

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/23/2021 7:37:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bambi Hifo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I respectfully urge Senate confirmation of Family Court Judge Kevin Morikone to the First Circuit Court. He has six years of bench experience in Honolulu District Court, first as a per diem judge and since April 2018 as full time family court judge including temporary circuit court assignments during which he presided over twelve circuit court jury trials. His most recent, a criminal jury trial , was only three months ago, in July 2021, during the pandemic, and went smoothly under his control. This is consistent with his judicial efforts and reputation. He is diligent, intelligent and does not hesitate to research applicable law. I have known Kevin since August 2007 when he became our law clerk at First Circuit Court providing excellent legal research and dedication to the job. I know him to be a hard working lawyer and now judge but also a talented musician, good husband and great Dad. He will continue to serve the Judiciary well as a Circuit Court Judge due to his work ethic, experience, good legal preparation and honest character. I hope you find Kevin Morikone highly qualified and worthy of confirmation to the First Circuit Court. Aloha. Bambi Hifo (retired judge)



THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD H.S. SING

DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
841 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 410
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE: (808) 537-1529
FACSIMILE: (808) 523-9137
EMAIL: RICKSING@HICRIMINALLAW.COM

October 25, 2021

Chair Karl Rhoads and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
417 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813
Via Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Confirmation of Mr. Kevin Morikone to the First Circuit Court (GM2)
October 27, 2021 at 9:00am

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Kevin Morikone to the position of judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I am a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense who has appeared in the District, Family, Circuit, and Federal Courts, on a regular basis over the past 20+ years. I am familiar with the histories, procedures, and personalities of the Hawaii Judiciary.

Mr. Morikone is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. He has impeccable academic credentials and many years of practical “in the trenches” experience as a private attorney and family court judge. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Mr. Morikone.

I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for a position of Circuit Court judge should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ Richard H.S. sing

Richard H.S. Sing

HOSODA LAW GROUP

Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

Three Waterfront Plaza, Suite 499 | 500 Ala Moana Boulevard | Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813
Telephone: (808) 524.3700 | Facsimile: (808) 524.3838

Lyle S. Hosoda | lsh@hosodalaw.com
Kourtney H. Wong | khw@hosodalaw.com
Spencer J. Lau | sjl@hosodalaw.com

October 26, 2021

LATE

Via email: jdcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Judiciary Committee
State of Hawai`i
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

RE: Recommendation for Kevin T. Morikone
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai`i

Dear Senator Rhoads:

This is my wholehearted and unqualified recommendation for you to select the Honorable Kevin T. Morikone (“Judge Morikone”) to be a First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii judge. Judge Morikone has more than the requisite intelligence, skills, training, experience, wisdom and temperament to serve our community as a circuit court judge. Most significantly, he wants the position. He is motivated and has aspired to the position since he first entered law school. We would be very fortunate to have Judge Morikone serve as a circuit court judge in our State. As I knew he would, Judge Morikone has proven himself as a judge over the past 4 years as a family district court judge. I have only seen and heard the most positive comments regarding his work as a judge from other judges, attorneys and the community. All of these positive comments are consistent with what I know of and have experienced from and with Judge Morikone.

In 2017 when I wrote on behalf of Judge Morikone to become a judge, I was Judge Morikone’s law partner. It was an honor and pleasure to practice law beside him. Initially when he indicated that he would be submitting his name to become a judge I felt conflicted because I knew that our relationship would have to change and that I would miss him. Although we are 22 years, nearly a full generation, difference in number of years practicing law, since he became my partner in 2011, I never once thought of him as anything other than an equal. While my partner, he carried a full caseload and handled a wide variety of cases and matters. We litigated cases in the following areas: commercial and general business, corporate, personal injury and wrongful death (both plaintiff and defense), construction, intellectual property, real property, bankruptcy, white collar criminal, collection, landlord-tenant, family, entertainment, and aviation defense. In short, he has experienced a wide range of cases.

Our law firm also formed businesses and engaged in a fair amount of business advising and counseling. Judge Morikone handled every aspect of these clients, cases and matters including marketing and getting and maintaining clients, meeting and counseling clients, researching claims, causes of action, defenses, etc., preparing and filing pleadings, motions of every type in every court, depositions, mediation, arbitration and trials. Judge Morikone also spent a year and a half as a law clerk to Circuit Court Judge B. Eden Hifo where he was exposed to all kinds of cases, litigants, attorneys and judges. So, although he has only been in practice for 14 years, he has a wide and deep range of experience and training. In short, he is wise and experienced beyond his years. His last 4 years as judge has only enhanced and furthered his experience. As predicted, I have heard that he is very effective as a problem solver and settlement conference judge. He is able to gain the trust of attorneys and litigants and is able to relate, communicate and achieve practical and reasonable resolutions.

I have known Judge Morikone since 2002. In an odd first meeting, this eager and motivated young man came and sat beside me after he had just finished playing music at a local establishment. He said that his producer had told him that I was an attorney and that he was thinking about law as a career and that he wanted to come work for me “for free” for a year so that he could evaluate the law as a career. I could not help but hire him, but insisted on compensating him. I explained that I had a small office and that he would be expected to do a wide variety of tasks. His job description was basically whatever I told him to do. He flourished under this arrangement. He caught on so quickly. I think he thought he was an attorney and could do what an attorney did before he even went to law school.

He was hooked on the law, and excelled. He is passionate about the law. He applied and got into law school. He did very well in law school and I got many reports from his professors about how well he was doing and how he is a natural. Many medium and large law firms made job offers to him during and after law school. I always encouraged him to pursue whatever he felt was in his best interest. With all of those opportunities, I was somewhat surprised that he continued to work at my firm during the holiday and summer breaks.

Judge Morikone asked if it would be acceptable if he accepted a clerkship with Judge Hifo. I told him that anything that he wanted to do to further his career was acceptable to me. He thoroughly enjoyed and again excelled as a lawclerk. I have had numerous conversations and interactions with Judge Hifo and her entire staff, and Judge Morikone remained their favorite. In addition to being very smart and super efficient, he is a team player and takes an interest in all around him. When I would go to the First Circuit Court building with Judge Morikone during and after his clerkship, he knew everyone there by their first names, and I could tell that there was a mutual respect with everyone from the judges, the litigants, court reporters, file clerks and the entire staff. He has amazing people skills.

Judge Morikone started work formally as an associate for me in 2008. His motivation was so great that I was handing him cases and files very shortly after he started and he was managing a full caseload with very little supervision. He always kept me informed and any time he had questions, concerns or problems, he would research and try and figure them out first by himself, but always engaged in passionate discussion on the law and issues. It was very clear to me that he had all of the skills and experience to handle every aspect of being an attorney on his own, so I offered him partnership after only three years in practice. He has never once let me down.

Some of his strongest attributes include his strength of character, credibility and integrity. He has the highest moral and ethical standards. He knows right from wrong. I know his entire family back two generations. Both he and his wife are strong family and community people, and pay respect and are with grandparents and extended family all of the time. On both sides, they are honest, hard-working families. They have instilled and Judge Morikone lives and does what is ethically and morally right.

Another fact that I share is that Judge Morikone is very culturally sensitive. In addition to being born and raised here, when he studied at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, he had 4 years of Hawaiian language and is proficient at the language. He has studied under some of the best and well recognized Kiho`alu slack key guitar players. He performed and played with Kahua, a Hawaiian band. That band won a recording contract. Judge Morikone's diction, pronunciation and elocution of the Hawaiian language and his deep appreciation for the Hawaiian culture have earned the respect of many in the community.

Judge Morikone treats people right, with dignity, humility and equality. I have seen opposing counsel actually take shots at Judge Morikone early on because of his youth and what they thought was inexperience. Judge Morikone always responded professionally and never once raised his voice or conducted himself in any other way manner but as a complete professional.

Judge enjoys people. You can see it in him every day. He greets you warmly. He listens and he is interested. He also loves our country, our state and our community. He cares a great deal, and you can see and feel it daily. All of this makes him very humble and very practical. He will make sound and fair decisions that make sense both now and into the future, and will take into consideration all things that are important.


Judge Morikone is a quick study. He has an uncanny ability of being able to gather facts, find the issues, research and apply the law, and reach fair, just and equitable decisions that also make practical sense.

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Judiciary Committee
State of Hawai'i
October 26, 2021
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I could go on and on about Judge Morikone. Our community would be very fortunate to have him be a judge in our community. Although he has only been practicing law for 14 years and he has only been on the earth for 41 years, he has wisdom and knowledge way beyond that. He is the type of rising star that we need to make and keep the judiciary strong.

I am requesting the opportunity to give public testimony on his behalf.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyle S. Hosoda".

Lyle S. Hosoda

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/21/2021 6:40:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
William Meheula	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Two years ago, I appeared before Judge Morikone in family court in a complicated dispute involving real estate, marital separate property and choice of law issues, and he conceptually grasped the issues and demonstrated good judgment in his rulings. He also is a skillful settlement judge. Judge Morikone also has a strong and competent but humble and approachable manner. These qualities are ones that the best judges have. He will be a great judge for our community for many years. Bill Meheula.



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

841 Bishop Street, Suite 1620 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 532-1728 | Fax: (808) 532-1729 | ota-hara.com

October 21, 2021

Via www.capitol.hawaii.gov

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

Re: Hearing: Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Via Videoconference

GM2 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KEVIN T. MORIKONE, for a term to expire in 10 years

Dear Senator Rhoads and Senator Keohokalole:

Please consider this letter my statement in support of Kevin T. Morikone's confirmation as a Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, 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.

I have known Judge Morikone for many years both personally and professionally. Our children attended the same preschool together and despite being a busy private-practice attorney, Judge Morikone always found a way to volunteer his time at various events and would regularly wait with his child in the morning crowd before the school opened. Judge Morikone consistently had the same personable demeanor and friendly smile that he carried into his practice.

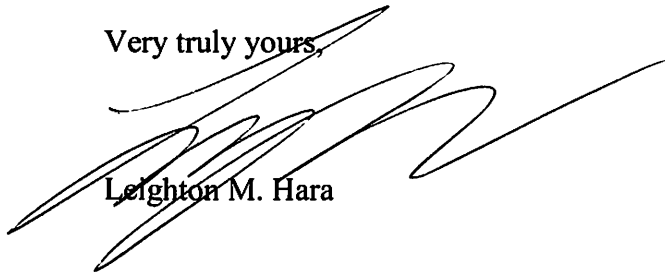
While Judge Morikone was a practicing civil litigator, he and I collaborated on a few employment-related cases. During these collaborations, it was evident that Judge Morikone had firm grasp of the law, was able to apply it to the facts, and approached resolving the matters in a pragmatic way. His success in private practice undoubtedly paved his way to the judiciary, a natural evolution in his career.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
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Judge Morkone's civil litigation experience (where most of the recent judicial appointees came from the criminal bar), personality, and demeanor will serve the public well and are qualities which will make for an excellent Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I submit this letter in support of Kevin T. Morikone. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leighton M. Hara', written over the typed name.

Leighton M. Hara

LMH:ssw

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/21/2021 9:18:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Harimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appointment of Judge Kevin Morikone to the First Circuit Court without reservation. I have known Kevin for the past fifteen years since he was a law student and I was an adjunct professor at the Richardson School of Law. I have also had the pleasure of working on legal matters with Kevin, and I have followed his career as he progressed from a hard working, conscientious law student to a well-respected attorney and Judge. I have no doubt that Kevin will fulfill the immense duties and responsibilities that come with a Circuit Court judgeship with fairness, empathy, and a favorable judicial temperament. Thank you for your consideration of this well-deserved nomination.

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/21/2021 11:41:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joachim Cox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This submission offers my full support of Kevin T. Morikone (Judge Morikone) as the Senate considers his confirmation as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Judicial Circuit. Judge Morikone is an experienced Family Court Judge, outstanding attorney, and a wonderful father and person. In short, Judge Morikone is the type of person who is perfectly suited for the bench and to whom counsel will look forward to practicing before. He has my strongest support for confirmation to the Circuit Court. I met Judge Morikone in 2007 while he was clerking with Judge Hifo (Ret.). Subsequently, we became more closely acquainted through our work together on civil cases, as well as over the five years during which our firms shared an office. Throughout my interactions with Judge Morikone, he impressed me, as well as all of those involved in the cases we worked on together, with his in-depth knowledge of substantive case law, procedural rules, evidence, and courtroom trial advocacy skills. Moreover, Judge Morikone consistently demonstrated a level of civility while interacting with people that I believe perfectly suits the demeanor expected of a well-qualified judge. I have no doubt that Judge Morikone's service as a Circuit Court Judge will continue to instill confidence in our judiciary. It is in his nature to treat people fairly and respectfully, and to address each case with the importance felt by those involved. Thank you for considering this letter in support of the confirmation of Judge Kevin Morikone. Very Respectfully, Joachim P. Cox



RONALD T. OGOMORI
ATTORNEY AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION

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

October 21, 2021

The Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Kevin T. Morikone

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

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 Kevin T. Morikone, who has been selected to fill one of the existing vacancies at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, subject to the Legislature's confirmation.

I have known Kevin for nearly 15 years, and first met Kevin when we both played in the lawyer's softball league. We were on opposite teams and were part of some memorable battles on the field. It is often said that you learn of a person's true character when you are on the opposite team. Kevin always displayed the highest degree of sportsmanship and treated all of the participants (i.e., opposing players, umpires) with the utmost respect.

On a professional level, I worked with and against Kevin on many different civil matters prior to his appointment as a Family Court Judge. Kevin was always hard-working and effective in representing his clients' interests. In addition, Kevin was respectful to the opposing parties and their counsel.

I strongly believe that Kevin has the requisite litigation experience, moral values and temperament to be an extremely effective Circuit Court Judge. He is hard-working, diligent, compassionate and takes pride in his work. Kevin is also a person of the highest integrity. Therefore, it is without reservation that I recommend Kevin T. Morikone to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

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

Very truly yours,

RONALD T. OGOMORI

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/21/2021 6:53:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aphirak Bamrungruan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Aphirak Bamrungruan and I am a licensed attorney in State of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of Judge Kevin T. Morikone's appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Judge Morikone for over 17 years since we were both students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have always known Judge Morikone to be forthright and diligent. His positive attitude and current experience as a family court judge at the Family District Court, First Circuit will be an asset to the judiciary branch and the people of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to support Judge Morikone's nomination.

Chee Markham Kato & Kim

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Kevin S.W. Chee
Gregory K. Markham
Keith K. Kato
Daniel T. Kim
Anthony L. Wong
Tara A. Buckley
Cherise C. Braxton-Brooks
Bryan W.H. Chee
Jose A. Vega

American Savings Bank Tower
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone : (808) 523-0111
Facsimile: (808) 523-0115

October 22, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: GM2 – Confirmation of Judicial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone
to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai`i

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Keohokalole and the Members of the Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the confirmation of Kevin Morikone for the office of Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai`i.

I have known Judge Morikone for approximately eleven years, and have crossed paths with him on numerous occasions in connection with the negotiation and litigation of commercial and construction disputes. I have found Judge Morikone to be a “straight-shooter” whose word is his bond, which unfortunately appears to be an exceedingly rare trait today. He conducts himself with the utmost integrity, and his conduct in the practice of law has been beyond reproach.

Judge Morikone possesses a superior intellect as well, and that has been reflected in the numerous discussions that I have had with him and in the legal memoranda/briefs and correspondence that I have received from him. The depth of thought and analysis, as well as the ability to digest and convey complex factual circumstances and legal positions with clarity have been evident in my dealings with him. He is a problem solver and is not someone who escalated already tense situations. Furthermore, he has been extremely level-headed and cool under fire, and has not taken unfair advantage of adversaries.

Judge Morikone's superior character, demeanor and diligence have been evident during his time as a Per Diem District Court Judge and as a District Family Court Judge. In addition, Judge Morikone has presided over twelve (12) jury trials while on temporary assignment to the Circuit Family Court, so he has the requisite experience as a judge to hit the ground running and serve the public from the get go.

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
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In short, Judge Morikone is an exceptional and well-rounded person who possesses the high level of intellect, experience, character and demeanor to fully and faithfully discharge all of the duties associated with the judicial office of Circuit Judge of the First Circuit. Accordingly, I wholeheartedly support Judge Morikone and urge the members of the Committee to confirm his nomination.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel T. Kim", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Daniel T. Kim

Testimony of Keith K. Hayashi to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

October 22, 2021

GM2: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KEVIN T. MORIKONE

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

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone to the First Circuit Court. I have known Kevin Morikone for over twelve years and in that time have come to know him well and respect him very much. I first met Kevin Morikone when he was a practicing attorney and worked for and against him. I have learned that Mr. Morikone is fair and reasonable with an even temperament that will be ideal for a judge presiding over civil and criminal matters.

I am proud to say that I am friend and colleague of Mr. Morikone. He is one of the most intelligent, diligent, decisive, and compassionate people I know. His intellect is keen, his breadth of knowledge impressive, and his commitment to service and justice deep. He is also a dedicated family man with a strong sense of community. In my opinion, Kevin Morikone will be an outstanding asset to the First Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/23/2021 1:26:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Suen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am writing in support of the nomination of the Honorable Kevin T. Morikone as a judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am a solo practicing attorney. I have personally known Judge Morikone for 17 years and have always found him to be intelligent, diligent, and thoughtful. Having had opportunities to appear before Judge Morikone in Family Court, he has displayed an even keeled temperament while demonstrating a complete grasp of the law. I am confident Judge Morikone will make a great Circuit Court judge and would apply the law fairly to the facts of each case before him.

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/24/2021 10:30:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amanda Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write to express my support for the nomination of Kevin T. Morikone for the position of judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Kevin and I were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law and had several classes together during law school. From my observations, Kevin was smart, hard-working and a nice person. I also interacted with Kevin during the time that he clerked for Judge Hifo at the Circuit Court and when he was in private practice thereafter. Since graduating from law school in 2007, I've been working as an attorney in the litigation department at Cades Schutte LLP and have practiced regularly in Circuit Court. From that experience, I understand the importance of selecting judges that are smart, fair, even-tempered, hard-working, and ethical. Based upon my interactions with Kevin over several years, I believe he satisfies all of these essential qualifications and is capable of serving effectively as a Circuit Court judge. Thank you for considering my testimony.



mitsuyama + rebman
DIVORCE AND FAMILY LAW

MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2500
733 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PH. (808)545-7035
FAX (808) 369-8349

October 24, 2021

Senate Committee On Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair

RE: Circuit Court Of The First Circuit Gubernatorial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone

Dear Chair Rhoads and fellow Committee members:

I submit this letter in support of the confirmation of Family Court Judge Kevin T. Morikone as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Let me first say that I have been a family law practitioner for over twenty (20) years now in all Circuits state-wide. The Family Law Section is comprised of approximately 130 people and I have been the Chair of that section on two different occasions in the last ten (10) years. I say this only to show you what I want to share comes from my experience.

Whenever there is a newly appointed Family Court Judge, *per diem* or full-time, the Family Law practitioners are like birds on a wire 'squawking' about what they know about the "newbie". And the more we don't know, the more anxious and nervous we become. I will speak for myself when I say when Judge Morikone was first appointed as a *per diem* Judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit, I was skeptical because he lacked Family Court experience.

But in a very short time, it was clear he was committed to doing his job well. Early on he was humble and respectful to the practitioners and litigants. He is extremely approachable and personable. He came prepared and was not afraid to show/share that he may not have the same experience as we did. He welcomed our suggestions and took them and came up with new creative solutions to settle and resolve cases.

What sets him apart from many others though is his insight and initiative to come up with solutions to problems that exist in cases and in the Judiciary. During his time in Family Court, I had the opportunity to work with him on two initiatives that would help the Family Court with backlog. First, he was quick to take his civil practice experience and suggest arbitration as an alternative means for family court litigants to resolve their cases quicker. With the passage of the Hawaii Family Law Arbitration statute, Judge Morikone was quick to help create a Judiciary pamphlet to explain what arbitration was and how it could help litigants. He then single-handedly called attorneys who he knew/thought would be good arbitrators. He presented the idea and the program to the Family Law Section.

The second program he developed was the Paternity Volunteer Settlement Master program. I assisted him in his idea to rally family law attorneys to volunteer their time each Friday morning to help pro se litigants settle either some of their issues or the entire case. These are just examples of how he has served the Judiciary and the overall public well. He is a leader and an innovative thinker.

While we would love to keep him in Family Court, his forward-thinking approach best serves the entire Judiciary (and the public) and he should be allowed to shine in Circuit Court.

For all the reasons set forth above, he would be an asset to the Circuit Court bench.

Thank you for your time.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/
Dyan K. Mitsuyama

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 S. Beretania Street
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Circuit Court Nomination of Kevin T. Morikone

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Kevin T. Morikone to fill the vacancy at the First Circuit Court left vacant by the Honorable Todd W. Eddins. I have been a licensed practicing attorney in the State of Hawaii since May of 1983 and am currently associated with the Law Office of Greg Ryan and Associates. I have also served as a per diem judge in the District Court of the First Circuit.

I was a former prosecuting attorney at the outset of my professional career and since transitioning to private practice, concentrated on civil litigation and then in family practice where it has been my area of concentration for the last 25 years.

I write this letter without solicitation for Judge Morikone as I firmly believe that he possesses all the qualities and traits befitting of an outstanding jurist. When he first came to the Family Court, we were impressed with his legal acumen, daily preparedness, humility and judicial temperament. His youth and youthful countenance were belied by his years of civil litigation experience and worldly maturity. It was obvious in his court rulings, after evidentiary hearings and trials before him, that we were not dealing with a novice.

Most non-family law practitioners do not appreciate the scope and complexity of family law. But Judge Morikone picked up on the law, emotional dynamics and social nuances with rapid measure. He was conscientious about reviewing the files. He is obviously an intelligent attorney with years of courtroom experience. As a Judge, he was a good listener, empathetic, unbiased and fair. Practitioners and litigants alike, knew that they would be treated fairly and rationally.

Judge Morikone is a good administrator. He kept the case docket moving while still affording litigants an opportunity to be heard. This is going to be very important at the Circuit Criminal Court level given the thousands of continued jury trial cases awaiting disposition because of Covid-19.

I know that the above qualities will serve him well if he is confirmed to sit as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I ask for your deliberate consideration in confirming him to the Circuit Court to fill the vacancy left by Judge Todd W. Eddins. Thank you for allowing me to speak to his nomination.

Ann S. Isobe

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/24/2021 5:48:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karl Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Karl Higa and I am a teacher at Noelani Elementary School. I have known Kevin for at least 15 years and it is my privilege and honor to testify on behalf of Kevin Morikone. I am writing in strong support of Mr. Kevin Morikone's selection to the position of Circuit Judge to the First Circuit. This is a story of Kevin's abilities to make what seems impossible, become a reality. While still in college, Kevin's love of music inspired him to join a music group. Succeeding in joining a group, Kevin then convinced the members of the group to enter the Makaha Bash competition. The winner of this competition will have a CD produced professionally. In order to do this, Kevin needed to purchase his own guitar, take slack key and voice lessons, learn how to record the group's music using borrowed recording equipment and send in a "Polished CD" of their music. Groups were required to send in a CD of their music. Kevin's group made the cut and was selected as a finalist to compete in the Makaha Bash held at the Aloha Stadium. Winning the Makaha Bash gave the group Kahua many opportunities, such as promoting Kahua's CD in Japan, England and other venues. Kahua continued to play at various venues including a weekly gig at Willow for over 14 years. Although Kevin's love of music is still as strong as ever, he made the difficult decision to leave Kahua once he became a dad. I admired Kevin for this, putting his family first. He still plays music for his family and friends. I can identify with Kevin because I love music. I also would like to mention that Kevin, being the youngest member of the group, was also the group's leader. I am confident in Kevin's strong work ethics and is willing to be a team player to make the best decision to get things done. Kevin has always been a caring friend who treats everyone fairly and with respect.

WAYNE S. SAKAMOTO

ATTORNEY AT LAW
A LAW CORPORATION
810 RICHARDS STREET, SUITE 790
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 528-5567
E-MAIL: wsakamoto@hawaiiantel.net

October 25, 2021

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

Re: **GM2 Confirmation of Kevin T. Morikone, Judicial Nominee for
Judge of the First Circuit Court**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

It is my honor and privilege to present this written testimony in support of Kevin T. Morikone's nomination for Judge of the First Circuit Court.

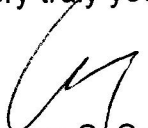
I first met Mr. Morikone many years ago when he was a law clerk for the Honorable Elizabeth Eden Hifo at First Circuit Court. I found Mr. Morikone, as a law clerk, to be very respectful and helpful to the attorneys involved in matters pending before Judge Hifo. Since then, I have followed his career and have gotten to know Mr. Morikone on a personal level.

Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Morikone on several cases. I have always found that Mr. Morikone to have been honest and straightforward. He exercises extreme competence and high legal ability in terms of coming up with creative solutions to resolve the various legal issues.

Based on my experience with Mr. Morikone, I can strongly recommend that he be confirmed for a judgeship in the First Circuit Court. After having practiced law in all Courts in the State of Hawaii for the past 37 years, I believe that Mr. Morikone is exactly the type of judge that we need to have serving on the bench. He has the smarts, temperament and demeanor necessary to be an excellent judge. I respectfully request that his nomination be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Mr. Morikone's nomination. If you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Wayne S. Sakamoto

JAMES T. LEAVITT, JR.
JOHN D. YAMANE
WOODRUFF K. SOLDNER
MICHAEL R. CRUISE

LEAVITT, YAMANE & SOLDNER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A LAW CORPORATION

NICOLE KALAKAU
RAFAEL K. RENTERIA
E. KAUI YAMANE

Of Counsel:
R. AARON CREPS
STUART M. KODISH

PACIFIC GUARDIAN CENTER – MAUKA TOWER
737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1740
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE: (808) 521-7474
FACSIMILE: (808) 521-7749

October 25, 2021

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony IN SUPPORT of
Nomination of Kevin T. Morikone as First Circuit Court Judge
GM2; October 27, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Fellow Committee Members:

On behalf of the Leavitt, Yamane & Soldner firm, I write in strong support of the nomination of Kevin Morikone to become a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I've known Kevin since the start of his legal career. We worked closely on the litigation arising from the tragic breach of the Ka Loko dam on Kauai. In that complex case, he was hardworking, pragmatic, and knew the law. Even as a young attorney, Kevin expressed an interest in serving his community as a judge. He has now been on the District Court bench for several years, gaining valuable experience in the various aspects of running a courtroom.

Kevin has the right temperament and skill set to be a Circuit Court Judge. I highly recommend his confirmation without hesitation.

Thank you in advance for considering this letter of support.

Aloha,

Aaron Creps

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 9:14:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lane Thomas Ishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Kevin Morikone as Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Morikone has all the attributes of a fine jurist. He is smart, fair, calm, and level-headed. He will listen to all sides before ruling on matters. He is also young and will be able to serve the judiciary for a long time. Finally, he is a good husband and father. He will be a fine representative of the judiciary. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Respectfully submitted, Lane T. Ishida, Esq.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: October 25, 2021

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **GM2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KEVIN T. MORIKONE, for a term to expire in 10 years.**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I write in **strong support of** GM2, which nominates Kevin T. Morikone to serve as Judge of the State of Hawaii First Circuit Court. I have known Kevin for over 15 years since we were law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have known Kevin to be fair, honest, and measured in his approach to problem solving and the law. Based on his current professional experience, knowledge of the law, and dedication to the court and the people of Hawaii, I strongly support Kevin's nomination to the Circuit Court and urge the committee to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Yajima

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Senate, State of Hawai‘i

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Senate, State of Hawai‘i

Re: GM2: Testimony Regarding Judicial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone

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

I write in strong support of Judge Morikone’s confirmation as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Judge Morikone when he was a law clerk for now retired Judge Hifo. I had cases before Judge Hifo when I was at the Goodsill Anderson law firm, and I know that his work in chambers for Judge Hifo was first-rate.

I also had the unique opportunity between 2011 and 2016 to come to know Judge Morikone as a partner in the Hosoda & Morikone law firm. Before my law firm moved to a new office space in the Queen’s Court building, our firm, Cox Fricke LLP, shared office space with the Hosoda & Morikone law firm at Restaurant Row. During that time, we worked on cases together where our firms were on the same side, and we worked on cases where we were on opposite sides. Judge Morikone was the consummate professional—always leaving the fight in the courtroom. Being in the same office setting also gave me a unique opportunity to watch him interact with others outside the courtroom; often times when he did not know I was watching. Judge Morikone treated everyone with respect regardless of their station in life.

While our law firm does not practice in the family law area, the Hawaii legal community is small, and Judge Morikone has an outstanding reputation as both a per diem Family Court Judge and a District Family Court judge.

While Judge Morikone was an excellent litigator and advocate in private practice, he truly has "doing justice" in his heart. Having been a courtroom litigator for 31 years, and a military judge for 7 of those years, I believe I have a good sense of what qualities make for an excellent judge, and Judge Morikone has demonstrated to me that he has all the necessary qualities—in spades! When I first ascended to the bench in the U.S. Marine Corps, a senior military judge provided me with a copy of Federal District Court Judge Edward Devitt's "Ten Commandments for the New Judge." Included among those commandments are the following:

- 1-Be Kind
- 2-Be Patient
- 3-Be Dignified
- 4-Don't Take Yourself Too Seriously
- 5-A Lazy Judge is a Poor Judge
- 6-Don't Fear Reversal
- 7-There are No Unimportant Cases
- 8-Be Prompt
- 9-Use Common Sense
- 10-Pray for Divine Guidance

While I cannot attest to whether Judge Morikone will pray for Divine Guidance if confirmed for the Circuit Court bench, I can tell you that Judge Morikone has demonstrated to me on multiple occasions that he has all of the above listed qualities. Key among them in my experience are common sense and what I'll refer to as the right judicial demeanor/temperament, which encompasses many of the other above-listed qualities.

Judge Morikone is a Kalani High School graduate, a UH graduate, and Richardson law school alumnus. While there has been a bit of a kerfuffle in Civil Beat recently about the number of male judges and Richardson law school graduates on the bench, if the criterion is to pick the best, Judge Morikone measures up. A litigant who leaves Judge Morikone's courtroom knows that they received a fair hearing and had their day in court. This is extremely important to our system because justice must not only be done, but it must also be seen to be done.

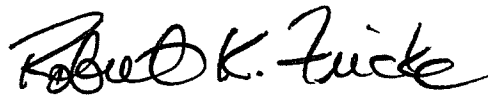
Judge Morikone and his wife, Jess, have a son, Ty, and daughter, Mia. In addition to being an excellent attorney and courtroom litigator, he is also a good husband, father, and wonderful family man. Judge Morikone also plays the guitar and was a member of a local band that regularly played at venues like The Willows. His membership in the group had to give way as he balanced the demands of both job and family life. I mention all of these things because family and interests outside of the law

also add a depth of character and experience that make for a better judge. It is also good to know that a Judge has a stable personal life that will not adversely impact their performance on the bench.

Perhaps the highest compliment that I can pay Judge Morikone is that he is the kind of Judge I want to practice before. As advocates for our clients, we attorneys always want to prevail, but in the end, you want to be sure that your client got their day in court. Judge Morikone will be that kind of Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you in advance for considering Judge Morikone's confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. His selection will bode very well for our community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert K. Fricke'.

Robert K. Fricke

Robert S. Miyashita
745 Fort Street #801
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 25, 2021

RE: Kevin T. Morikone Nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support Kevin T. Morikone's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I believe it is important to provide my written testimony because Kevin will make a necessary addition to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

I had the privilege of knowing Kevin for over 20 years, well before either he or I became members of the Hawai'i Bar. Throughout the years, he has consistently demonstrated his ability to excel in his endeavors, has remarkable analytical skills, and most admirably, never strayed from his core values based upon compassion, fairness, and a selfless commitment to others.

Through Kevin's experience as a musician, Kevin grasped the understanding of the importance of community. He dedicated his time and music to people of all types of demographics, and through his creative efforts, even authored a song titled "I Want You Back" that is licensed for public broadcast. Additionally, in collaboration with his group and professional contacts, Kevin regularly displayed a natural aptitude to manage conflict and find resolution between others by considering the facts before reaching a conclusion or recommendation, unphased by any bias or favoritism; this played a significant role in his music group's lasting survival. However, most telling of Kevin's character is his primary commitment as a family man who takes great pride in his loving wife and two beautiful young children. Kevin's core values define him; and, it is these values that clearly dictate his choices and actions in every other aspect of his life, including his legal profession.

From a legal standpoint as to why Kevin is well qualified for this position, Kevin transitioned his focus to serve a greater purpose and persevered as an attorney. While in private practice, Kevin exposed himself to a wide variety of matters in civil circuit court and federal district court that varied from cases involving personal injury, construction defect, products liability, commercial litigation, employment, partition, foreclosure, subrogation, etc. He handled these matters with professionalism and the type of objectiveness that is typically expected of a judge.

Once Kevin took the initiative to become a Per Diem District Family Judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit in 2015, he was truly a fish in water. His passion to contribute to the community to seek fair resolution was the driving force that allowed him to become a proficient judge. Recognized for his sacrifice, dedication, and effectiveness, at the age of thirty seven, Kevin was appointed as a District Family Judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit in 2018.

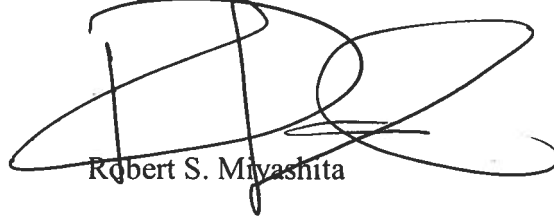
During his service, Kevin was assigned as the Lead Judge of the Special Division, and he was temporarily assigned as a Circuit Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit where he presided over Circuit Court family criminal cases and 11 misdemeanor jury trials. He has had several temporary assignments and was recently assigned in July 2021 where he conducted his twelfth jury trial.

Kevin's personal experience and broad exposure to the various legal practices and courts, including valuable trial experience, does not only qualify him for a Circuit Court judge, but his consistent and expeditious accomplishments serve as undeniable proof of his versatility and capacity to excel as a Circuit Court judge.

I state with confidence and with pride, that Kevin is well qualified for this judgeship position, and his addition as a Circuit Court judge will be a great benefit to the people of Hawai'i. As such, I respectfully urge this Committee to vote in favor of his nomination.

Thank you for your sincere consideration and time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miyashita', is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with large loops and a vertical line through the middle.

Robert S. Miyashita

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 12:02:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Mukai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators, I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Kevin T. Morikone for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I first met Mr. Morikone when we were both law school students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law approximately 16 years ago. While we were in different graduating classes, we shared a few classes together as well as played on the law school softball team. During that time, I found Mr. Morikone to be meticulous in his preparation, able to grasp the most difficult issues, approachable, humble and having an even-mannered temperament. In light of those experiences, it has not been surprising to me that Mr. Morikone currently serves as a judge in the State of Hawaii and I wholeheartedly believe that he will continue to be a great asset to the judiciary and community of the State of Hawaii and will apply the law objectively and fairly. Please confirm his nomination. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Ryan H. Mukai

MEDIATED SOLUTIONS OF HAWAII LLC

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1206

Honolulu, Hawaii

E-mail: wjnaglelaw@gmail.com Tel: (808) 383-4111

October 24, 2021

Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Nomination Of Judge Kevin T. Morikone To The
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State Of Hawaii
Hearing Date: October 27, 2021**

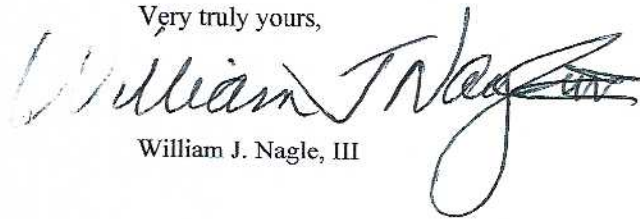
Members of the Committee:

This letter strongly supports the nomination of Judge Kevin T. Morikone, presently on the Hawaii Family Court of the First Circuit, State Of Hawaii, to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State Of Hawaii.

I have known Judge Morikone for 10 years, first as a per diem and then as a full-time Family Court judge, and consider him to be a person of the highest moral and professional integrity. Judge Morikone is unfailing patient and courteous but firm with litigants and counsel, affording all parties the opportunity to state their respective cases. He conscientiously prepares for hearings and does his best to resolve disputes between litigants fairly, timely, and according to the law.

I have every confidence that Judge Morikone will be an outstanding Circuit Court judge, and unreservedly recommend that he be confirmed as such. Please contact me if your staff has any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Nagle, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

William J. Nagle, III

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 2:47:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
A. Debbie Jew	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing in support of the nomination of the Honorable Kevin T. Morikone for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have appeared before Judge Morikone for divorce and paternity cases in the Family Court of the First Circuit. Family Court is an extremely busy and fast-paced court where a Judge has to know both complex legal issues as well as working with very emotionally challenged litigants. In my experience with both litigation in Circuit Court and Family Court, an experienced Family Court Judge who has devoted time to learning the issues in divorce, paternity, temporary restraining order and juvenile cases is well prepared to meet the challenges of any case in the Circuit Court, both civil and criminal. Judge Morikone has always impressed me with his judicial temperament and preparation for evidentiary hearings as well as settlement conferences. Please contact me if you need additional information or have any questions. Submitted respectfully, A. Debbie Jew

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 5:12:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Major	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom it May Concern My name is David Major and I am a litigation partner with Bays Lung Rose & Voss here in Honolulu. I am providing this statement in support of confirmation of Kevin Morikone for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. It is my opinion that District Judge Morikone is the clear choice for one of the First Circuit positions. I initially met Judge Morikone many years ago during the course of a litigation matter where we were on opposite sides. Before he became District Judge Morikone, Kevin was an excellent commercial litigator who had, and still has, all of the skills that would support affirming him now to serve in the First Circuit. Those skills include both the tangible know-how as well as the personality and demeanor that is required of an officer of the court. In addition to that, he has added to those skills by serving as a district judge developing the type of day today judicial chops that you can only get from experience. The tangible skills should not be overlooked in this selection. Kevin knows what litigation should like, and for that matter, what it should not look like. He thoroughly understands the role of the circuit courts from a practice perspective and he has developed strong skills from the bench in his current role as a district judge. Those are tools that should give you confidence in affirming him as Judge for the First Circuit as well as demonstrate his ability to quickly hit the ground running, which is something that the First Circuit needs. In addition to his tangible know-how, Kevin exhibits the exact personal traits of someone who is needed in the First Circuit Judiciary. His honesty and integrity are unmatched in the legal profession. There is simply no questioning it, period. Even when he was a practicing attorney, Kevin adhered to a sense of fairness and integrity that many in my profession lack. He has always been diligent in the management of his cases and has the utmost respect for the process. There is no doubt in my mind that the parties before Judge Morikone will get a fair shake if he is affirmed for the First Circuit bench. The last point that I would like to note is that Kevin is roughly my generation (40ish) and I believe it is vital to affirm qualified candidates that will serve the future of the Judiciary. Kevin believes in the judicial process and wants to contribute to his community through the same. I see that feeling and approach lasting for a long time, which means the state, its people, and its attorneys can have a judge in the First Circuit for some time who understands his position and role for the benefit of the greater good. In sum, Kevin should absolutely be affirmed to the First Circuit bench. As a young partner in the legal community who intends to practice in this state for some time, I would like nothing more than to see all of the open positions in the courts filled by people with Kevin's integrity, temperament, and overall concern. Regards, Dave David R. Major Bays Lung Rose & Voss Attorneys at Law Topa Financial Center 700

Bishop Street, Suite 900 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Telephone: (808) 523-9000 Fax:
(808) 533-4184 E-mail: dmajor@legalthawaii.com



Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawaii 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legalhawaii.com
www.legalhawaii.com

Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarias
Sarah M. Love
Matthew C. Shannon
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Grant F. Allison
William J. Brennan
Lianne T. Chung
John D. Ferry III
Sharon E. Har
David A. Imanaka
Jai W. Keep-Barnes
David A. Morris
Brian M. Mullin
Sharon Paris
Steven T. Wall

Of Counsel:
A. Bernard Bays
Jamie M. Fukumoto

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

October 25, 2021

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Kevin T. Morikone — Nomination for Appointment as Circuit Court
Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dear Chair Rhoades and Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Sarah Love and I am a partner with the law firm of Bays Lung Rose & Voss. I write in strong support of Kevin Morikone's nomination to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I met Mr. Morikone a more than a decade ago when he was still practicing in civil litigation. Mr. Morikone and I had several cases together where we represented different parties, sometimes on the same side, other times on opposite sides of a litigation. In my experience, Mr. Morikone exemplifies the character and qualifications necessary to be appointed to the Circuit Court bench. Mr. Morikone always conducted himself in a civilized manner with the utmost professional decorum. I knew Mr. Morikone to be knowledgeable in the law and his clients' positions. He stayed on top of court deadlines and helped to move cases forward. He was consistently responsive, honest and someone that I could trust.

Mr. Morikone has shown his commitment and desire to be a part of the Hawaii Judiciary having now served as both a per diem judge with the State of Hawaii District Courts, and currently as a judge for Family Court for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Mr. Morikone is the type of attorney that I feel we need to have on the Circuit Court bench. He has prior commercial litigation experience, is well respected amongst his peers, is dedicated to the job at hand, and is committed to giving back to his community through public service.

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
Page 2

I strong support Mr. Morikone's nomination and I hope you provide him the to continue to serve Hawaii's community as a Circuit Court Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & VOSS

By: 

Sarah M. Love
Attorney at Law, a Law Corporation
Its General Partner

October 25, 2021

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

From: Asami Williams

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Kevin Morikone scheduled for October 27, 2021

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

I am writing in **strong support** of Kevin Morikone's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. As a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, I have frequently appeared before Judge Morikone in Family Court over the past few years. This past year, I have also had the opportunity to work closely with Judge Morikone in Family Drug Court. Judge Morikone is intelligent, hard-working, and extremely humble. He is compassionate and patient yet efficient, and well-liked by everyone that walks into his courtroom.

I wholeheartedly believe that Judge Morikone would make an excellent Circuit Court Judge. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Asami Williams

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 8:41:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Akao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee Members. I submit my support for Kevin Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am an attorney who has practiced in front of this nominee as he has sat as a Judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit. I know him to be knowledgeable and skilled with a fine level of legal skill. I support his nomination to continue to serve the State of Hawaii in his role as a circuit court Judge. Mahalo.

Date: October 25, 2021

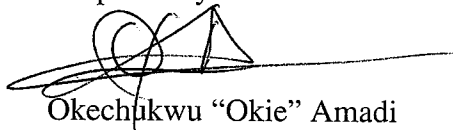
To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM2, Testimony in Support of the Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Kevin T. Morikone

Hearing: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

I write this testimony in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. As a Deputy Public Defender, I have not appeared before the Honorable Kevin T. Morikone; however, my colleagues in the Misdemeanor Division within our office spoke highly of him when he sat as a judge presiding over the Family Circuit Court Criminal Calendar. My colleagues appreciated his legal acumen and intellect. They spoke of how effective and efficient he was in adjudicating cases. They also spoke of his judicial demeanor and how he was respectful to all who entered his courtroom. I fully support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kevin T. Morikone. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony in support of his nomination.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Okie Amadi', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

October 25, 2021

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KEVIN T. MORIKONE

HEARING: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have been a licensed attorney in Hawaii since 2007. I have known Kevin for over 20 years beginning with co-teaching a class with him at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, continuing on to law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law and now coming full circle appearing before him in Family Court.


In my years of knowing Kevin, both professionally and personally, he has always been a dedicated and an active participant and leader in all of his endeavors whether it be our law school study group, his son's baseball team, at his former law firm and, most recently, as a judge in Family Court.

In the many times that I have appeared before Kevin I have found him to be thoroughly prepared, level-headed and knowledgeable about the law and its practical application. In addition to this, Kevin was also passionate about helping each and every family coming through his courtroom. Kevin strived to assist parties to fashion a workable and sustainable resolution for their family. He was effective in doing so because he spent the time to listen, put in the energy to facilitate settlement discussions and offered creative solutions.

I recall a speaker once referred to Kevin as a consummate professional. Kevin has proved to be so his former practice and as a Family Court judge. Kevin has the utmost ethical standards and as Judge upholds the laws of this State and the Court rules and civility in the courtroom.

In my experience a good judge is one that you may not always agree with their decision but it is a well-reasoned decision. This is Kevin. I believe that Kevin has the knowledge, skills and experience to make him an excellent addition to the Circuit Court bench. I respectfully request that you consider this letter in support of his confirmation.

Respectfully yours,



MARI L. KISHIMOTO DOI

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/25/2021 10:26:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Raina Gushiken	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the consideration and confirmation of Kevin T. Morikone, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 1:56:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lahela H F Hite Esq.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Judge Morikone's appointment and confirmation. In my interactions with Judge Morikone, both as opposing counsel and while he was on the bench, he has always been kind, knowledgeable, fair, and would be a benefit to the Judiciary and general public if confirmed.

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

October 26, 2021

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

Re: GM 2, TESTIMONY *IN SUPPORT* OF
NOMINATION OF HON. KEVIN T. MORIKONE
Hearing: October 27, 9:00 a.m., Via Videoconference

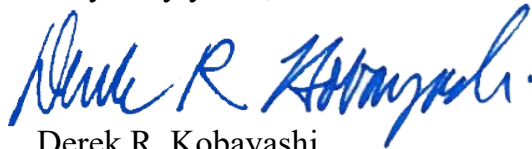
The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to express my *strong support* for the nomination of The Honorable Kevin T. Morikone to the position of Judge, First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

I have known Judge Morikone since he was in private practice in civil litigation and have known him to be a very skilled and knowledgeable attorney and to be a respected jurist. He well prepared and is hard-working. I have always known him to be considerate of other's views, and a person who treats others with professional respect.

Judge Morikone will certainly fulfill all of the responsibilities and duties of the position to which he has been nominated. 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

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 5:50:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darcia Forester	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to submit my support for the confirmation of Kevin Morikone for Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit.



TAMASHIRO SOGI & BONNER
A LAW CORPORATION

705 S. King Street
Suite 105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
T: 808.492.1907
F: 808.356.1581
E: adb@tsbhawaii.com
www.tsbhawaii.com

October 26, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: GM 2- Judicial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone
Hearing: October 27, 2021 at 09:00 a.m.

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

I write to whole-heartedly support confirmation of Kevin T. Morikone as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I met Judge Morikone in 2006, when our paths crossed as we were both law students at William S. Richardson School of Law. After graduating, I worked opposite Judge Morikone, then a partner at the Hosoda & Morikone law firm, on several litigation matters. In April 2012, I accepted a position as an associate at the Hosoda & Morikone firm, and there came to truly appreciate Judge Morikone's intelligence, diligence, and integrity.

Throughout my time with the firm, I witnessed many instances where Judge Morikone's legal acumen was instrumental in achieving favorable resolutions. Judge Morikone's talents include the ability to conduct perceptive analysis of facts, and thorough research, and to provide succinct explication of the practical implications of a course of conduct. Key to his success, was Judge Morikone's ability to examine the facts and applicable law and identify potential resolutions that had some appeal for all parties involved. This approach served him well as a litigator and has proven effective over his last three years as a judge in the State's District Court.

It is no surprise that after three years with the District Court, Judge Morikone is ready to continue his service to the people of the State as a Circuit Court judge. The Circuit Court needs effective public servants like Judge Morikone – a judge who has a real love for the law, and who is truly committed to putting in the time, on every case, to discern what he needs to in order to get to the heart of matters and make the best decision. Good judges are needed

throughout the Judiciary, but the present need is greatest in the Circuit Court. Judge Morikone is eminently qualified to be a Circuit Court judge, where he will surely continue to be a true asset to the Judiciary and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts and for your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Addison D. Bonner

Addison D. Bonner

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 8:36:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keith Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been a licensed attorney in the State of Hawaii since 1991 and have known Mr. Morikone for over 10 years. Over this time, I have found him to be intelligent, thoughtful, and open-minded. He also possesses a calm demeanor, which will suit him well in this position. I strongly support his nomination.

Taryn Tomasa
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 586-2080
taryn.r.tomasa@Hawaii.gov

October 26, 2021

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: GM2 Circuit Court Judge Nominee KEVIN T. MORIKONE
Hearing: October 27, 2021, 9:00 AM

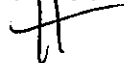
Dear Chair and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of the nomination of KEVIN T. MORIKONE to the circuit court bench.

As a deputy public defender, I have appeared in front of and worked with Judge Morikone during his tenure as a Family Court Judge in the First Judicial Circuit. In all of our interactions, Judge Morikone has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the law. He has consistently ruled with commonsense and compassion. Moreover, his judicial demeanor is exemplary and exceptional. Judge Morikone's ability, character, and dedication will be an invaluable asset to the judiciary and our legal community.

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



LUKELA | KOBAYASHI

LATE

KATHERINE M.M. LUKELA
ERIN M. KOBAYASHI

DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER, SUITE 915
841 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

E-MAIL:
Katie@lklawhawaii.com
Erin@lklawhawaii.com

WEBSITE:
www.lklawhawaii.com

PHONE:
(808) 784-3777

October 26, 2021

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

Re: Kevin T. Morikone
GM 2

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Keohokalole and the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this letter in support of Kevin T. Morikone. I strongly urge this committee to confirm Mr. Morikone's appointment to serve as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I believe Mr. Morikone will be an asset to the Judiciary and community at large.

As a family law practitioner, I have had the privilege and opportunity of appearing before Mr. Morikone during his time and tenure as a Family Court Judge. Through all of my appearances before him, Mr. Morikone was respectful, professional and imminently prepared. He was well versed on the law and facts of the cases that appeared before him. This is no small feat given the large volume of cases that are assigned to the Judges in Family Court.

More importantly, Mr. Morikone brought his humanity and heart to the bench which was abundantly evident to the parties that appeared before him. Often, parties appearing in Family Court are going through very difficult times and appearing in Court is a nerve-wracking experience. Mr. Morikone took the time to speak to the parties, encourage settlement and discuss the specific facts of their respective cases with them. This time, effort and energy that Mr. Morikone devoted makes all the difference to these parties, which also often resulted in settlements and peaceful resolutions.

While the confirmation of Mr. Morikone to serve as a Circuit Court Judge will mean a loss for Family Court, it is a significant gain for Circuit Court, the Judiciary and community at large.

Mr. Morikone is smart, creative in his solutions to complicated cases and exceedingly qualified. I believe he possesses the drive necessary to become an exemplary Circuit Court Judge. I strongly urge this Committee to confirm his appointment.

LUKELA & KOBAYASHI, LLP

October 26, 2021
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Page No. 2

If you should need any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,



KATHERINE M.M. LUKELA

KML:se

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: October 26, 2021 Hrg: October 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Re: GM 2; Strong Support for the Nomination of Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the
First Circuit

I write to share my strong support of the nomination of Family Court Judge Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known now Judge Morikone—then Kevin—since 2007 when we were students at the William S. Richardson School of Law (Richardson). I have watched him play Hawaiian music at the Willows and also watched him appear in court handling a quasi-criminal matter for a civil client. I have also now interfaced with him as a Family Court judge who works with and teaches our Richardson students. In all of these facets, Kevin has a humble and hungry approach: his sense of humility drives him to be hungry to invest and do the work that is required to do things properly.

This work ethic and approach makes him well-suited for the Circuit Court bench. He will face different clients and different legal matters—and he will work to address their issues fairly. His time in Family Court, working with diverse communities on personal matters where the stakes are high and often irreversible (terminating parental rights, granting adoptions, dividing assets in a divorce) position him to take on the high stakes at Circuit Court, where criminal cases may result in life-long jail sentences and civil cases may result in millions of dollars in awards and/or impact a company or our State in permanent ways.

Kevin's sense of fairness, commitment to our State, and hard work will make him a great Circuit Court Judge.

(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)

LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 10:14:31 AM
Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Craig Iha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Kevin Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

LATE

A Haunani Ho, RPR, CSR
Official Court Reporter
State of Hawai'i
First Circuit Court
777 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

October 26, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 204
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Circuit Court Judge Nominee Kevin Morikone

Aloha Sirs,

I am writing in support of Circuit Court Judge Nominee Kevin Morikone. I am and have been an official court reporter for the State of Hawai'i in the First Circuit for over 25 years and have worked closely with many judges, attorneys, and court staff and employees. All have spoken very highly and favorably of Judge Kevin Morikone.

I have known Judge Kevin Morikone for over 15 years now, first as a law clerk to The Honorable Eden Elizabeth Hifo, then as an attorney with the Law Office of Lyle Hosoda, as a per diem judge and then District Court Judge, and as an acquaintance and friend. I have always found Kevin to be professional, courteous, humble, and respectful. He is a hard worker and is someone who is reliable, honest, and trustworthy. He has proven himself to be a judge who is knowledgeable of the law and can fairly weigh the interest of parties for the best outcome for all who are involved. In addition, I have known Kevin and his wife, herself a former law clerk at Circuit Court, to be persons from loving and supportive families that have greatly influenced their lives. Kevin possesses the necessary and desired character to be the kind of jurist of which the Hawai'i Judiciary can be proud. I whole heartedly encourage confirmation of Judge Kevin Morikone to the Circuit Court Bench.

Mahalo,

Haunani Ho

DOI / LUKE

Attorneys At Law, A Limited Liability Law Company

1600 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-3801
Website: islandlawyers.com

LATE

GAVIN K. DOI
KENDAL A. LUKE
GRACE U. LEE

Phone: (808) 593-2199
Facsimile: (808) 593-2980
E-mail: gkdoi@islandlawyers.com

October 25, 2021

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

RE: Testimony in support of the confirmation of Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gávin Doi, and I am an attorney in private practice, focusing in the area of family law in Honolulu for over 25 years. I respectfully wish to submit my support in favor of Judge Kevin T. Morikone's nomination to the Circuit Court.

In Judge Morikone's six years as a Family Court Judge (3 years as a *per diem* and 3 years as a full-time jurist), he has shown an exceptional ability to resolve cases via settlement, and easing the Court's trial calendar. Particularly notable is that he is able to do so by *finessing* matters, as opposed to strong-arming parties and counsel. Judge Morikone has quickly built a "tool belt" of settlement approaches, such as helping parties envision outcomes (good, bad, and in-between) as well as creatively generating options. I have been fortunate to witness him settle what I believed to be "unsettleable" cases that were otherwise hell-bent for trial.

I write this letter with some regret, only because the Family Court will lose one of its best judges. But the Family Court's loss will be the Circuit Court's gain, and I have no doubt that Judge Morikone will be an outstanding contributor there as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Judge Morikone's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Gavin K. Doi
DOI/LUKE, AAL, LLLC

LATE

CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

ANN H. ARATANI
JOHN BURKE
ROBERT A. CHONG
PATRICIA L. COOKSON
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

Ann.aratani@hawadvocate.com

GARY S. MIYAMOTO
RICHARD F. NAKAMURA
JOHN S. NISHIMOTO
ZALE T. OKAZAKI
RONALD M. SHIGEKANE
JEFFREY H. K. SIA
PHILIP S. UESATO
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
J. THOMAS WEBER
MATTHEW K. WONG

October 25, 2021

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

RE: Honorable Kevin T. Morikone
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i
JDC Hearing: October 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Kaohokaloe and Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Kevin T. Morikone, whom I have known for the past fourteen years, to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai'i. Kevin was raised by a hard-working family which valued education, and he went into law with the passion to become a Judge and serve the community. He is a graduate of Kalani High School, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and the William S. Richardson School of Law.

While attending college, Kevin worked at the civil law firm now known as Hosoda & Bonner, LLC. Upon obtaining his law degree in 2007, Kevin served as a law clerk for the First Circuit Court Judge Eden Elizabeth Hifo who handled civil trials. Kevin then joined the Hosoda law firm and worked his way up to become a name partner.

I have practiced for 41-one years in Hawai'i, including over 33 years at my present civil litigation firm. When Kevin was an attorney at the Hosoda law firm, I was impressed by Kevin's intelligence, deposition skills, and ability to thoroughly analyze liability and damages issues. In civil cases where Kevin represented parties adverse to my clients, he was an effective advocate while remaining professional, courteous and reasonable. Kevin's litigation skills noticeably exceeded those of other attorneys who were comparable in age.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
October 25, 2021
Page 2

Over the past six years, Kevin has gained practical experience as a sitting Judge. Kevin became a *per diem* District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit in October of 2015. He then was appointed as a full-time Family Court Judge in the First Circuit in April of 2018.

Kevin's jury trial experience will be invaluable as a Circuit Court Judge. While in private practice, he assisted Mr. Hosoda in 2 -3 civil jury trials. As a Family Court Judge, Kevin presided over multiple jury trials. Kevin understands the issues facing attorneys prosecuting or defending a jury trial, and also has the perspective of a judge ruling on the law and enforcing the rules of evidence.

Kevin has a respectful demeanor appropriate for a Circuit Court Judge. In addition to being intelligent, he is honest, humble, and compassionate. Kevin has integrity and unquestionable ethics. He will well represent the Judiciary, and be respected by the attorneys and public who appear before him.

For many years, Kevin served the community as a *pro bono* attorney for the Oahu Interscholastic Association. Kevin's nonlegal talents include playing the slack key guitar player and singing Hawaiian music. He was a member of the trio Kahua, which put out the album *Mali`o e* in 2002. Many years ago, I had the pleasure of joining the Morikone family and his now wife at The Willows to watch Kevin perform with Kahua. Kevin is approachable and sincere, and represents the best of our community.

I respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Judiciary recommend the confirmation by the full Senate the appoint of Kevin T. Morikone to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai`i. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ann H. Aratani

LATE

October 26, 2021

Dear Committee:

My name is Jacqueline Dyer. I am a deputy public defender on the island of Oahu, and I have been working in the various district courthouses throughout the island for four years. I am writing in support of the appointment of Kevin Morikone to the Circuit Court bench.

I have had the privilege of appearing in front of Judge Morikone multiple times, both in the Family Criminal Court of the Honolulu District Courthouse and the Juvenile Division of the Kapolei Family Courthouse. Judge Morikone has always been fair-minded in his rulings. He has also been effective at managing his caseload, which is particularly demanding in the Family Criminal Court system.

I believe Judge Morikone would make an excellent Circuit Court judge. I hope that you consider appointing him for the position. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline R. Dyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline R. Dyer

LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 2:22:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Timothy Luria	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting written testimony in support of the nomination of Family Court Judge Kevin T. Morikone to serve as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have practiced law in Honolulu since 1982, concentrating in Family Law, and I served as Chair of the Family Law Section of the Hawai'i State Bar Association in 2001. Consequently, I have appeared before many different judges, and for the reasons set forth below, I regard Judge Morikone as one of the best. During the years that Judge Morikone has served as a Family Court judge, I have appeared before him many times in hearings on motions, in settlement conferences, and in trials, including a 2-day trial concerning the enforceability of a Pre-Marital Agreement and the interpretation of some of its provisions, with multiple witnesses and numerous exhibits. Every time that I appeared before Judge Morikone, it was obvious that he had prepared thoroughly by reading and studying the relevant pleadings and the applicable case law, statutes, and rules. Whenever he had to make an evidentiary ruling, he explained it quickly and clearly. His demeanor was consistently that of a gentleman calm, analytical, and polite to attorneys, parties, and witnesses. In settlement conferences, he not only contributed helpful and pragmatic ideas but also created a calming and compassionate atmosphere that influenced the parties and counsel to focus on solutions to their disputes rather than on the disputes themselves. Moreover, he often framed his contributions in the context of applicable case law so as to influence the parties and counsel to be realistic about the results that they were seeking. As an example of why I have confidence in Judge Morikone, I will refer to the 2-day trial that I mentioned above, which was part of a complex and contentious divorce that could not be resolved without a determination regarding the enforceability of the parties' Pre-Marital Agreement and the interpretation of some of its provisions. Judge Morikone issued a decision whereby my client prevailed on some issues and the opposing party prevailed on others. I have no doubt that Judge Morikone followed the law, and I think that opposing counsel was of the same opinion, because the entire case settled not long thereafter. Based on my experiences with Judge Morikone, I have complete confidence in his diligence, work ethic, and knowledge of the law resulting therefrom, as well as his ability to understand and respect the emotional and psychological stress that litigants experience. Finally, it is my understanding that Judge Morikone's reputation in the community for honesty, trustworthiness, character, and integrity is impeccable. My personal opinion of him is the same. To sum up, I am convinced without any reservation or hesitancy that the people of Hawai'i will be superbly served by Judge Morikone as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and I truly hope that he will be confirmed.

LATE

TESTIMONY OF BOB TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
KEVIN MORIKONE AS A JUDGE TO THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT

October 26, 2021

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii. I am testifying in strong support of Judge Kevin Morikone to be a judge on the First Circuit Court. I am a member of the Judicial Education Committee and have had the pleasure of working with Kevin for the past several years as he is also a member of the committee. The committee is responsible to suggest and plan educational conferences and training for the Judiciary and all of the judges. Kevin has been an active member of the committee, has participated in trainings and always offers meaningful suggestions. I have come to know Kevin as a person who is committed to the Judiciary and the responsibilities as a judge.

Some of the basic criteria considered by the Judicial Selection Commission as well as by the Hawaii State Bar Association when attorneys are requested to submit comments on a nomination for a position as a judge to the Hawaii State Judiciary are the following: integrity, diligence and decisiveness, legal knowledge and ability, judicial temperament, compassion and fairness, intelligence and wisdom, and public service. My opinion is that Kevin Morikone easily scores well in all of these categories. I also feel that he has proven himself as a competent judge on the Family Court.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination for the Circuit Court and urge his confirmation by this committee and by the Hawaii State Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 4:04:41 PM
Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Anthony Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to submit testimony supporting the candidacy of Kevin Morikone as a judge for the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii. I have known Kevin for more than ten years professionally and have always found him to be intelligent, practical, level-headed and fair. His temperament and legal acumen would be a real credit to the First Circuit. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy. Joseph Stewart

LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 7:01:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David M. Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Rhoads and the Judiciary Committee: I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Kevin Morikone to the First Circuit Court bench. I have been a criminal and family law litigator for 30+ years, have had over 120 jury trials and I still appear in Court multiple times nearly every week. I clearly recall the first time I appeared before then new Family Court Judge Morikone in an intense, high-conflict TRO hearing with a very experienced opposing counsel. Judge Morikone took control of the hearing to the point that I told opposing counsel after the hearing that it was arguably the most impressive first impression I've ever had of a Family Court judge. I have since appeared before Judge Morikone many times for contested TRO hearings which served to reinforce my initial first impression. Possibly the best indicator that Judge Morikone will be an effective Circuit Court judge is when he served as an acting Circuit Court Judge on the Domestic Violence Jury Trial Calendar in Courtroom 8c. Judge Morikone effectively managed his jury trial calendar and exhibited a calm judicial demeanor that allowed him to communicate effectively with counsel and defendants. The fact that Judge Morikone has extensive civil litigation experience prior to joining the bench will also enable him to be one of the few Circuit Judges with pre-existing civil, criminal and family law trial experience. I have complete confidence that Judge Morikone will have an excellent judicial demeanor and that he has an understanding of and ability to effectively handle a Circuit Court criminal, civil or family calendar and that he will be a terrific addition to the 1st Circuit bench. Respectfully, /s/ David M. Hayakawa

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS D. FARRELL IN SUPPORT OF GM 2
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court
of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee
KEVIN T. MORIKONE

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Family Court Judge Kevin Morikone for elevation to the Circuit Court bench.

I have appeared before him countless times on virtually every family court calendar since he began service as a per diem judge. I consider him one of the best of our current crop of twelve permanent family court judges in the First Circuit.

I have always found him to be prepared, knowledgeable, and even-handed. He is courteous to counsel who appear before him, and goes out of his way to be patient with pro se litigants. He has been an innovator in family court, particularly in his promotion of family law arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution option. I know first-hand, that he has been responsible for several cases in which the parties have agreed to submit to arbitration, and this has reduced the demands on a very overworked family court.

Many of us in the family law bar will miss his presence in family court, but I believe he has tremendous potential to serve as a circuit family court judge for criminal matters, as well as a being a strong candidate for a future senior family court judge on Oahu.

If I can provide any additional information to the committee, particularly with regard to any specific cases in which I appeared before Judge Morikone, please do not hesitate to contact me. I urge the committee to report favorably on this nomination and send it to the Senate floor without delay.

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*Certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. The Supreme Court of Hawaii grants Hawaii certification only to lawyers in good standing who have successfully completed a specialty program accredited by the American Bar Association.



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

Kevin T. Morikone
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM2)

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

FROM: Levi Hookano
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Kevin T. Morikone for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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; 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.

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Craig A. De Costa (Kauai)
Vladimir Devens
Jessica R. Domingo
William A. Harrison
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao
Carol S. Kitaoka (West Hawaii)
Erin M. Kobayashi
Jacob K. Lowenthal (Maui)
Mark K. Murakami
Paul W. Naso
Ralph J. O'Neill
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YLD PRESIDENT

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HSBA/ABA DELEGATE

Leslie A. Hayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu

- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.
- 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 Morikone on October 25, 2021 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On October 26th, Judge Morikone was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Morikone 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 Morikone 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

The task of the HSBA was to determine the qualifications and suitability of the Nominee utilizing in large part, the judicial appointments criteria of the American Bar Association. The criteria are not ranked in terms of importance as it is used universally to review the qualifications of appointees for trial and appellate positions. The determination of qualified or unqualified is based on a totality of the documentation received, member and reference comments, and the interview of the individual appointed.

Nominee Kevin Morikone is a Kalani High School, University of Hawaii at Manoa and William S. Richardson School of Law alumni. He is currently serving as a District Family Judge of the First Circuit, and has temporarily served as a Circuit Judge of the First Circuit where he presided over Circuit Court Family criminal cases and over eleven (11) misdemeanor jury trials.

Prior to his appointment to the Bench, Judge Morikone was in the private practice of law where he carried a full caseload and handled a wide variety of cases and other proceedings. Together with his employer, who three years later became his law partner, Judge Morikone litigated cases in the following areas: commercial and general business, corporate, personal injury and wrongful death (both plaintiff and defense), construction, intellectual property, real property, bankruptcy, white collar criminal, collection, landlord-tenant, family, entertainment, and aviation defense.

Prior to pursuing a legal career, the Nominee was a professional musician who studied under well-recognized Kihoalu slack key guitar artists. He performed with Kahua, which was awarded a recording contract. While an undergraduate student at Manoa, Judge Morikone was a Hawaiian language student becoming proficient in the Hawaiian language. The Nominee has, on occasion, performed at Bar social events. His diction, pronunciation, and elocution of the Hawaiian language earned him the respect of many musician colleagues.

Member comments indicate that Judge Morikone is known to be a hardworking, fair, knowledgeable, and equitable jurist, who is well-prepared and listens to both sides before making decisions. The Nominee's experience as a Per Diem Judge for 3 years and combined experience of 3 years as a State Judge presiding over District Family and Circuit Court calendars clearly demonstrate his ability to permanently fulfill the responsibilities of a Circuit Judge.

After a review of all documentation submitted and the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Judge Kevin T. Morikone to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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