product of keen observations and a deep understanding of being human. And Judge Eddins showed his humility by often laughing at himself.

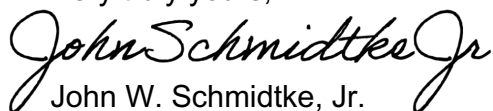
That same agile quality of mind made Judge Eddins a superb trial attorney. He quickly assessed the nuances of his clients' legal predicaments, and he moved their cases toward fair resolutions. I trusted his judgment and abilities. When my clients needed help with a criminal law matter or a restraining order, I sent them to Judge Eddins, knowing they would be in the best legal hands available. When an abusive opposing party in a divorce case threatened the safety of my family and me, while also making false accusations against me, I asked to Judge Eddins to represent me. No other name came to mind.

Judge Eddins cannot be ruffled; he stays calm when others turn frantic. He explains complex legal concepts in easy-to-understand terms, a must for a justice writing an appellate opinion. He listens with an open mind, understands the law, and applies common-sense, practical solutions to intricate legal problems.

If appointed, Judge Eddins will serve our state with diligence, compassion, and intelligence. Please confirm his appointment to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

If you have questions, please call me at 808-599-4100, ext. 101.

Very truly yours,


John W. Schmidtke, Jr.

JOSEPH R. MOTT, Esq.

P.O. Box 235979 - HONOLULU, HAWAII 96823 - (808) 371-7595

November 10, 2020

RE: Testimony Concerning Senate Confirmation of Judge Todd Eddins as Associate Justice
of Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Honorable Senators:

I write in support of Judge Todd Eddins to serve as Associate Justice on our Supreme Court. My knowledge of Judge Eddins' qualifications to serve on our high court comes from my many years of practice as a criminal defense attorney in the First Circuit Court and our United States District Court. Being of an older generation of practitioners, I have clear recollections of Judge Eddins from his beginnings, throughout his years of practice as a criminal defense attorney and civil litigator, and his time on the bench.

Although I have had little personal contact with him, I have seen and heard much that leads me to be certain that he is an outstanding candidate for the position you must fill. Judge Eddins is bright, energetic, scholarly, honest, and wise. As an Associate Justice, he will be a great asset to the people of Hawai'i. Please confirm his appointment.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Joseph R. Mott

Joseph R. Mott

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

Re: Public Comment on the Honorable Todd W. Eddins

I am submitting this letter in support of Todd W. Eddins's nomination for the judicial vacancy in the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

Judge Eddins has, in my experience, been nothing but a fair and impartial judge and an even more tremendous intellect on the bench. His rulings come from a deep understanding of the law and a strong desire to contribute meaningfully to our islands.

In addition to what he brings to the bench, Judge Eddins is also a compassionate member of the Hawai'i community and an eager mentor to young attorneys.

Judge Eddins is an incredible attorney and judge who possesses great intellect, a strong commitment to justice, and a desire to further improve upon the practice of law. He would be an enormous asset to the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Kaitlyn M. H. Iwashita, Esq.

November 8, 2020

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this in support of the honorable Judge Todd Eddins for Governor Ige's nomination of him for the Associate Justice for the Supreme Court. I have known Todd for about 10 years now. We are both residents of Kailua and our sons grew up playing community basketball together. In fact, Todd was my son's coach for a couple seasons. Since then, we have come to know the Eddins family on a personal/social level as now our boys play with each other on a club basketball team and against each other on their respective high school teams.

My experience of Todd early on was that he cared for the boys he coached and encouraged them to be their best. He was firm, but still kind and supportive. There were other coaches in the early years that would yell, humiliate, and shame the young boys in attempt to discipline or coach. This was not Todd. Todd was encouraging, fair and although competitive, he used great judgement in meeting the kids where they were at. Boys on his teams grew in their skill, had fun doing it and were around the next season because it was such a positive experience with Coach Todd.

I have watched many a basketball game with Todd, our spouses and other friends. In addition, we have attended social gatherings with his family. I have come to know his quality character and hospitable personality well over the years. I have seen Todd respond to a particular family member disciplinary situation with great integrity, compassion, and humility. I know other parents put in a similar situation might respond with denial, shame, or entitlement, but with Todd, he handled it with great honor and grace.

He is a great listener and genuinely cares about people. I did not know he was judge when I originally met him. Honestly, I was pleased when I found out because I thought he was/is a great example of an impartial and upstanding leader in our judicial system. He is a dedicated and hard-working servant to this extremely important part of our legal system, especially here in Hawaii. I admire his sincere desire to serve our community in this manner.

It is for all the above reasons that I highly recommend Judge Todd Eddins for the Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court position. He is a humble servant, man of character and a great husband and father. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and with Aloha,

Katherine Katoa

From: [keith shigetomi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins
Date: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:26:21 PM

I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Judge Todd Eddins as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. He has the intelligence and demeanor to be a justice. Just as importantly, he has the real world experience as a practicing lawyer and a trial court judge to bolster his credentials.

On a personal note, Judge Eddins is courteous to people and he has a wry sense of humor. He is hardworking and diligent.

Judge Eddins checks all of the boxes that you expect of a justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Thank you.

Keith Shigetomi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: gokenny808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:38:53 PM
Attachments: [Cheung GM1 Testimony.pdf](#)

GM1

Submitted on: 11/10/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Ken Cheung	Individual	Support	No

Your comments:

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

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

I am writing in earnest support for Todd Eddins' appointment to the Hawaii State Supreme Court. I have known Todd Eddins for more than 10 years, mostly through youth basketball leagues. As an assistant coach to Todd, I have been in close collaboration with him and I have witnessed first-hand the quality of his character and integrity. A fierce competitor, he is also dedicated to teaching the players the right way to play, and to use basketball as a metaphor to impart important life lessons. In leagues where many coaches try to win at all costs, Todd's player-development approach, patience with the kids, and adherence to fair play stands out. In the heat of competition, with emotions running high, an individual's true character becomes evident, and I can affirm that Todd possesses the qualities that I believe are important for the State's highest court – patience, sense of fairness, compassion and integrity. I am certain that Todd will serve as an outstanding Hawaii Supreme Court justice.

From: kinmoo@aloha.net
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 3:36:10 PM

I am writing this letter in support of Todd Eddins' nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I first met Todd when he was working as a public defender. I always enjoyed working with Todd because I had a lot of respect for him. His knowledge of the relevant case law and his courtroom presentation were impressive. I also appreciated the fact that I never had to worry about Todd being sneaky or underhanded whenever he was my opponent in court. He was also nice to be around. He was always upbeat, and we had a mutual appreciation for the responsibility and importance of our work. One of Todd's greatest assets is his common touch. He is well connected to the central values and morals of our community through his life experiences, and he keeps them in focus. I could see this through his actions and I heard this whenever we spoke about our work and related matters. There is no doubt in my mind that Todd's rulings and reasoning will be well thought out and complete. I trust him the the guidance of our legal community. Good luck, Todd.

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: krisaloha17@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:23:52 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/13/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Kristi Lyn Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Dear Senator Rhoads: My name is Kristi Lyn Suzuki and I am Todd Eddins' judicial assistant. I have had the privilege of working with Todd since his appointment to the circuit court bench in April 2017. Over the last 24 years I have worked in the legal field both in government and in private practice. Todd possesses a rare trait: insatiable intellectual curiosity. While he is known for his work in the criminal arena, Todd has the ability to become an "expert" in any area of law. His natural intellectual curiosity paired with his ability to be a "quick study" will assist him in navigating all of the subjects that are pondered by the Supreme Court. He also possesses the gift of being extremely astute and hardworking but is also humble, normal and fun. Although I always respect him as a judge, I see him first as a person. He is so generous with his experience and knowledge – always helping others or educating young lawyers about the law and practice. He is collaborative and is never closed off to other people's opinions. In fact, he relishes the team aspect of our division and we routinely toss around ideas. Todd reviews each case on the facts and is not swayed by his personal bias. Rather, he follows the law -- which is what a good judge, a fair judge, should always do. I am so proud to be working with Todd and for being a part of his success as a circuit court judge. Thank you for your kind consideration of my thoughts. Please permit this letter to serve as testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Todd W. Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.
Respectfully, Kristi Lyn Suzuki

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

Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

I am writing in support of Judge Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. From 2010 to 2018, I was a Honolulu deputy prosecuting attorney for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. During that time, I handled several felony criminal cases in which Judge Eddins, then in private practice, represented the Defendant. After Judge Eddins became a Circuit Court judge in 2017, I then appeared before him for various types of hearings in multiple felony cases.

Judge Eddins, both in private practice and while on the bench, was always prepared and possessed a strong grasp of the law and legal precedent. He also was not afraid to deviate from established procedures if he felt there was a better way to accomplish a goal.

For example, he was one of the few judges to write his own jury instructions. These are the instructions that the jury must follow in deciding issues at trial. Judges have that discretion, but most will just use the standard pattern criminal jury instructions. Judge Eddins was confident enough in his ability and knowledge to draft instructions that he felt would aid the jury in reaching a verdict but that were also legally sound.

Although I did not always agree with Judge Eddins decisions, he treated me and other colleagues fairly, and I respected his preparation and thoughtfulness in trying to appropriately apply the law. He would make an excellent Associate Justice of our Supreme Court.

Sincerely,
Kurt Nakamatsu

KYLE T. DOWD
Office Tele: (808) 768-7479
Office Email: dowd.t.kyle@gmail.com

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 12, 2020

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
STATE CAPITOL
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM1, Testimony in support of the confirmation to the Supreme Court of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee Todd W. Eddins

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and other members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, employed by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. I have served in this role since February of 2012, and am currently a Captain in the Department's felony Trials Division where I supervise a team of attorneys. In addition, I also carry my own felony caseload, which allows me to practice in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. It is in this capacity over the years, that I have had the opportunity to become familiar with the Honorable Todd W. Eddins as both opposing counsel and Judge.

First, his carefully considered adherence to controlling legal precedent is paramount in his rulings. As a litigant, it is always a pleasure to practice in his courtroom, knowing full well that decisions will be legally sound.

Second, his unwavering commitment to impartiality between parties and controversies before him is unquestionable. Regardless of circumstances, both foreseen and unforeseen, a fair hearing or trial is always guaranteed in his courtroom.

Third, his pleasant disposition and warmth towards all members of our legal system, I believe, fosters a better functioning thereof. He is firm when he must be, but otherwise, he administers justice with Aloha.

He is the epitome of a stellar candidate for our highest state court.

Respectfully & unreservedly,

Kyle T. Dowd
Kyle T. Dowd

LARS ROBERT ISAACSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1100 ALAKEA STREET, 20TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: 808-497-3811 FAX: 866-616-2132
EMAIL: HAWAIICRIMDEFENDER@GMAIL.COM

November 9, 2020

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Judge Todd Eddins as Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice

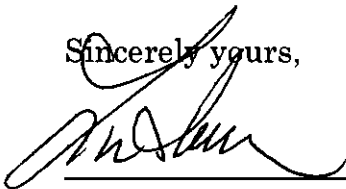
To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support Todd Eddins as an appointee to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. To begin, Judge Eddins possesses the requisite legal credentials for this position. Judge Eddins was a very talented legal advocate, handling many high-profile cases throughout state trial and appellate courts. Since ascending to the bench, he has served as a Circuit Court Judge in a sober and evenhanded way.

Further, I believe it is important to have someone on the Hawai'i Supreme Court to have trial experience, especially in criminal matters. Many things that may look inconsequential on paper can only be properly understood by someone who has represented a defendant at trial or presided over a criminal trial. Judge Eddins has this experience.

For these and other reasons, I recommend Todd Eddins to be approved as a Justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Sincerely yours,



LARS ROBERT ISAACSON

November 12, 2020

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Leialii Tagupa and I have previously served on the board for Kailua Basketball Association, otherwise known as KBA. KBA is a community basketball league in Kailua that has been in existence for 20 plus years. Children from the ages of 4 – 14 participate in our program which runs from December – March every year. Kailua Basketball Association is operated by volunteers who are dedicated to keeping this program alive. Some volunteers assist on the board, help at registration, score keep, serve as a coach, referee or team mom. Many volunteers wear various hats in our association and many volunteers were once players who came back as coaches to give back to their community.

Todd Eddins has volunteered as a head coach with KBA for the past 7 plus years. He has coached many children who started KBA when they were 5 years old and who are now 12. Coaching children with various skills levels can be challenging. Some of these players have never played basketball before, even at the age of 12. Todd is a positive and patient coach who pushes his players to be the best they can. He works to develop the skills level of every player he coaches. Todd praises his player, but also gives them constructive criticism when they are having difficulty with a particular skill. He is fair and ensures each player participates in every game. Todd promotes giving it your best at every game and doesn't emphasize winning as the goal. He teaches his players that as long as they play their very best during a game, it's all that counts.

Todd may appear a "tough guy" defense attorney, but under that tough exterior, he laughs and has fun when he's coaching. His intensity he has when working on a legal case has made his teams win more than lose. It's nice to see Todd Eddins, a respected authority figure in our legal system, relax and have fun with his team(s). Kailua Basketball Association can always count on Todd to also help with being a fair referee. He also ensures his team helps with putting back equipment and cleaning up the park.

I highly recommend Todd W. Eddins to serve as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court for the State of Hawaii. He is fair, compassionate, and is a man who believes in giving back to his community.

Thank you for your time. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at 499-8280.

Mahalo,
Leialii Tagupa



William N. Ota | wota@ota-hara.com
Leighton M. Hara | lhara@ota-hara.com

737 Bishop Street, Suite 2860 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 532-1728 | Fax: (808) 532-1729 | ota-hara.com

November 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL (JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Re: Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM1 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD W. EDDINS, for term to expire in ten years

Dear Senator Rhoads and Senator Keohokalole:

Please consider this letter my testimony in support of The Honorable Todd W. Eddins' confirmation as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, State of Hawaii.

I have been a licensed attorney since 2002 and worked in private practice as an attorney specializing in litigation. Since 2009, my practice has focused almost exclusively on employment litigation with the Marr Jones & Wang law firm where I was a partner. Since 2015, I have been involved in general litigation as a founding partner of Ota & Hara, LLC.

During my years of practice, I have had the pleasure of working with and against Judge Eddins in a matter that encompassed both civil and criminal law. At the time, Judge Eddins was a seasoned criminal trial attorney who represented an individual who was adverse to my corporate client. In addition to severe criminal penalties, Judge Eddins' client faced significant civil exposure. Although we were adversaries -- our respective clients were on opposite sides of the fence -- Judge Eddins represented his client zealously while maintaining the highest standards of ethics and professional courtesy. Rather than bulldoze his way through the litigation, Judge Eddins took a

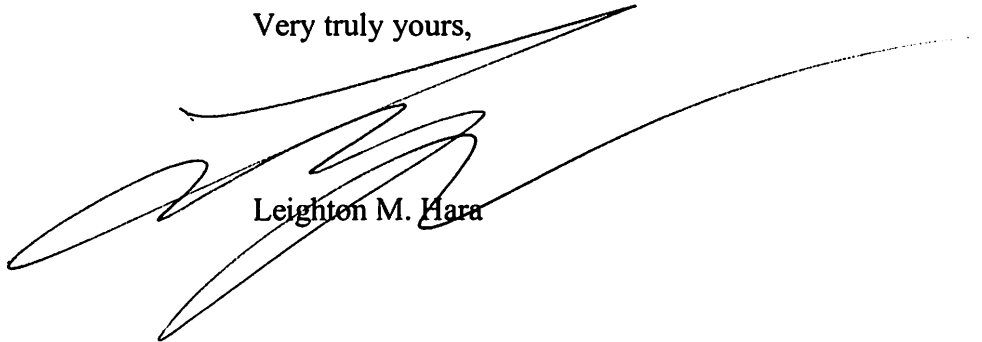
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
November 9, 2020
Page 2

holistic approach to resolving the issues with his client. His intellect, coupled with his friendly demeanor, immediately made a positive impression.

Judge Eddins has always been hard working, fair, civic minded, and compassionate. As longtime public servant, Judge Eddins spent a considerable amount of his career assisting the public. He has also tried numerous jury trials to verdict and has successfully argued before Hawaii's courts in both the civil and criminal arenas. Judge Eddins' experience, personality, and demeanor will serve the public well and are qualities which will make for an excellent Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in support of The Honorable Todd W. Eddins. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leighton M. Hara

LMH:ssw

From: [Leslie Kobayashi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Statement in Support of the Nomination of Todd Eddins for the Position of Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Hawaii
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 2:21:49 PM

I write in support of Todd Eddins and his nomination for the position of Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Hawai'i. I have known him for several years, both as a criminal defense attorney practicing in federal court in the District of Hawai'i and as a youth basketball coach in Kailua.

In my experience, Judge Eddins was a professional and well-prepared advocate for his clients, a talented and dedicated basketball coach, and a lawyer with much experience in criminal law.

Moreover, he has a wonderful family.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kobayashi
United States District Court Judge
District of Hawai'i

From: [Linda Luke](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of the Honorable Todd Eddins as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:53:58 PM

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of Judge Todd Eddins' nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. During my 38 year tenure on the Family and District Court bench, I had occasion to observe Todd first as a young public defender, and thereafter, as a private practitioner

specializing in criminal defense. Over the years, I was impressed with his development as a top notch litigator, and was gratified to see his elevation to the Circuit Court, First Circuit. There he has earned a well deserved reputation as a very hard working, knowledgeable, and

effective trial judge. I know that he was always available to assist other judges, was kind to all, especially to new trial lawyers, and was known to be collaborative and creative in his courtroom management.

The Supreme Court would benefit greatly from his trial background, considerable work ethic, and legal scholarship.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments in support of his nomination.

Respectfully,

Linda K. C. Luke
District Judge (Retired)
First Circuit, State of Hawaii

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: elderlaw@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 11:21:51 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/13/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Lowell Kurashige	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: This letter is in support of the nomination of Judge Todd W. Eddins as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Judge Todd Eddins for almost 30 years (since 1991, when we were both employed at the Office of the State Public Defender). Over the years, I have observed that Judge Eddins possesses superior skills with respect to client relations, trial practice, legal knowledge, and court procedure. From my perspective, Judge Eddins has always conducted himself in a very professional and ethical manner. Most important (with respect to serving as a Supreme Court Justice) is Judge Eddins' passionate interest in appellate law and the people who are affected by the far reaching decisions of the Supreme court. I believe that he would be an asset to the Supreme Court and the public that it serves. Thank you very much, Lowell H. Kurashige Attorney at Law

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

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HOSODA & BONNER

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

Three Waterfront Plaza, Suite 499 ♦ 500 Ala Moana Boulevard ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 524-3700 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 524-3838

Lyle S. Hosoda
Addison D. Bonner

Kourtney H. Wong
Spencer J. Lau
Megan A. Coburn

November 11, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: **GM-1: Todd W. Eddins – Associate Justice Hawaii Supreme Court**

Dear Honorable Chairperson Senator Rhoads and Committee,

This is my wholehearted support for the Honorable Todd W. Eddins to become an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins for almost 50 years growing up together in Kailua. He is a few years younger than I, and he played youth sports on teams with my brother. As such, I first knew him as an athlete, a competitor and a community minded individual.

I followed his career and occasionally ran into him prior to him becoming an attorney. We continued seeing each other mostly in community sports leagues. After he became an attorney, we had a few cases and matters that we worked on together. There was one matter in particular that we worked on that enabled me to observe and evaluate his legal competence and abilities. The case was a high profile criminal matter which he successfully defended. My firm stepped in and assisted his with arranging and facilitating a mock trial and jury selection. We spent two to three months working side-by-side.

My observations are that Judge Eddins is extremely smart and knows the law well. He identifies and attacks issues quickly. He is also very practical and community minded. He understands and appreciates the social, cultural, political and economic issues confronting Hawaii. I am confident that his analysis and decisions will be in the best interest of all of us now and for future generations to come.

I am available for further comment or to field any questions if necessary.

Very truly yours,

Lyle S. Hosoda

Lyle S. Hosoda

November 10, 2020

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Character Reference for Todd W. Eddins

Honorable Judiciary Senate Committee,

My name is Lyndon Mako Hara and I'm writing this character reference letter for my friend, Todd W. Eddins. I have known Todd W. Eddins since the 2nd grade. We were sports opponents, team mates, academic peers and are family friends.

I am completely aware of the character of my friend. Todd has always been a person with a high moral ethos, compassion, humility and common sense in his personal and professional life; and I believe his life to be driven by those principles. He has devoted his life to the well being of others, his clients and his family.

He is well regarded and honored by both his professional colleagues and personal circles. There has not a single event which could raise doubts about his character and ethics in any regards. I'm pledging here with my words, for his character, that there is no single such incident on the basis of which I can justify anything to the contrary.

I am hopeful this character reference letter would give you a better idea about Todd's moral and ethical acumen and provide an aid in your selection process.

Should you need further background character information about Todd, please feel free to contact me direct at:

Lyndon Mako Hara, CSP
Certified Safety Professional
Ph: 602 518 1852
Email: LyndonHaraSafety@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 162, Scottsdale, AZ 85252

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Lyndon Mako Hara

DAVIS·LEVIN LIVINGSTON

ATTORNEYS

400 DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON PLACE
851 Fort Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4317

www.DavisLevin.com

TELEPHONE: (808) 524-7500

Fax: (808) 356-0418

MARK S. DAVIS
mdavis@DavisLevin.com

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

Maui: 877-7500

Hawai'i: 326-3200

Kaua'i: 245-6100

November 10, 2020

Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204

senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
senkeohokalole@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Todd Edins for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Dear Senators Rhodes and Keohokalole:

It is my pleasure, on my own behalf and on behalf of the lawyers in my law firm, DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON, to add my voice to the support of Governor Ige's decision to appoint Todd Eddins to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. It has been our pleasure that so many members of my firm have had an extensive relationship with Judge Eddins and we have followed his career over the years, which leads us to the inescapable conclusion that he will be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Judge Eddins is not only an extraordinarily accomplished lawyer and judge, he is an excellent scholar, hard worker and certainly possesses the appropriate empathy and personal characteristics which will lend to his judicial demeanor and intellectual contribution to the Supreme Court.

It is without hesitation that I urge the Senate and this Committee to enthusiastically endorse his appointment. Judge Eddins's contribution to the Court will be an important addition to the appropriate administration of justice in our community.

Sincerely,

DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON


Mark S. Davis

MSD:ala

From: [Matt Levi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Judge Todd Eddins
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 8:55:07 AM

Dear Senators: It has been my privilege to know Todd Eddins for many years. He would make an excellent Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. Todd possesses the right combination of legal knowledge and judicial temperament to be a productive and valuable member of Hawaii's highest court. He is honest, disciplined, passionate and humble. I urge you to support Todd for membership on the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mahalo for your consideration...Matt Levi

DAVIS·LEVIN LIVINGSTON

ATTORNEYS

400 DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON PLACE
851 Fort Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4317
www.DavisLevin.com

TELEPHONE: (808) 524-7500

Fax: (808) 356-0418

MATTHEW C. WINTER
mwinter@DavisLevin.com

November 9, 2020

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS
Maui: 877-7500
Hawai'i: 326-3200
Kaua'i: 245-6100

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
Thirtieth Legislature, Interim 2020

Re: GM1 – Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Todd W. Eddins to be Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Committee Members:

I write to provide testimony in strong support of Todd Eddins' nomination to be our next Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Todd since I moved to Hawaii in 2005. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with many gifted attorneys and Judges – Todd is one of the best I have ever seen. He will be an incredible Associate Justice on our Supreme Court.

Todd has tremendous support in the legal community and our community as a whole. He is a legal scholar, a teacher, a volunteer, and a family man. He is someone who is respected by the legal and non-legal community for his tireless work to make Hawai'i a better place. He will bring this background to the Hawai'i Supreme Court; and with it, advance our judiciary while protecting the community he serves.

Perhaps Todd's greatest gift is his personality. I am lucky enough to call him a friend. He is someone who I admire for his legal work, but even more so for his devotion to his family. Those who have met him can attest to his good character, humility, and professionalism. All of these traits will be with him when he joins our high court, and they are all traits that will make him a wonderful Associate Supreme Court Justice.

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

Sincerely,

DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON



Matthew C. Winter

November 10, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I write regarding Todd Eddins' nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Though I have never seen him in action, I write from the viewpoint of close to 20 years as a faculty adviser to Mock Trial at Hawaii Baptist Academy. Before I was involved, I recall that Todd and Scott Saiki, both recently out of law school, came back to start a Mock Trial program. It was small, practiced only on weekends, and didn't go far. Several years later alumna Susan Kitsu tried again, more successfully.

Friends in Tulsa sent me a news clipping about a Mock Trial program in a youth detention facility in Oklahoma. I passed it on to another former student, August Suehiro, who was then the principal at Olomana School. He eventually implemented a program there, coached initially by Todd. It lasted several years.

Since becoming a Circuit Court judge, Todd has presided regularly at Mock Trial matches. Of course he does not judge ours, and I keep my distance so as not to compromise his neutrality in the eyes of other coaches.

But I am gratified to see him giving back to the community's young people and to the legal profession, as I was when he was a Public Defender.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurine King". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Maurine King
2475 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96822
mking@hba.net

From: [Michael Healy](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Comments RE: the Honorable Judge Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:21:06 PM

Aloha,

My name is Michael Healy, and I am writing this email in support of the Honorable Judge Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I am a 1988 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and former law clerk to the Honorable James S. Burns, from 1988-89. I began working at the Honolulu Public Defender's Office in 1989. Todd and I worked together at Public Defender's Office from 1992 to 2002. Todd quickly demonstrated that he was hard working and an excellent trial lawyer. Everyone in the office well-liked Todd.

Besides knowing Todd from work, I knew him from playing in the lawyer leagues of basketball and softball. Todd is a good athlete who consistently demonstrated great sportsmanship on and off the field. In all parts of his life, Todd has always carried himself to the highest ethical and moral standards. I can honestly say that Todd is a sincere and good person and an even better trial lawyer. He did a fantastic job representing our mutual friend Mayor Billy Kenoi. Todd is knowledgeable, hard-working, and always trying to do the right thing. I genuinely believe Todd would make a great addition to our Supreme Court and serve our community to the fullest of his abilities.

Thank you for allowing me to say a few words in support of Todd.

[Michael P. Healy, Esq.](#)
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 3304
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 525-8584
www.mphealylawyer.com



COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Dear Honorable Senators Karl Rhoads and Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

It is my great pleasure to write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Judge Todd Eddins to become an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Judge Eddins is extremely well-qualified for this critically important position. His extraordinary breadth and depth of experience, keen intellect, extensive substantive knowledge, and outstanding work ethic make him an ideal replacement for retiring Justice Richard Pollack. He is, without question, one of the best Circuit Court judges in the State.

I also want to emphasize several additional qualities that may not be readily apparent from Judge Eddins' impressive CV. Simply put, he is a man of impeccable integrity and deep compassion who will bring honor and aloha to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Judge Eddins' appointment to this high position, and his willingness to serve, are profound gifts to the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Livingston

From: [Mike Town](#)
To: [JDCTestimony: Todd W Eddins](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins confirmation.
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 9:44:12 AM

Aloha all. This is a letter of support for Todd Eddins' confirmation as associate justice for Hawaii Supreme Court.

Todd appeared before me many times over the years trying serious felony matters. He was always on time, well prepared, well spoken and impeccably behaved. The jurors and my staff and counsel appreciated his common sense and approach to the fairness of the law.

Todd is an excellent writer as well. He'll need to be, given the appellate case load. He also knows our community wide and far. Given the diversity of the witness and jury pool, no easy task.

His commitment to family and community augers well for him.

Bottom line is I support Todd without reservations whatsoever. He will be a credit to the judiciary!

Best to all. Judge Michael A. Town (retired)

--

Mike Town (judgemiketown.com)

NATHAN T. NATORI
Direct (808) 275-0155

1003 BISHOP STREET #1360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

EMAIL: nathan@natorilaw.com
www.attorneyinhawaii.com

November 13, 2020

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: TODD W. EDDINS' APPOINTMENT AS AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE HAWAII
SUPREME COURT**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Todd W. Eddins as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Todd for seventeen (17) years and he has unique qualities that are rare in one candidate.

Todd's extensive background in criminal and civil case makes him invaluable as an experienced Associate Justice. The fact that he is respected by his peers in both arenas can only help the Judiciary. He also is a very good listener and has a great sense of humor. He is extremely intelligent and is a very hard worker. Finally, he has the perfect temperament for being a Judge. He is compassionate and fair, and can easily communicate with all spectrums of the Hawaii population.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments regarding the above.

Very truly yours,

Natori Law Office LLLC



Nathan T. Natori

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: nicole_sarne@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)*
Date: Saturday, November 7, 2020 7:51:57 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/7/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
nicole sarne	Individual	Support	No

Your comments:

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

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Date: November 13, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii
Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, Todd W. Eddins

Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street

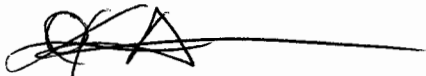
It is my honor to write this testimony in support of the confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, The Honorable Judge Todd W. Eddins. As a Deputy Public Defender for the State Office of the Public Defender, I have appeared before his court at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit for approximately three (3) years.

I have appeared before Judge Eddins for motion hearings, sentencings, and jury trials. His rulings are fair and demonstrate a depth of legal comprehension and analysis. In making findings and rulings, he always cites to statutes and caselaw. Judge Eddins is a legal scholar, having honed and developed his legal intellect through years of legal practice as well as research and study. He respects legal precedence but is not held captive by it. He is not afraid to see the law evolve and progress if required. If he believes changes in the law are necessary for the betterment of society, he has the courage to make rulings which spur action to either change or clarify the law. If confirmed as Associate Justice, he would effect positive change in our legal system. Judge Eddins has the restraint and humility to not abuse such power and privilege.

Judge Eddins is diligent. It is evident when he is on the bench, he has put in the work ahead of time. He is always prepared for matters before his court and runs his court efficiently. Judge Eddins is fair and reasonable to all parties involved in a case. He shows compassion for defendants but holds them accountable for their actions when necessary. He treats everyone with dignity and respect regardless of background or status.

I strongly support the confirmation of The Honorable Judge Todd W. Eddins as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. His confirmation would be a positive reflection on the State of Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Respectfully,



Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

Pete Thompson

1260 Sacramento St. San Francisco, CA 94108-1911 | 415.305.3454 | pkt1@icloud.com

November 14, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature, Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Supreme Court Gubernatorial Nominee Todd W. Eddins

Committee Members:

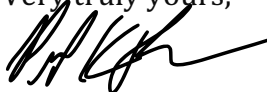
This letter supports the nomination of Todd W. Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins for decades; he is committed to public service as well as to the law. His experience, integrity, demeanor and work ethic make him an ideal fit for the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Judge Eddins's years as a public defender, in civil practice and on the Bench have brought him a comprehensive breadth of experience. Indeed, he will not be "out of his depth" on any matter before him. However, what has propelled him to success in his legal career is his relentless work ethic. Despite the heights he has risen to, Judge Eddins continues to work with the hunger of a first-year associate.

I also know Judge Eddins as an individual of impeccable integrity, demonstrated in his years in the public defender's office, and again as a Judge on the First Circuit Bench. That integrity, coupled with his obviously very calm, almost methodical, demeanor make Judge Eddins uniquely qualified for the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Peter K. Thompson
HSBN 5890

November 13, 2020

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
And Distinguished members of
The Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Letter Supporting the Senate Confirmation of Honorable Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court; November 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Senators Rhoads and Keohokalole:

Please accept this letter written in support of Senate Confirmation of the Honorable Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have been a licensed attorney in Hawaii for over 40 years and am currently in private practice.

I fully support the confirmation by the Senate of the Honorable Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court. As a trial attorney and as a judge he has a level of quiet confidence that has always impressed me. I believe his background, experience and achievements in both government and private sectors make him very qualified to serve on the State of Hawaii's highest appellate court.

I humbly ask that you seriously consider his confirmation to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.

Very truly yours,


Reginald K. T. Yee

RKTY

#720084.1

RICHARD L. HOKE, JR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
111 HEKILI STREET
SUITE A #509
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734

EMAIL: rhokeesq@yahoo.com

TEL: (808) 927-4311

FAX: (808) 675-5804

November 9, 2020

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

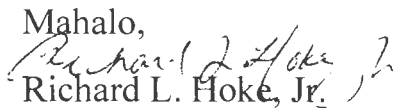
RE: TODD EDDINS

Aloha Senators:

I write in support of your confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee Todd W. Eddins, for a term to expire in ten years.

I am an attorney in good standing with the Hawaii State Bar for over 40 years. I have seen judges come and go. I have work experience with all the sitting justices of the current Hawaii Supreme Court, as well as many of the justices who have since retired. So, I come with this background and experience to vouch for Todd Eddins and I respectfully ask that you confirm his gubernatorial nomination as the next Supreme Court justice for the State of Hawaii.

I am certain that you have read and heard all the great things about Todd's legal acumen, his trial skills, and his judicial temperament. They are all true. In my estimation, Eddins is a person who is well suited for the job and who will be an outstanding justice.

Mahalo,

Richard L. Hoke, Jr.

Mw[:RLH

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: stacey001@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 10:22:59 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/15/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Richard Stacey	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee, I write in strong support of Judge Todd Eddins, nominee to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii. I first met Judge Eddins when I was a new deputy prosecuting attorney for Honolulu and he was a fairly new deputy public defender. We were on opposing sides for various cases over the years, and had at least one trial on a felony matter in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have always found Judge Eddins to be cerebral, diligent, and ethical. I had to make sure I was always well-prepared when opposing Judge Eddins in court. He was a zealous advocate for his clients, but he was also able to be cooperative and reasonable with opposing counsel. I am fully confident that he will do all necessary reading, be fully prepared and well-versed in every case before him. He has the trial experience, the legal knowledge and the intelligence to be an excellent Justice of the Supreme Court. Richard Stacey In my personal capacity stacey001@gmail.com

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From: [Mash, Robert](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: Appointment of Judge Todd W. Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:02:34 AM

Dear Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

I write this e-mail to support Governor David Ige's appointment of Judge Todd W. Eddins for Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins for over twenty (20) years as a colleague, adversary, and teammate. Although Judge Eddins and I have not handled any legal claims together, I am well aware of his outstanding reputation as a trial lawyer who has tried numerous felony criminal cases to verdict. There is no question that Judge Eddins has the intellect and legal experience to be an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court. Please see Judge Eddins' resume for further details about his legal background and experience.

Judge Eddins and I have primarily known each other as rivals in the Lawyer's Basketball League, and later, as teammates. One is able to learn a lot about a person's character on the basketball court. Importantly, I have learned that while Judge Eddins is highly competitive and loves to win, he also handles losing as well as he handles winning. Judge Eddins is always cool, calm, and collected, and he always fights (plays) fair. Judge Eddins has been an invaluable teammate who always supports and encourages his teammates in good times and bad times.

I am confident that Judge Eddins has the judicial temperament to be an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court. Judge Eddins' ability to maintain composure in situations from one extreme to the other, and in between, will translate into his ability to effectively serve as a justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court. He will speak his mind, but always do it in a professional way. I am confident that Judge Eddins has the judicial temperament to be an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I highly recommend that you confirm Judge Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Bob Mash

Robert A. Mash, Esq.

Managing Attorney, Law Office of Robert A. Mash
Attorneys and Support are Employees of
Government Employees Insurance Company
Pacific Park Plaza
711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 275
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 591-5777

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From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: estradar007@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 3:35:56 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/11/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Robin Estrada	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Dear Senate Judiciary Committee: I'm writing in support of Todd Eddins' nomination to serve as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Todd and I attended Hawaii Baptist Academy and graduated together in 1982. In high school, Todd was a great guy and dependable. He participated in school events and volunteered whenever asked. Todd was a typical guy; but what I remember most about Todd is his personality. Todd was known to be very smart and at the top of our class. He was a fun guy; but always respectful. Being a typical teenager, our group of girls were silly and always talking and laughing; in the midst of this, Todd was always calm and accepting of us and our silly girl talk. I think Todd would make a great Supreme Court Judge; he is of great character and will make sound, fair decisions. Todd is intelligent, but I believe a very important characteristic of a judge is their ability to care for people; Todd has this characteristic. Sincerely, Robin Estrada

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Executive Centre | 1088 Bishop Street, Suite 4100, PH-2 | Honolulu, HI 96813

Main: 808-695-4240 | Fax: 808-275-3217 | Direct: 808-695-4241 | rogomori@ogomorilaw.com

November 10, 2020

Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Todd Eddins

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary:


I am an attorney and the founder of Ronald T. Ogomori, Attorney at Law, a Law Corporation. I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Todd Eddins, who has been selected to fill the existing vacancy at the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Todd since 1990 as we both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. In addition, Todd and I worked together at the Office of the Public Defender. On a social level, Todd and I played on the same Lawyer's League softball and basketball teams for many years.

During the time that I worked with Todd at the Office of the Public Defender, I was able to observe Todd's litigation and analytical skills on a daily basis. I was also able to see how hard that Todd worked on his large case load. Todd is always prepared, takes pride in this work and is steadfast in his quest for a just result. Todd is a person of the highest integrity and would be a huge asset to the State of Hawaii's highest court. Therefore, it is without reservation that I recommend that Todd Eddins be confirmed as a justice on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions or comments, I may be reached at (808) 695-4241.

Very truly yours,



RONALD T. OGOMORI

From: [Ryan Markham](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Regarding Todd Eddins
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:51:21 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

I had the pleasure of having Todd Eddins as an instructor at the Hawaii State Bar Association Trial Academy. He did an excellent job as an instructor and exhibited great skill and professionalism throughout.

I believe Mr. Eddins would make an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

Thank you,

Ryan K. Markham
Attorney
Licensed in: CO, MN, and HI



Off. Ph.: (720) 791-5488
Cell: (808) 372-0172

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November 13, 2020

**Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Senate Judiciary Committee, Room 204
Honolulu, HI 96813**

RE: Support for Judge Todd Eddin's Nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of Judge Todd Eddin's nomination to sit on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have been practicing in felony criminal court as a deputy public defender since December 2011, and I have litigated over 40 felony jury trials, including one before Judge Eddins. I find Judge Eddins to be one of the smartest, most well-read, and most well-prepared judges on the Circuit Court bench, and his years of trial experience give him a nuanced understanding of the ins and outs of caselaw, court rules, and justice. Although I do not always agree with his rulings, I am *never* concerned that he did not put a lot of thought, research, and work into his decisions.

Judge Eddins has exciting ideas about modernizing certain things in court, particularly some of the out-of-date standard jury instructions, to more accurately reflect the current state of the law. He is not content do things a certain way just because it's easier, or that's how they've been done for a long time, and he always has an eye towards the pursuit of justice via the application of the law as it is *now*, not what it was decades or centuries ago.

He is a good writer and a quick thinker with strong opinions, but he is not resistant to listening to people who disagree with him and really engaging in a discussion of legal issues. He is also not stuck in his ways, and I have seen him change his mind when convinced by a well-thought out argument from a perspective different than his own.

I believe Judge Eddins would be a valuable addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sat K. Freedman
Sat K. Freedman
Deputy Public Defender

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: steves@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 4:04:02 PM

JC1

Submitted on: 11/14/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Stephen Teves	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary committee, I am writing in support of Judge Todd Eddins for appointment as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Todd for over 30 years as Todd is a year after me at UH Law School. Todd has always impressed me with his keen intellect, but he also has a "down to earth" style that makes those that appear in front of him feel they are "getting their day in court". I know Todd will strive for justice as a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court and will always be fair and practical in his rulings. I also got to know Todd as we played in the Lawyers Basketball League for over ten years (on separate teams/Todd was a much better player than I was). I saw how Todd exhibited sportsmanship and how he got along and interacted with his fellow attorneys. This showed me the integrity and kind spirit that Todd has is not just on the basketball court, but also translates to the courtroom. I humbly ask that you advise and consent to Judge Todd Eddins's nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court as he will serve the people of Hawaii with honor and integrity. Mahalo for your consideration, Stephen Teves

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

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From: [Steve Goodenow](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: IN SUPPORT TO TODD W. EDDINS FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 12:27:36 PM

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
FROM: STEVE GOODENOW, CLI, CFE
RE TODD W. EDDINS CONFIRMATION HEARING AS AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT

ALOHA: I have known Todd Eddins for the past 25 years both as a lawyer and Circuit Court judge. I am in the investigative profession and have worked as a licensed Private Detective & Guard since 1967. My work involves both Civil and Criminal cases. Over the years I have worked on cases where Mr. Eddins has been the attorney representing my client, representing opposition clients or been the judge adjudicating their cases. Mr. Eddins has always been a person of high integrity, attentive representation and thoughtful deliberation. Mr. Eddins through knowledge of the law and court procedures has always, in my mind, separated him from others. He is fair, judicial in temperament and considered in his decisions. He has represented first as a lawyer now as a judge his clients and the judiciary in a fair and highly professional manner. Mr. Eddins selection as a nominee for an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court should be approved and the legal system in Hawaii will be better for his appointment.

I urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary to approve the nomination of Todd W. Eddins as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have

Aloha, Steve Goodenow

Steve Goodenow, CLI
The Hawaii Investigative Group, LLC
625 Iolani Avenue, PH
Honolulu, HI 96813
Cell – 808 225-3508
www.goodenowpi.com

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Available at Barnes & Noble – Ala Moana Shopping Center

Available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Hawaiian-Eye-Fifty-Years-Paradise/dp/194801128X>

Available at Watermark Publishing: <https://www.bookshawaii.net/hawaiian-eye-my-fifty->

[years-as-a-p-i-in-paradise.html](#)

**Watch Steve and Mark Shklov on Law Across the Sea on Think Teck Hawaii
discuss thebook**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzMlMTBmls&feature=youtu.be>

My name is Steven Nichols and I am a Deputy Public Defender writing in support of the Honorable Todd Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

When I arrived at the Office of the Public Defender, Judge Eddins was already considered the best trial attorney in the office. This didn't stop him, however, from helping us and giving advice even though he didn't need to. He never put himself above the younger, less experienced attorneys in the office and was always willing to give advice and lend a hand.

As a judge, Judge Eddins was the best trial judge. He knew the law better than anyone else and he was always fair to the attorney and the parties. He managed his calendar in a very efficient manner. There were no lengthy delays or longer than need to be hearings. All his rulings were based in the law and supported by the law. Doing trials in front of Judge Eddins was always a positive experience. I did two fairly lengthy and high-pressure trials in front of Judge Eddins and both trials were extremely well run and smooth experiences. He was the best judge to have at trial and while he will be missed, I believe he would make an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

You only have to spend a few moments with Judge Eddins to realize that his mind is different than the rest of us. His ability to absorb information and knowledge and then use it to render rulings is without peer, a trait that will make him an excellent justice. Please confirm Judge Eddins.

Sincerely,

Steven Nichols

Stuart C. Tanimoto

Certified Public Accountant

1221 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 815
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone (808) 596-8041

Facsimile (808) 596-2293

November 13, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee
Via E-Mail

Todd Eddins

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have worked with Todd Eddins on various business and tax matters over the last fifteen years and I've enjoyed working with Todd as he is very knowledgeable in his area and has always conducted himself in a professional and ethical manner.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (808) 596-8041 or e-mail me at sct0708@yahoo.com regarding Todd Eddins.

Very truly yours,



Stuart C. Tanimoto

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: susan.utsugi@cpb.bank
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:16:33 PM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/12/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Susan Utsugi	Individual	Support	No

Your comments: I have known Todd Eddins for over 40 years. He is a man of high ethics, wisdom, compassion, and intelligence. He will serve the State of Hawaii well as a Supreme Court Judge.

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

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

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: ynwon@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM1 on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)*
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 11:28:25 AM

GM1

Submitted on: 11/13/2020

Testimony for on Nov 16, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Susan Won	Individual	Support	No

Your comments:

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

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Taryn Tomasa
1130 N. Nimitz Highway
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 586-2080

November 12, 2020

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
415 S. Beretania Street
Judiciary Committee, Room 204
State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813
via email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 1 Todd W. Eddins, Gubernatorial Nominee, Associate Justice to the Hawai`i
Supreme Court
Hearing: November 18, 2020, 1:00 PM

Senators Chairman Rhoads and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of TODD W. EDDINS to the Hawai`i Supreme Court. I have known Judge Eddins for over twenty-one years, both professionally and personally. It is without hesitation that I submit this letter in support of his nomination. I believe that Judge Eddins possesses the character, intellect, and demeanor that this important judicial position demands.

In the years that I worked with Judge Eddins at the Office of the Public Defender, he was a dedicated and diligent advocate for his clients. Judge Eddins always possessed and demonstrated a mastery of the law and legal authority, including for matters involving complex legal issues. During his practice as an attorney, Judge Eddins was a highly skilled litigator in both criminal defense as well as in private practice at the law firm Galihier DeRobertis Waxman and later in his own practice. On the circuit court bench, Judge Eddins adeptly dealt with legal issues, novel and otherwise, and frequently issued specialized jury instructions simplifying the legalese making the legal process comprehensible for the parties and public. Over the course of his legal career, he has interpreted the law with thoughtful consideration that conscientiously and cogently addressed novel, complex and difficult legal issues. He possesses the ability, intellect and integrity for the Hawai`i Supreme Court.

I am also familiar with Judge Eddins and his family. Judge Eddins has always embraced strong family morals. While distinguishing himself professionally, he has also remained dedicated to his family, especially his children. He is very active in their lives and takes a primary role in every aspect of their growth; morally, emotionally, and intellectually. The fact that the Eddins family is kind, generous, and successful, is a testament to Judge Eddins and his wife, Rowena's, ability to lead by example.

Undoubtedly, Judge Eddins's character, intellect, and values make him a consummate judicial nominee for the Hawai`i Supreme Court. I have practiced substantially in trial and appellate courts, both in private practice and public service. Thus, I am familiar with the demands of the position and I recognize that a successful judicial applicant must possess the legal aptitude and acumen to handle a variety of legal issues, a high volume of cases, and to thoughtfully construe, interpret and expand the law which will impact the lives of the citizens of Hawai`i. Based on my knowledge and experience with Judge Eddins, it is apparent that he has the ability, character, and dedication to be an invaluable asset as an associate justice.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Taryn Tomasa

From: [Terry Revere](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:35:33 AM

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write in support of the nomination of Todd Eddins to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Todd since law school and he has always been fair minded and a quick study. After law school we went on different paths, him focusing mostly on criminal and me on civil, but I have heard nothing but folks from our time in law school express anything but great regard for Todd as a defense attorney, civil litigator and Judge.

I think we will definitely be an asset to the Court.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Terry Revere

Revere & Associates
970 N Kalaheo Ave Suite A 301
Kailua, HI 96734
791-9550

Timothy E. Ho
745 Fort Street Mall, 17th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

September 26, 2020

Hon. Karl Rhoads
Chairperson
Senate Judiciary Committee
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 1 TODD W. EDDINS

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

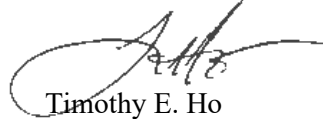
I am writing in support of Judge Todd W. Eddins' judicial confirmation to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have known Judge Eddins for more than twenty (20) years, having worked with him while he was at the Office of the Public Defender. Judge Eddins began his legal career by establishing himself as an academic and a great legal writer. He quickly established himself as a fearless and highly competent trial attorney.

At the circuit court, Judge Eddins brought the same skillset that served him well as a criminal and civil litigator, and he moved more cases, and presided over more trials than all the other sitting judges.

While Justice Pollack, who retired earlier this year leaves big shoes to fill, I am proud to say that Judge Eddins is a fitting replacement for him. I urge to confirm Judge Eddins to the judicial position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on his behalf.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Timothy E. Ho

THE LAW OFFICE OF
WALTER J. RODBY

733 BISHOP STREET, MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2302
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE NO.: (808)545-5490

November 10, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads

Chair- Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: **Todd W. Eddins &**

Consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice for the Supreme Court
of the State of Hawaii.

DATE: Monday, November 16, 2020

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016
Hawaii State Capitol

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to express my complete support of **Todd W. Eddins** and his nomination to Associate Justice for the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I am certain that he will be an asset to our judiciary, and the people of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,

WALTER J. RODBY

From: [Wendy Hudson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Todd Eddins' Appointment to the HSC
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:54:14 AM

Aloha- I enthusiastically support Todd Eddins as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I've known Todd since our days at the Public Defender's Office and have had a couple of mutual clients throughout the years after that. I've found him to be forthright, very smart, an excellent trial attorney with real compassion for his clients and have found his decisions as a Circuit Court Judge to be fair and thoughtful. He's fun to be around too. In my opinion, he'd be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mahalo,
Wendy Hudson

--

Wendy Hudson
Hudson Law LLLC
44 N. Market St.
Wailuku, HI 96793
808-242-1999 phone
808-244-5698 fax

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HARRISON & MATSUOKA

Attorneys at Law

William A. Harrison

E-mail: wharrison@hamlaw.net

Keith A. Matsuoka

E-mail: kmatsuoka@hamlaw.net

American Savings Bank Tower

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1180

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 523-7041

Facsimile: (808) 538-7579

Webb: www.hamlaw.net

November 13, 2020

Via: Web: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Chair: Senator Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole,

DATE: Monday, November 16, 2020

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GM1: Submitting Testimony in Support of the confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, Judge TODD W. EDDINS

Honorable Senators: Karl Rhodes, Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the Committee on the Judiciary and Labor.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to offer testimony **in strident support of Judge Todd W. Eddins.**

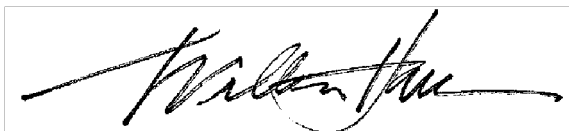
As background to this letter of support, I am a criminal defense attorney who has practiced in all our courts for over 39 years. I am also a former Chair of the Judicial Selection Commission ["JSC"], having served my term on the Commission from 1991 -1997.

Judge Eddins' background and professional experience places him in the unique position of being exceptionally qualified for the nominated position. He was raised in a middle-class family who instilled in him the importance of hard work, commitment, and fairness in all his life goals. He graduated from Hawaii Baptist Academy, a school which clearly supported and cultivated his family's principles. He chose to attend our State Law School which prides itself on its cultural beliefs and our singular notion of "ohana."

He began his career at the Hawaii Supreme Court as a law clerk and observed there what it takes to be an outstanding jurist. Later he worked as a public servant with the State Public Defenders trying difficult cases and acquitted himself well. During his tenure at the Defenders I watched him in court and was always impressed with his intelligence and advocacy skills. I have now had the pleasure of appearing before him and my admiration of him has only increased. He conducts his courtroom in a very professional manner. He is cordial to all who appear before him. He understands the issues, is decisive in his rulings, and is both firm and compassionate.

In short Judge Eddins has all the tools to be an outstanding addition to our highest court. Therefore, I would urge you to confirm his appointment!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Harrison", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

William A. Harrison

LATE

From: [Van Acker, David](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Judge Eddins" Nomination for Associate Justice
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:40:01 AM

Dear Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

I am writing to voice strong support for Judge Todd W. Eddins' nomination to be an Associate Justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I work as a deputy prosecuting attorney with the City and County of Honolulu and have routinely appeared in front of Judge Eddins' courtroom in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have had numerous substantive hearings on a variety of matters in Judge Eddins' courtroom. At all times, Judge Eddins' has demonstrated the highest level of ethics, professionalism, and legal acumen. He diligently shepherds complex litigation and is always the most prepared person the room. In each case, he practices fidelity to the facts and the prevailing law to reach the appropriate conclusion. I have no doubt that he will make vast contributions to the Hawai'i Supreme Court and serve the citizens of this state with the highest degree of dedication and legal competence.

Aloha,
David Van Acker

*** Please note that I am sending this email in my personal capacity.

LATE

To Honorable Senators of the State of Hawai'i Judicial Selection Committee

This letter is my commentary in support of my friend and high school classmate, Todd Eddins.

I have personally known Todd Eddins for a little more than the last four decades. He is a great and compassionate person who is a highly intelligent, well educated, well rounded individual that could be classified as a modern day "renaissance man". He may not actually look the part, but he is very athletic as well with basketball as his chosen sport. He was a varsity player in high school earning a few letters and used his intelligence and cunning in more than a few games to try and assist in earning the victory. Although we didn't always win, he always operated within the rules, ofcourse. For earning a victory by any other means would not be in his variety of tools within his toolbox.

Todd was always cut out to be an attorney because of a few reasons that I feel are so applicable to his personality and character. The first and utmost is that he is a highly competitive person who relishes and cherishes a good verbal argument backed up by vigorous debate, and he usually came up on the winning side of the argument. He was always good at that even in high school. As you can tell by his curriculum vitae, he has sought out the highest levels of education and served under some very auspicious and highly regarded people who also saw the genius that I have always known existed in Mr. Eddins. Pair those high levels of intelligence with a person of compassion and care of well-being for his fellow man and you end up with the very high level of a person that will fight for what is right and just, for the people that need his help. And, he will do the best job that he can to make sure that the result will be in his clients best interest and fairness.

In conclusion, Senators, I don't think you could find a better person who is more well-suited to fulfill your vacant position on the Hawai'i State Supreme Court. He will weigh the facts of the cases that he oversees with the great and due diligence that it deserves. Interpreting the Hawai'i State Constitution and the application of its' laws would be what Todd Loves to do at his core of intellect, compassion, and servitude to the great state of Hawai'i and its' constituents. Todd is what you and the state of Hawai'i needs. I hope you confirm him to fill the vacancy and give him the opportunity to be part of the legacy that you leave behind with the vision that the state will be left in great hands. Hawai'i no ka oi!

With much Aloha and Mahalo,

Eric Arasato

Lifelong Educator and

longtime friend and supporter of Judge Todd Eddins

earasato24@gmail.com

arasatoe@friscoisd.org

469-396-9238

LATE

From: [Linda Jameson](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Todd Eddins for Supreme Court Associate Justice
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:03:39 PM

To whom it may concern:

I have known Judge Todd Eddins for over 25 years. We met at the Office of the Public Defender while we were both public defenders. Over the years we worked together both as colleagues and friends.

I can wholeheartedly recommend Judge Eddins for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. His intelligence, his even temperament, his level of legal scholarship, and his interest in the legal, as well as the overall community at large, is admirable and unparalleled. I believe that Hawaii would truly benefit by having Judge Eddins on the bench.

Yours truly, Linda Jameson

LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: GM1

Testimony in Support of the Nomination of the Honorable Todd W. Eddins to the Hawai'i
Supreme Court
Hearing: November 16, 2020

Dear Senators Rhoads, Keohokalole and committee members:

This letter is written in support Judge Eddins' nomination to the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. Melissa and I have been with the Office of the Public Defender for over ten years. For most of that time, our assignment has been to represent indigent criminal defendants charged with felony offenses in the First Circuit Court. We have had the opportunity to appear before dozens of judges in the Circuit, District and Family Courts of this jurisdiction.

Judge Eddins is precisely the person who should be granted the honor of serving on our state's highest Court. His skills as a trial attorney were superb. As a jurist, he is a consummate professional. He is confident, prepared and he expects all attorneys who appear before him to follow suit. He treats all sides fairly and his decisions are thoughtful and just. Most of all, he appreciates the impact of his rulings on the lives of those who must follow them. It is this unique combination of intelligence and humanity which would make him an excellent Associate Justice. We wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa Enright

/s/ Christian Enright



Hawaii Baptist Academy
President's Office

420 Wylie Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1729
Tel: 808 595-5000 / Fax: 808 545-2513
web: hba.net

LATE

November 16, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter in Support of Todd Eddins – Supreme Court Justice

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing this letter in Support of Todd Eddins, Supreme Court Justice as nominated by Governor David Ige.

I am blessed to recognize that Todd Eddins is a proud 1982 graduate of Hawaii Baptist Academy. During the past 39 years, we have had the privilege to follow Todd's various successes and especially his example of being a leader in our community who serves others well.

Todd has modeled well through his wonderful family, keeping in touch with his fellow classmates, and in our community how hard work, endurance, and love for others can make a difference and impact it a community through both good and difficult times. I believe that his character and experiences will serve him well in this esteemed position as a servant leader and a Justice on the Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity and honor to comment and support Todd Eddins, who has been an inspiration to alumni, board, faculty, staff, and families of the Hawaii Baptist Academy. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Ron Shirra
President

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA, ESQ.
P.O. Box 61619, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839

LATE

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: November 16, 2020

Hrg: November 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Re: GM 1; Strong Support for the Nomination of Todd Eddins to the Hawai'i Supreme Court

I share my strongest support of Judge Todd Eddins as a Hawai'i Supreme Court Associate Justice. I have known Judge Eddins stemming from my early days as a Deputy Public Defender ("DPD") in 2011 to now, as the Director of Career Services at the William S. Richardson School of Law. (Please note this letter is sent in my personal capacity and does not represent the views of the Law School or University of Hawai'i at Manoa.)

SKILLED PRACTITIONER WITH A DEEP LOVE OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE LAW

Then, "Todd" was known to all of us at the Office of the Public Defender as an experienced seasoned defense attorney who was a skillful litigator. He was known not only an expert at the nuances of trial, but a master at the law--creatively using statute, case law, and the Constitution in order to best advocate for his clients, protect the US and Hawai'i Constitutions, and serve the system of justice. He embodied what I hoped to be: someone who would respectfully and zealously work to protect the guarantees of our Constitutions and do so in the most challenging of contexts: protecting those who were most looked down upon in society. As I saw his practice later in my career as a defense attorney, I appreciated his selflessness, taking on the most difficult cases where the result would matter and likely shape policy and the law.

DEDICATED TEACHER AND PUBLIC SERVANT

In my new role in Career Services at the Law School, I have had the opportunity to interface with Judge Eddins and see his deep love for the law, the Bar, and the Bench. Judge Eddins has a deep appreciation of the law and has volunteered to support our law students in numerous ways. Most recently, he served on a panel about Judicial Clerkships aimed primarily at our first-year law students. He also has taken on externs and volunteers from the law school, investing his time and teaching new practitioners. Judge Eddins has hired Richardson graduates in whom he will invest to ensure they have a solid foundation in and respect for the law.

LOCAL BOY WITH A STRONG SENSE OF HUMILITY AND OBLIGATION

Also important for our next Justice is a sense of humility and commitment to the place. In my early days as a DPD, Judge Eddins did not know me--yet I recall him saying hello at events and once at a local independent bookstore. He did not need to say hello; yet he did. When speaking with our Richardson students, Judge Eddins explained the importance of young practitioners knowing court staff. Additionally, he also reflected on the mentorship he received from Justice Yoshimi Hayashi. These seemingly simple gestures represent the sense of connection, care, and humility ingrained in him. Though Judge Eddins is not Japanese, his actions reflect a general sense of "*okage sama de*": obligation and gratitude to those around him who helped him to get to where he is and who play a role in his successes. Judge Eddins understands how we are all interconnected and values everyone. He will bring this understanding with him to the Supreme Court and when making decisions that shape policy and impact people. This perspective and love for the people and place are truly important for our Supreme Court and State.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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

Todd W. Eddins
Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court (GM1)

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: P. Gregory Frey
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Todd W. Eddins for the position of Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- 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.

OFFICERS

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Karin L. Holma, President-Elect
Levi Hookano, Vice-President
Russ S. Awakuni, Secretary
Paul W. Naso, Treasurer

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Leslie A. Hayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu

Testimony of HSBA

GM1

Hearing on November 16, 2020

Page 2

- 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 to determine if the nominees is qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Judge Todd W. Eddins on November 9, 2020 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On November 10th, Judge Eddins was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Eddins was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Judge Eddins in all 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

Nominee Todd Eddins is a well-respected litigator and jurist in the Hawaii legal community. Judge Eddins is a well-rounded HSBA member with a diverse career and professional experiences which will serve him well on our State's highest Court. The Nominee did not aspire to be a jurist. In fact, he made the decision to apply for the William S. Richardson School of Law and become a lawyer after graduating from college. He was a Law Clerk for the late Yoshimi Hayashi of the Supreme Court, has worked in the Office of the Public Defender and in a well-known civil litigation law firm, and was also a solo practitioner.

The Nominee has practiced in all levels of State and Federal Courts. He has devoted an admirable amount of time to undertake controversial cases with complex and/or novel legal issues as a practitioner and pro bono attorney which resulted in precedent setting decisions.

Judge Eddins credits the development of his skills to many he has crossed paths with in the practice of law and on the Bench including opposing counsel, litigants, judges he appeared before as a practitioner, and judges who are his colleagues.

He is known to be extremely intelligent, compassionate, ethical, honest, and humble. He is a voracious reader and researcher which is evident in written documentation and courtroom presentations throughout his career as a practitioner and judge. The number of jury trials he has presided over and motions disposed of during his tenure assigned to the criminal calendar is exemplary. He is respected by colleague jurists and provides appellate case updates on significant cases at judges' meetings. The Nominee is known for his calm demeanor. Members have noted

Testimony of HSBA

GM1

Hearing on November 16, 2020

Page 3

that he keeps control of the courtroom yet is mindful of the importance of people having their day in Court and being heard. He explains complex legal concepts in easy to understand terms so non-attorneys can understand rulings.

Judge Eddins has all the skills and personal characteristics to serve on the State Supreme Court.as he is firm in his allegiance to the Rule of Law, civility, and fairness.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Judge Todd W. Eddins to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of our Committee.