

GM-4

Submitted on: 10/20/2021 1:23:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Tonnessen	Testifying for Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui	Support	No

Comments: October 20, 2021 I originally wrote a letter of endorsement when Kirstin Hamman was 1st nominated for the District Court Judgeship which she is now her current position, concluding that she "exemplifies the very best of the legal profession and would be an excellent Judge. I also noted the breadth and diversity of her support within the legal community in Hawaii and our community. It is with great pleasure to have to write another letter of support for Judge Hamman for your consideration to Second Circuit Court Judge of Maui County. I have known Kirstin professionally in my role with the Friends of the Children's Justice Center and her and her family personally for a number of years. I believe that Kirstin would be an outstanding Judge for this open position. As a resident of this community, we'd all be extremely fortunate to have her serving on the Second Circuit Court bench. However, it's not just Kirstin's legal experience, it's her personal qualities that give me confidence that she would be a great Judge for this current position. It's her work ethic and family values, her passion for the profession and her compassion for all those involved in court cases that define her as truly exceptional. I have firsthand knowledge of how tirelessly she works, how her compassion can influence lives and how dedicated she is to this community. Nothing has changed since my 1st recommendation, except that Judge Hamman has since had the opportunity to prove that her record now as a sitting District Court Judge in that position is second to none. I once again am honored to be able to support Judge Hamman's confirmation with great enthusiasm. Mahalo, Paul Tonnessen Executive Director, Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Sonya Toma, Esq.
sonyatoma@gmail.com

October 20, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM4 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN

Dear Senator Rhodes and the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in my personal capacity to support Judge Kirstin M. Hamman's confirmation as Circuit Court Judge in the Second Judicial Circuit. I have known Judge Hamman for many years as a close friend, colleague, and mentor. She is established in the Maui community, having practiced law here for many years in various legal roles before being appointed to the District Court. As an attorney, she has protected the rights of the most vulnerable, including children with disabilities and their families (including my own), LGBTQ youth, and indigent criminal defendants. She is a dedicated public servant, having worked for the Legal Aid Society, Public Defender's office, Maui County Council services, and now as a District Court Judge.

Judge Hamman is highly qualified for the position. Her judicial temperament is appropriate. She treats litigants in her courtroom with respect and fairness. She is prepared for hearings and has an excellent reputation in the legal community. Her varied and extensive experience with both criminal and civil litigation, knowledge of legal procedure and the Rules of Evidence, as well as her time on the bench, make her especially suited for the Circuit Court. In my opinion, Judge Hamman should be confirmed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
/s/ Sonya Toma
Sonya Toma

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN (GM4)

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members:

It is my pleasure to submit testimony in support, for Kirstin M. Hamman, for confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I have known Kirstin for nearly twenty years. During these years, Kirstin has served as a public defender, a legal analyst for the County of Maui, a private attorney, a District Court Judge, as well as other positions in which she was able to obtain experience to expertly hone her skills in her profession.

Kirstin is also very involved in our community. She provides a wealth of knowledge and donates her time to assist citizens on our island to better themselves. She is also involved in the promotion of self-worth and strives to empower our keiki to be self-confident to ensure a productive future for them.

I am originally from Maui and I travel home frequently. Most of my family resides on Maui and I believe our community needs and deserves honest and respectable leaders who are capable of making sound and just decisions. Kirstin is both very fair and very motivated. I am confident to say that she will devote herself, with a high degree of diligence, and prove to be a very successful Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for your kind consideration and to allow me the opportunity to support Kirstin.

Sincerely,

Tracey L. Takahashi
5765 Mahimahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

Rachael Cabanting

150 Ulana St.
Makawao, HI 96768

October 22, 2021

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoades, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: Nomination of Judge Kirstin M. Hamman for Circuit Court of the Second
Circuit

Dear Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the appointment of Kirstin M. Hamman to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I have known Kirstin for some years now and in that time I have come to know her well and with high regards. I don't know her through work, but on a personal and close community level. If her work ethics reflect anything that she represents outside of work, then she'd be an incredible fit in the position.

Kirstin Hamman's combination of drive, character, team player, respect for her community and people in that community and intelligence would make her a clear choice and perfect addition to meet the court standards and to serve our ever growing and changing community.

Sincerely,

Rachael Cabanting

October 25, 2021

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

RE: **GM4, Testimony in SUPPORT of Nominee Kirstin M. Hamman, for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, Hearing Date 10/27/21 at 9:00 a.m.**

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

I write to express my strong support for the confirmation of Kirstin M. Hamman to serve as Judge for the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. I have known Ms. Hamman for approximately seven years - both personally, and as a professional colleague. Ms. Hamman's prior experiences will serve her well for the Circuit Court position.

On a personal level, I can attest to Ms. Hamman's obvious love and passion for health and fitness. She took the initiative to complete professional training in order to become a coach at a local Crossfit affiliate, in her spare time. She clearly enjoys inspiring and helping others to reach their goals, and has demonstrated a clear commitment to improve the lives of persons in our community.

As the former president of the Maui County Bar Association, I worked with Ms. Hamman when she was a Board member. Ms. Hamman was an outstanding asset to the Maui bar. She volunteered significant amounts of her time for various MCBA community service projects, including improving access to justice with the Maui Self-Help center, and fundraising for local scholarships.

Currently, I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the County of Maui and supervisor for several District Court deputies. I can attest to Ms. Hamman's honesty, intelligence and integrity in her current capacity as District Court Judge. She has proven herself to be hard working, diligent, and thoughtful. I am confident Ms. Hamman will approach this judiciary appointment with the same level of dedication she has to all of her other professional and civic activities.

Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to provide comments.

Regards,



Brandon M. Segal, Esq.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate of the State of Hawai'i

Lance D. Collins, Ph.D
Law Office of Lance D. Collins

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM
Support for GM4, Judicial Nominee Kirstin M. Hamman
to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit

My name is Lance D. Collins and I am an attorney in private practice. I testify in support of the nomination of Kirstin Hamman to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit giving my unqualified support to her appointment.

I first became acquainted with Judge Hamman when I externed at the Maui Public Defender's Office during law school. She was a deputy public defender. After I became an attorney, I continued to have interactions with her and her work while she was in the service of the county as a legislative attorney.

She is known for her thoughtfulness and compassion towards litigants and attorneys.

I urge this Committee to recommend confirming Judge Hamman to the Circuit Court for the Second Circuit. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

//

LATE

ANTHONY RANKEN & ASSOCIATES

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Napoleon L. Taylor
napoleon@rankenlaw.com

October 26, 2021

RE: **Item GM4:** The nomination of Kirstin Hamman to the Second Circuit Court

I am a trial attorney practicing in all the courts of Maui County since 1983. I and the two other attorneys in my firm have practiced extensively in front of Judge Kirstin Hamman and we have nothing but the best things to say about her. She is exceedingly bright, has a wonderful judicial manner, remains unruffled in the face of challenging litigants and situations, and while she has been known to be quite tough in her sentences when a criminal defendant deserves it, she listens well to both sides and tempers her judgment with an appropriate degree of compassion. She learned a lot while clerking for former circuit court judge Boyd Mossman and in her career as an attorney, and when she came to the bench several years ago she hit the ground running and she universally commands well-deserved respect from the attorneys who appear before her. She has never shown any bias that I am aware of toward one side or the other, either in general or in any specific case. She is exceptionally well qualified to move up to the Circuit Court bench.

I drafted the following “Petition for Gender Balance in Maui County’s Circuit Court,” which garnered several hundred signatures of Maui residents including a number of high schoolers, and which was then submitted to Governor Ige during the nomination process. The text of it, reprinted below, makes points which I think are worthy of your consideration during this confirmation process as well.

Aloha and Mahalo,



Anthony L. Ranken

Petition for Gender Balance in Maui County’s Circuit Court

A Petition for Governor Ige

We the undersigned citizens of Maui County respectfully request you as our Governor to appoint a woman to fill the current Second Circuit Court vacancy.

At present Maui has three male and **NO** female Circuit Court judges. Between the Circuit, Family and District Courts – when including both regular and per diem judges – Maui currently has a total of 11 male judges, compared to only 3 female

judges. Among just the full time judges at all levels of our court system, the ratio is almost as bad – only one out of every four judges is female.

Women and girls comprise more than 50% of our community. We understand you have been presented with a list of four applicants for the open Circuit Court judgeship, two male and two female, all of whom have been deemed well-qualified by the Judicial Selection Commission. We respectfully plead with you to ensure some degree of gender balance and equity on our County's most important court, by appointing a woman to the vacant Circuit Court position. Circuit Court appointments last ten years and are almost always renewed. Appointing a fourth man to the Circuit court would most likely "bake in" an all-male bench for a decade or more.

In the court system, which exerts authority and power over our society, it is especially important for women and girls to see themselves. The presence of a female judge would have a significant impact on many women's feelings of belonging, their sense of equality and social status. And the appointment of a female judge would tell bright and capable youth of Maui that they can aspire to a position of great responsibility and honor in our community – regardless of their gender! Thank you for considering our input.

Moana M. Lutey
15 Noho'ana Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

LATE

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 26, 2021

RE: Appointment of Kirstin M. Hamman as Judge of the Second
Circuit Court GM4

Dear Senate President Kouchi:

This letter is submitted in support of the appointment of Kirstin M. Hamman to the position of Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

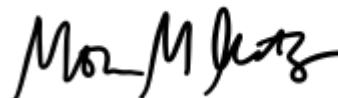
I currently serve as the Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui and have known Judge Hamman for at least twenty years, primarily through work. Based on that experience, it is my belief that Judge Hamman would be an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

I first met Judge Hamman when she was a public defender and I was a deputy prosecuting attorney. She was always fully prepared in the representation of her clients and exhibited a unique ability to be compassionate to her clients while also being a fierce advocate. Years later, I had the pleasure of working with Judge Hamman when she worked as an attorney for the Maui County Council. As always, she was well prepared for the matters she worked on with Council and was pleasant to work with.

Since being on the district court bench, we have not had as many interactions, but I have heard positive comments about her work. I believe she will be well suited for the Circuit Court Judge position based on her experience.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Best,



Moana M. Lutey

LATE

GM-4

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 7:23:56 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 Kristin Hamman to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit. Although I am based in Honolulu, I routinely appear in the Second Circuit. Judge Hamman has served the people of the Second Circuit for years at the Office of the Public Defender, then as an effective per diem Judge while in private practice and finally on the District Court bench. I have complete confidence that Judge Hamman has the experience, skills and judicial demeanor to effectively manage her Circuit Court calendar and that she will be a terrific addition to the Circuit Court bench of the 2nd Circuit. Respectfully, /s/ David M. Hayakawa

LATE

GM-4

Submitted on: 10/26/2021 9:33:57 PM
Testimony for JDC on 10/27/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean & Shelbie Mitnick	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha. We are Sean and Shelbie Mitnick and have known Kirstin Hamman for approximately 8 years. She is a good friend that has become like family to us because of her caring and understanding personality. We believe Kirstin is an outstanding choice for circuit court judge because of her ability to have a clear vision on analyzing situations. If you would like to verify our comments please don't hesitate to contact us at Mitnick3@aol.com. Thank you. Aloha, Sean & Shelbie Mitnick

LATE



October 27, 2021

To: Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: GM 4: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN, for a term to expire in 10 years.

Hearing: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference

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

Hawaii Women Lawyers (“**HWL**”) respectfully submits testimony in **support** of the confirmation of Kirstin M. Hamman to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

HWL is a nonprofit organization comprised of over 300 attorneys. HWL’s mission includes improving the status of women in the legal profession, increasing the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility, and promoting the advancement of all women. HWL believes that increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the Judiciary is extremely important. The judicial bench should be adequately balanced and reflect the composition of Hawaii’s citizens. Significant strides have been made in the past several years to improve the diversity of our bench, but HWL believes that more can be done to appoint qualified women to fill judicial vacancies to bring balance to the bench.

HWL supports the confirmation of Ms. Hamman to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, which will help to ensure that the number of women on the bench better represents the number of women in the legal profession and the community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Hawaii Women Lawyers



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

Kirstin M. Hamman
Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit (GM4)

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 Kirstin M. Hamman for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second 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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- 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 Hamman on October 25, 2021 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On October 26th, Judge Hamman was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Judge Hamman 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 Hamman 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.

Kirstin Hamman dedicated her professional career to public service and the protection of individual civil rights. She has 7 years of experience on the bench, first as a per diem District Court judge and later as a District Court judge of the Second Circuit.

As a per diem judge, the Nominee presided over the District Court traffic, criminal, and civil calendars. As a District Court judge, Judge Hamman presided over District Court traffic, criminal, civil and environmental calendars.

The Nominee was a solo practitioner for 5 years specializing in family law and litigating administrative due process hearings and Federal Court appeals under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and American with Disabilities Act.

The Nominee served in the Council Services office for the County of Maui, providing legal services and guidance to County Council's committees and individual Council members. The nominee was also a deputy public defender in the Maui office for close to 10 years. She represented indigent clients during all stages of criminal proceedings, including arraignment and pleas, bail hearings, pretrial conferences, evidentiary hearings, sentencing hearings, bench trials, jury trials, and parole hearings. As an AmeriCorps attorney for the Maui Legal Aid of Hawaii Office, she provided free legal services to low-income families involved with domestic violence issues.

Judge Hamman cares about her community and the practice of law, serving on the Well-Being Task Force, appointed by the Hawaii Chief Justice. As part of the task force, she helped review all aspects of the practice of law, from law school to all areas of employment, to address a national trend of physical and mental challenges, substance abuse issues, and suicide affecting attorneys.

Judge Hamman's passion to help people, and her calm temperament, establish a framework that litigants can understand clearly. Her experience as a per diem judge for 4 years, combined with her 3 years as a District Court Judge presiding over civil and criminal calendars, demonstrates her ability to 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 her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Judge Kirstin M. Hamman to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit.

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