

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Monday, August 21, 2023
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 1

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 1, the appointment of Jordon J. Kimura as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai'i.

Jordon earned his Juris Doctorate graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law where he served as a Comments Editor for Richardson's law review, a Senior Writing Associate and Teaching Assistant for the Richardson Writing Center Board and received numerous scholastic awards. Jordan earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree also graduating *summa cum laude* from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Currently, Jordon is a Co-Managing Partner and Litigation and Estate Planning Attorney/Partner at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon, LLP and has served as the firm's hiring chair since 2016. Additionally, Jordon has also given back to the community by providing counseling at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapi'olani Medical Center and serves as an officer and director at the Hawai'i Coalition Against Sex Assault and as a director of University Health Partners of Hawai'i.

For the reasons above, I am confident that Jordon Kimura has the experience necessary to serve the State well as a Circuit Court Judge for the State of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Jordon J. Kimura / Measure GM1
Pending Judicial Confirmation for Circuit Court Judge – First Circuit, Oahu

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is David J. Minkin. I am a litigation partner at McCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP (“M4”). Before joining M4 in 1995, I was a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for 11 years.

I write this letter in staunch support of nominee Jordon Jun Kimura for the position of Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i. I first met Mr. Kimura in 2007 when he finished his first year of law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law at Manoa and worked with us as a Summer Associate. He was an intelligent and diligent law student who upon graduation in 2009, joined the M4 first as an associate and then as a partner.

Mr. Kimura has a wealth of experience as an attorney at M4 representing a variety of clients, including some pro bono such as the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center, in mediations, arbitrations, probate matters, contested administrative hearings and civil litigation. He will bring an incredible experience in all matters that will enable him to be an asset to the Judiciary and the State of Hawai‘i.

He will not only exemplify the diversity of our state but coupled with his vast experience as an advocate, Mr. Kimura will bring the requisite skills and compassion that our citizenry expects and deserves. Jordon is an intelligent, industrious, and conscientious lawyer. He is cordial, courteous and respectful of opposing counsel and all witnesses in the many cases that we have co-counseled together. Jordon’s overall demeanor and personality coupled with his superior intellect indicates that he possesses a fair judicial temperament and the intelligence to be an excellent Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kimura possesses stellar legal skills with a thorough understanding of the role that evidence, court rules and case law play in the judicial process while exhibiting the highest personal integrity with the appropriate moral courage to be a Circuit Court jurist.

It is my privilege to write to you on his behalf; however, I will also attend his Confirmation Hearing in person to answer any questions which you may have regarding Mr. Kimura although I can truly state that Jordon will serve with honor, dignity, compassion, and fairness to all that come into his courtroom. He will make the Judiciary and the State of Hawai‘i proud as a Circuit Court Judge. Thank you for this opportunity to recommend that you confirm Jordon Jun Kimura as Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i.

David J. Minkin
Hawai‘i Bar # 3639
August 16, 2023



To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Lynn Costales Matsuoka, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center,
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children

Re: First Circuit Judicial Appointment of Jordon Kimura

Date: August 16, 2023

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Gabbard and Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our support of Jordon Kimura for the judicial appointment to the First Circuit Court.

Jordon has served as pro bono counsel for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center for approximately 10 years. He has served us well. Jordon's pro bono service speaks volumes to his commitment to community work and service beyond his private legal practice. He is bright, competent, fair, and accessible. Despite his active legal practice, he has shown SATC no less attention than his fee for service clients and we have come to rely on his legal expertise. So, while we are thrilled about his selection, it comes with some mixed feelings given his long-standing pro bono representation of SATC.

He is timely in his response, thorough in his explanation and sound in his legal advice. What I have come to appreciate is his attention to deadlines, always making sure he closes the loop on anything outstanding. At times sending deadline reminders so nothing is missed. His legal experience is well balanced insofar as his private practice is in civil litigation, while his pro bono experience with SATC is primarily on criminal procedure. Having experience in both civil and criminal law, is a rarity, making Jordon a standout candidate.

As the Executive Director of SATC, I have had the pleasure of working with him on many occasions, and can attest to his fairness, his strong work ethic, his integrity as an attorney, his dedication to the legal profession and commitment to our community. As a fellow Bar member, it would be a pleasure appearing before him, knowing he will be well prepared, fair, thorough in his rulings and professional to litigants and fellow bar members.

As a Circuit Court Judge, I have no doubt, Jordon will be outstanding. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support of Jordon Kimura for the First Circuit Court judicial appointment.

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Costales Matsuoka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lynn Costales Matsuoka
Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center, KMCWC

August 18, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I write this letter in strong support of nominee Jordon J. Kimura for the position of the Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I worked closely with Jordon during my 36-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) of the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.

In 2012 Jordon offered to serve as the pro-bono attorney for the SATC. Jordon has generously contributed over 10 years of pro-bono professional legal guidance to a center serving sexual assault victims - a demonstration of his strong personal commitment to community service.

As counsel for SATC, Jordon's role was multifaceted and required that he engage with various level of staff members, advocates, clinicians, administrators, and physicians. He guided SATC on complex legal issues and provided countless hours of training on understanding the complexities of the judicial system and court testimony. He was also consistently available to provide guidance on best practices relating to the ethics of law when dealing with complicated cases. Jordon was outstanding in helping SATC to navigate issues in a timely fashion.

While working with Jordon I witnessed firsthand his strong interpersonal and communication skills. He is an excellent listener and communicated clearly and concisely when explaining matters of the law. He always demonstrated great patience and diligence to ensure the SATC team could comprehend the issues at hand and apply appropriate action.

Jordon is intelligent and his character and ethical standards are impeccable. He also has a deep passion for humanity as evident by electing to support the SATC program.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in strong support of Jordon J. Kimura's confirmation as Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I highly recommend the Committee approve this nomination as I believe Mr. Kimura will make an exceptional Circuit Court Judge.

Very truly yours,


Adriana Ramelli

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

From: Paula Chun, Executive Director
Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Date: August 14, 2023

Re: GM 1: Letter of Support for the Nomination of Jordon Kimura

As the Executive Director of the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault (HCASA), I have known and worked with Jordon Kimura since he became a board member and officer of our organization in 2014. His contributions to HCASA include assistance in building our operational capacity and always being available to consult with us on various organizational issues.

The Judicial Selection Commission has already determined that Jordon Kimura deserves nomination as a circuit court judge. I will share my personal perspective on the other qualities he will bring to this position.

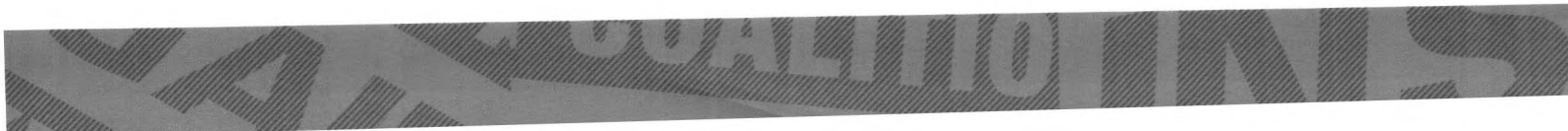
First and foremost, Jordon Kimura is down-to-earth meaning he has a natural ability to communicate and connect on an individual and respectful level with others outside the legal community. He is also clear in his words meaning we understand what he's saying the first time.

Jordon Kimura doesn't waste anyone's time. He will find ways to accomplish an activity in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Jordon Kimura is fair. He sees the big picture and will say something if he perceives an individual or organization may be overlooked.

Finally, Jordon Kimura is responsible. His plate is full between his family and work responsibilities. Yet he manages to find the time to support HCASA as well.

The residents of O`ahu will be well-served with the appointment of Jordon Kimura as judge of the first circuit.



HAWAII NATURE CENTER

Connecting children and families to nature

We foster awareness, appreciation, understanding and stewardship of Hawai'i's environment by educating children with an interactive and immersive approach.

2023 Board of Directors

Lacey Nakaguma
President

Nicholas Paslay
Vice President

Tran Chinery
Secretary

Guy Churchill
Treasurer

Eric Wright
President Emeritus

James Geiger, Esq.

Josh Hargrove

G. Robert Johnston

McKibbin Mist

Caitlin Moon

Jerry Rauckhorst

Tannis Thorlakson Sullivan

Michael Vachio

Ina Wong

Piia Aarma
Advisor

Staff

Todd Cullison
Executive Director

Gavin Moffat
Fund Development Coordinator

Date: August 15, 2023

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Confirmation of Jordon Kimura (GM1) to the Position of Circuit Court Judge

As the Operations and Volunteer Program Director, I would like to strongly recommend the confirmation of **Jordon Kimura** to the position of Circuit Court Judge. I have known Jordon as a volunteer with our organization since March 2000. He started as a high school student from Punahou School and continued to offer his time and energy even after he graduated and got his job as an attorney at his current law firm.

What makes Jordon an outstanding volunteer are his commitment to excellence and his willingness to go above and beyond what is expected of him. At our past fundraising events, we could always count on Jordon to do a careful and meticulous job keeping track of auction payments. If there were any issues, Jordon was solution-driven and always figured out a way to solve the problem and make things better. He was truly a positive asset to our organization!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 792-2609 or email volunteer@hawaiinaturecenter.org.

Thank you!

Pauline Kawamata

Pauline Kawamata
Operations and Volunteer Program Director



August 19, 2023

Hawaii State Legislature
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Letter of support for Jordon J Kimura for Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii (Measure GM1)

Dear The Honorable Karl Rhoads, The Honorable Mike Gabbard, and the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the University Health Partners of Hawaii (UHP), it is my pleasure to write this letter of support to the Senate Committee of Judiciary for Jordon J Kimura's consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. UHP serves as the 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides the administrative infrastructure to the John A Burns School of Medicine, the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing, and the UH Cancer Center, along with other health science affiliated colleges.

Since joining our board and serving as our board secretary, Jordon has provided excellent legal perspectives and opinions on how to best navigate the changing healthcare and business laws. He provided guidance during policy and budgetary discussions, as well as was meticulously provided notes of the discussions.

Throughout his time at UHP, Jordon has remained thoughtful, caring, and professional. It is my belief that he will provide excellent service to the people of Hawaii as a Circuit Court Judge by being equitable, reasonable, and personable with an Aloha spirit.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek D Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derek D Wong, MPH, MBA
Interim CEO
University Health Partners of Hawaii

DONALD K.O. WONG
4507 WAIKUI ST
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821

August 12, 2023

The Honorable Krl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard. Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Nomination of Jordon J. Kimura (GM1)

Dear Chair Rhodes and Committee Members

I am a founding partner in the law firm now known as McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon. I retired from the firm in 2020.

I had the opportunity to work with Jordon J. Kimura from 2007 when he joined the firm as a summer associate and then as an associate lawyer in 2009. I specialized in estate planning, probate and trust matters. In anticipation of my eventual retirement I started working with Jordon in estate planning matter in 2012. We worked together with my clients in these areas for 8 years until my retirement in December 2020.

I found Jordon to be intelligent, hard working and unafraid to handle difficult and complex matters. My clients were overjoyed that I found such a competent attorney to take over their matters when I retired. I was relieved that I could find such capable hands to hand my clients off to.

Jordon is highly intelligent, possesses good instincts, and communicates well. He has a calm manner but is unafraid to make tough decisions.

His nomination as a Judge will cause the firm to lose a leader but the State of Hawaii will gain a strong and valuable member of the judiciary. I therefore strongly support his nomination as a Judge of the State of Hawaii First Circuit.

Very truly yours,

Donald K. O. Wong
HSBA No. 909

Written Testimony – Judicial Circuit Court Nomination

Measure number GM1- Jordan J. Kimura – August 21, 2023 @ 9 am

August 12th, 2023

Barbara Mosle - Wailuku, Maui

808 283-3586 bmosle@twc.com

I am writing in support of Jordan J. Kimura for Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Island of Oahu. I have known Jordan in a professional capacity for both business and personal matters for over 10 years. My initial contact with him was as a Board member that was being sued both personally and as a Board member by a litigant. Jordan was patient, dignified and courteous to all litigants and those involved in the case. His educational and professional experience layered with his deep-rooted cultural awareness of sensitivities provided an excellent basis for him to diffuse the potentially disagreeable situation satisfactorily to all parties. Jordan has the ability to assess the situation(s) and be able to logically analyze legal issues in a manner that is clear, concise and coherent. Jordan is humble, prompt is an excellent communicator, is courteous, compassionate and most importantly is not afraid to think creatively while using common sense. He showed forbearance under provocation much to my appreciation. His manner is calm and comforting. I think too that Jordan's youth is an advantage to the Court and to the judicial system. A fresh pair of eyes and ears would be a sincere message to the youth of our great state.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Kimura, I am confident that he would be an excellent Circuit Judge.

I am available should you like more feedback, many thanks and kind regards, BKM

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/13/2023 8:31:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Matsuura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mr. Jordon Kimura's nomination to the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am a general dentist who Jordon has kindly helped either directly or through referrals as I navigate my dental practice ownership journey. I've known Jordon since I was in the 7th grade where Jordon was our 8th grade cross country captain. Even at this young age, the 8th grade Jordon I picture in my mind already reflected the current Jordon and what he represents and stands for: Reliability, integrity, commitment, and courage. Jordon the captain would support and encourage others to believe in themselves but would show us through his example that it would take hard work to get there. Team was important. Respect was important, not just for team members, coaches or the school, but self respect. It's difficult to be a leader at this middle school age unless one is socially popular or one of the best. Jordon wasn't either but his boldness didn't deter him from being the best leader he could be. I've had team captains in soccer, track, and subsequent years of cross country, but Jordon's poise and leadership is the only one that has stuck with me and I think it's one of those things that can't be explained in words. Jordon still lives the same values and work ethic, but with balance and fun added on. It's admirable how he's navigated being a loving husband, joyful father, and a partner at his law firm, all while caring for his health and continuing to advance himself professionally. Through life's growth and changes, he's still a wonderful team captain. Thank you for your consideration.



RANDAL D. MORITA, DDS • SCOTT L. MORITA, DDS, MS

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Nomination of Jordon Kimura for the First Circuit Court (GM1)

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Jordon Kimura for a judgeship on the First Circuit Court.

I have known Jordon for over three decades beginning in the elementary grades at Punahou School. While we attended different universities and pursued different careers, we have remained good friends to the present time.

In my profession as an orthodontist I have sought Jordon's legal guidance and assistance on a variety of matters. He has consistently responded in a well reasoned and diligent manner. It is clear to me that he takes great pride in his legal work.

Jordan is a dedicated husband and father. In his interactions with others, Jordan treats all people with fairness and compassion.

I feel that his work ethic and personal qualities will make him an excellent judge.

I highly recommend Jordon Kimura for a judgeship on the First Circuit Court.

Scott Morita DDS
Morita Orthodontics



GM-1

Submitted on: 8/14/2023 8:15:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew A. Cohen, Esq.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Jordan is a very intelligent and highly capable individual - he will serve the state well. I have litigated against Jordan and found him to be a fair opponent and skillful advocate.

Pualani Soong
1178-D Wainiha Street
Honolulu Hawaii 96825
Telephone: 808-389-5595
Email: soonggirls@yahoo.com

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM1 - RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION
JORDON J. KIMURA TO CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate
Committee on Judiciary:

I write in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Jordon J. Kimura for the position of Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Kimura for over 15 years through my work as a Legal Assistant at the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP as well as through my current position as Executive Assistant with Hawaii Management Alliance Association ("HMAA").

Mr. Kimura is the full package, intelligent, fair, excellent legal skills, personable, great sense of humor and most importantly a fantastic friend, husband and father.

Mr. Kimura will make an excellent judge and serve his community with great honor and fairness. His character and outstanding legal skills will help guide him through this new journey. There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Kimura will be a great addition to our Judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments in support of Mr. Kimura.

Mahalo,



Pualani Soong

Letter of Support for Jordon J. Kimura

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strongest support for Jordon J. Kimura's nomination as Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Jordon for over 35 years, and our friendship has spanned from childhood through the different phases of adulthood. I believe his character and experiences make him a fitting candidate for this important role.

Jordon's integrity and sincerity have remained constant throughout our long-standing friendship. Our connection dates back to our time as kindergarteners at the old Island Paradise Academy in Kaimuki, and our friendship has persevered through the various stages of life, moves, best-man at weddings, and world events - shaping us into the individuals we are today. His educational journey, which includes institutions such as Punahou, Boston University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Hawaii Law School, demonstrates his dedication and hard work. These experiences have shaped his understanding of diverse perspectives and cultures, qualities that would be valuable as a judge.

His enthusiasm for travel has provided him with a broad outlook on life, and his ability to connect with people from various backgrounds is a strength that would contribute positively to his role as a judge.

Furthermore, Jordon's experience in private practice, transitioning to a public servant, equips him with a balanced understanding of the legal system's dynamics. This unique perspective would undoubtedly influence his approach to making fair and thoughtful decisions.

In conclusion, I am confident that Jordon J. Kimura possesses the qualities necessary to excel as a Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. His unwavering integrity, diverse experiences, and balanced perspective will contribute to the effectiveness and fairness of the judicial system.

Thank you for considering my endorsement of Jordon J. Kimura. I believe his appointment would be a positive addition to the judiciary, and I trust in his ability to uphold justice in the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Dr. Troy Lau Ph.D.
37 Newcomb Rd. Stoneham, MA 02180
Head of AI, Division Leader – Draper
troylau@gmail.com

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capital, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony for Jordon J. Kimura nomination as a Circuit Court Judge

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

Please accept this letter in strong support of Jordon J. Kimura nomination as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii for a term of ten years.

I have worked directly with Mr. Kimura since 2016 in his support and assistance of all legal matters associated with our company. I have found Mr. Kimura to be knowledgeable, diligent with details, effective in interpreting new regulatory requirements, able to litigate matters on our behalf, effective communicator with individuals at all levels of our organization and responsive to our needs.

Mr. Kimura is well respected and I am confident he will be an excellent addition to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and fulfill the needs and expectations of the citizens of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Paul Kaiser
President





KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.*
Alan M. Goda*

John R. Aube*
Charles W. Gall*
Neal T. Gota
Charles D. Hunter
Robert K. Ichikawa*
Christopher T. Kobayashi*
Jonathan A. Kobayashi
Jan M. L. Y. Kutsunai*
David M. Louie*
Nicholas R. Monlux
Jonathan S. Moore
Aaron R. Mun
Bruce A. Nakamura*

Kenneth M. Nakasone*
Harry Y. Oda
Gregory M. Sato*
Jesse W. Schiel*
Craig K. Shikuma*
Lex R. Smith*
Joseph A. Stewart*
Brian D. Tongg
David B. Tongg*
Caycie K. G. Wong

*A Law Corporation

Of Counsel:
Kenneth Y. Sugita*
Wendell H. Fujii*
Clifford K. Higa*
Burt T. Lau*
John F. Lezak*
Larry L. Myers*
David Y. Suzuki*

Sianha M. Gualano
Austin H. Jim On
Stephen G. K. Kaneshiro
Travis Y. Kuwahara
Ryan D. Louie
Zachary K. Shikada
Timothy T. Silvester

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Testimony Re; GM1 – Supporting the confirmation of
Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit


Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Jordon professionally for well over a decade and have litigated numerous cases both with and against his clients. Regardless of the circumstances of the case, I have always been extremely impressed by Jordon's professionalism, intelligence, demeanor, and diligence as an attorney. In all circumstances, he has provided excellent legal representation to his clients, while still being the consummate professional in his interactions with counsel and the courts. In sum, he embodies the characteristics that attorneys should strive to have in their practice and the demeanor that we look for in judges.

It is for these reasons that I offer my recommendation that Jordon be confirmed for the position on the First Circuit Court. The qualities that he has demonstrated in practice will be a credit to our court system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present such testimony and please advise me if there are any further questions.

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH A. STEWART
MANAGING PARTNER
KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/15/2023 10:28:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew J. Lautenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I have worked with Jordon Kimura as both co-counsel and opposing counsel on numerous difficult cases over the past decade. Jordon has excellent analytic and legal skills, and I have found him to be respectful, professional, and trustworthy in all of my interactions with him. It is my opinion that Jordon will be a fantastic addition to our judiciary.



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.*
Alan M. Goda*

John R. Aube*
Charles W. Gall*
Neal T. Gota
Charles D. Hunter
Robert K. Ichikawa*
Christopher T. Kobayashi*
Jonathan A. Kobayashi
Jan M. L. Y. Kutsunai*
David M. Louie*
Nicholas R. Monlux
Jonathan S. Moore
Aaron R. Mun
Bruce A. Nakamura*

Kenneth M. Nakasone*
Harry Y. Oda
Gregory M. Sato*
Jesse W. Schiel*
Craig K. Shikuma*
Lex R. Smith*
Joseph A. Stewart*
Brian D. Tongg
David B. Tongg*
Caycie K. G. Wong

*A Law Corporation

Of Counsel:
Kenneth Y. Sugita*
Wendell H. Fuji*
Clifford K. Higa*
Burt T. Lau*
John F. Lezak*
Larry L. Myers*
David Y. Suzuki*

Sianha M. Gualano
Austin H. Jim On
Stephen G. K. Kaneshiro
Travis Y. Kuwahara
Ryan D. Louie
Zachary K. Shikada
Timothy T. Silvester

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1: Nomination of **Jordon J. Kimura** to serve as a
Circuit Court Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit
August 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I **strongly recommend** confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura as a Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am a partner at the law firm of Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, and have practiced for many years with Jordon. Simply put, Jordon is the kind of judge that I would want to practice before. Regardless of the outcome, there is no doubt in my mind that Jordon's decisions will be thoughtful, guided by the law, and delivered with compassion. Jordon has the skill set and personal attributes that will enable him to excel as a Circuit Court Judge. In each case that I have worked on either alongside or opposite of Jordon, he has, without exception, demonstrated the requisite character, intelligence, legal skills, integrity and temperament that will undoubtedly strengthen our judiciary and legal community.

Very truly yours,



Aaron R. Mun

Emily H. Kawashima
ATTORNEY AT LAW L.L.L.C.

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
TEL 808.744.4688
FAX 888.777.5405
EM emily@kawashimalaw.com

August 15, 2023

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: GM 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF JORDON J.
KIMURA

HEARING: Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

I write to you in strong support of Jordon J. Kimura to serve as a Judge of the Circuit Court in the First Circuit.

I have had a number of cases both adverse and aligned with Jordon in my practice area, which is probate and trust litigation. In all instances, I found Jordon to be knowledgeable, practical and professional. His clients clearly trusted him and he served them well.

Jordon has an exceptionally pleasant temperament which would greatly benefit the Judiciary. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Emily H. Kawashima, Esq.



August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM1 - Jordon J. Kimura, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Circuit Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is my tremendous honor to be able to recommend Jordon J. Kimura to serve as Judge of the First Circuit of the Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. There is no doubt in my mind that Jordon will be one of the finest judges in the State of Hawaii.

Having worked with Jordon at the same law firm for many years, from when he was a young associate to his current position as Co-Managing Partner of our firm, I cannot think of a more suitable member for the Hawaii bench than Jordan. His intelligence and legal knowledge and skills are beyond question, but it is his other attributes that endear him to our clients and firm partners, associates and staff. He is fair, compassionate, and considerate to all. His decisions are always unbelievably prompt and tremendously well considered. While not everyone is always happy with some of the difficult decisions I have seen him have to make, I do not know of anyone who has felt that Jordon failed to carefully reflect on each matter from all angles and perspectives and render a decision that he believed fair and appropriate under the circumstances.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jordon's departure from our firm will be devastating. With equal conviction, there is no doubt in my mind that Jordon will prove to be a tremendously invaluable new asset to the Hawaii judiciary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Keith K. Suzuka
McCarriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, LLP

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Written Testimony in Support of the Nomination and Confirmation
of Jordon J. Kimura as a Circuit Court Judge

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Senate
Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of GM1,
submitting the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura to serve as a Circuit Court
Judge, scheduled for Monday, August 21, 2023.

Jordon J. Kimura will be a welcome addition and candidate for the circuit
court judgeship.

He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in all fields
which would include, but not limited to, estate planning, conveyancing, probate,
foreclosure, guardianship, and you name it, and he will do it. In addition,
Jordon is diligent and hardworking and will contribute greatly to accomplishing
the tasks and actions given him.

I have worked with Jordon for the past 10 years and we have worked
together on estate planning, corporate and real estate matters. Jordon is not only
very intelligent and analytical but he has always approached his work with
integrity and responsibility. He has great administrative skills and is very
organized.

I unconditionally support and recommend the confirmation of Jordon as a
Circuit Court Judge and look forward to your favorable confirmation of Jordon's
nomination.

Very truly yours,



Noelani N. Jinbo



McCARRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Jordon J. Kimura / Measure GM1
Pending Judicial Confirmation for Circuit Court Judge – First Circuit, Oahu

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members:

I recently received notice of the Governor's appointment of Jordon J. Kimura as a Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii. I understand further that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary will be holding its hearing for its recommendation as to the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura as a new Circuit Court Judge – First Circuit, on Monday, August 21, 2023.

I am writing in support of and to urge your affirmative recommendation for confirmation by the State Senate of the appointment of Jordon J. Kimura as a new Circuit Court Judge – First Circuit.

I have known Jordon for quite some time both professionally and personally. During his time with our Firm, he has worked on several litigation related matters for clients that I have represented for many years. I always found his work to be highly professional, timely and always with that extra bit of thoroughness and thought which I find to be particularly valuable in our profession and for the benefit of our Firm's clients.

Jordon has always demonstrated a very high level of competence in his legal work and a desire and commitment to do it the right way at all times which I believe would be of immense value on the Circuit Court bench especially given the nature of the matters that would likely come before him as a judge.

In conclusion, I highly recommend an affirmative vote by the Judiciary Committee in favor of the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura as a new Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit.

I believe that he will at all times be a credit to the judiciary and the Hawaii community.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:

1D7FBA196FC445D...
D. Scott MacKinnon
Partner

BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
JORDON J. KIMURA AS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, STATE OF HAWAI'I
Hearing: August 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony of Joy M. Clemente

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

It is with great honor that I submit this letter in support of Jordon J. Kimura (GM1) for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Jordon for over 12 years, and for the past two years I had the incredible opportunity to work directly with him as his legal assistant. Having worked with many seasoned attorneys and new associates, Jordon without question stood out from the rest. His intelligence, professionalism, hard work and kindness were very evident from the very beginning. Working with Jordon has given me the most growth and satisfaction in all my 20 years of being a legal assistant.

With Jordon's unwavering character, uncompromising integrity, and the ability to make sensible and honest decisions, I know he will be a tremendous asset to the State of Hawai'i's Judicial System. Jordon's talents, compassion for people and strengths are endless, and is an excellent choice for Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my support of Jordon's nomination for Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Joy Clemente

Joy Clemente

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair

and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

[Submitted via online]

Re: Testimony in Support of Mr. Jordon Kimura's Nomination to the First Circuit Court (GM1)

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Jordon Kimura's nomination to the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I am with the law firm of Shim and Chang, concentrating in the representation of individuals injured by the negligence of someone else. I have been in legal practice for almost 50 years, and have been an adjunct professor of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law for over 20 years. I have appeared in almost all of the courts in the State of Hawaii. I am familiar with the qualities which some of the finest judges in our judiciary have, and I can say without any reservations, that Jordon has what it takes.

Jordon is smart, knowledgeable, works hard, is an excellent legal researcher and writer, has an excellent command of the Rules of Evidence, and is a skilled attorney and litigator. And this is coming from someone who has been practicing on the other side. He is fair, honest, pleasant to work with, grasps issues quickly, and is willing to consider the arguments of both sides.

Equally important is Jordon's ability to work with others. He gets along well with other attorneys, staff, associates, and court personnel.

I am confident that you will receive many letters of support from other attorneys, similar to this letter. Knowing that, I thought it would be important for me to share with this committee, some insights which other attorneys may not have or know about.

You see, I've known Jordon since before he became an attorney, when he was classmates with my son at Punahou School, some 25 years ago. I could see back then the kind of person he was and will become. He was the responsible one of the group. He was an excellent student and leader (participating in student government and community service projects). He was always pleasant, thoughtful, and respectful of others. If my son or one of their friends needed help, Jordon would be one of the first there. He and my son remain close, even today.

I was invited to Jordon's wedding, and he officiated the wedding of my son. I'm hoping that Jordon will continue officiating more weddings, but this time as a judge.

I was glad that Jordon chose to be a member of the McCorriston, Miller, Mukai, and MacKinnon law firm. There he truly learned how to be an excellent lawyer. He was mentored by some of the best attorneys in town, and in particular, by Lisa Cataldo, now a judge of the First Circuit Court. I'm hopeful that if Jordon is confirmed by this committee, that Judge Cataldo will once again be his mentor, this time on how to become an excellent judge.

I want to share another story with this committee. I was having lunch with "Bill" McCorriston after, Jordon had just joined their law firm. At one point, Jordon left to go take care of the tab, and Bill turned

to me and said: "Keep an eye on him (Jordon), he's going to be a good one." I couldn't agree more. It wasn't long before Jordon was made a partner, and not long after that, became the Managing and Hiring Partner for the law firm.

Having seen the making of an excellent attorney, I can't wait to see the making of an excellent judge, one who is enthusiastic, sharp, and fair. Jordon will bring much needed experience to the bench, especially given the recent retirement of most of our more senior experienced judges.

Jordon will be an excellent addition to Hawaii's Judiciary. If I were to have a complaint, it would only be that Jordon didn't take my Trial Practice class at the law school! I would have loved to have been his mentor for a semester.

Respectfully Submitted,


Roy K.S. Chang

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/16/2023 12:01:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Lucuab-Fegurgur	Individual	Comments Only	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I have known Jordon Kimura via his wife Jennifer for 15 years. I believe he would be an excellent candidate for circuit court judgeship. His generosity, intelligence, and caring nature are evident to those who know him well. His many scholarly and professional accomplishments are both highly admirable and well deserved.

August 16th, 2023

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Brandon Takeshi Higa PT, DPT, OCS, CEAS. I am writing to you in full support of candidate Jordon Kimora for the position of Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (island of Oahu).

I have personally known Jordon Kimura for approximately 23 years. My experiences with Jordon lead me to believe that he would be an invaluable member to the Government of Hawaii. Jordon has always been a very straight forward, dedicated, and hardworking individual. His background is unquestioned and his conviction to the pursuit of justice is infallible. He will go above and beyond to serve the people of Hawaii. Bottom line, we need more people like Jordon in our justice system.

Thank you for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

Mahalo

Brandon Takeshi Higa



**MCCORRISTON MILLER
MUKAI MACKINNON LLP**

500 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, SUITE 5-400
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
T: 808.529.7300
www.m4law.com

William C. McCorrison, Founding
Partner

**BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**GM1 - RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION
JORDON J. KIMURA TO CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT**

**TESTIMONY OF
WILLIAM C. McCORRISTON
Founding Partner,
McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP**

August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I write in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Jordon J. Kimura for the position of Circuit Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Kimura since 2007 in many capacities, from an associate, to a partner of my law firm, as the successor co-managing partner following my retirement from the partnership, and as a client via his long-standing representation of HMAA.

Mr. Kimura is exceptional. He has a wealth of experience as an attorney at my firm representing a variety of clients, including pro bono clients such as the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center, in mediations, arbitrations, probate matters, contested administrative hearings and civil litigation. He will bring an incredible experience in all matters that will enable him to be an asset to the judiciary and the State of Hawai'i.

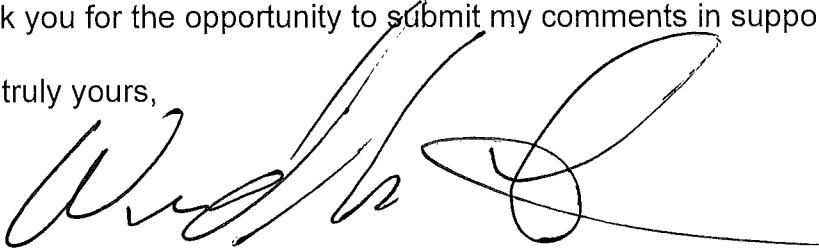
Mr. Kimura makes intelligent, strategic decisions in both his legal and management roles at my law firm. He is cordial, courteous, and respectful of opposing counsel and all witnesses in the many cases that we have co-counseled together, and he is a diplomat when it comes to resolving heated issues among attorneys and staff of my firm. Mr. Kimura's overall demeanor and personality coupled with his superior intellect indicates that he possesses a fair judicial temperament and the intelligence to be an

excellent Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kimura possesses stellar legal skills with a thorough understanding of the role that evidence, court rules and case law play in the judicial process while exhibiting the highest personal integrity with the appropriate moral courage to be a Circuit Court jurist.

My only reservation is that the Judiciary's gain will be my loss both at the firm at and HMAA. Mr. Kimura will serve with honor, dignity, compassion, and fairness to all that come into his courtroom. He will make the Judiciary and the State of Hawai'i proud should you select him as a Circuit Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments in support of Mr. Kimura.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William C. McCorriston'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

William C. McCorriston

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/16/2023 4:16:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Taschner	Individual	Comments Only	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Please accept my written testimony in support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I met Mr. Kimura in 2012 when I joined McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (M4) as an associate. Mr. Kimura was already practicing, and was the gold standard associate that we all looked up to. Over the next nine years, I had the privilege of working with Mr. Kimura on various matters, and I always found him to be hard working, professional, efficient, and highly competent. It has been a pleasure to watch Mr. Kimura elevate to key leadership roles within M4, including joining the partnership in 2016, being named the firm's hiring chair, and now serving as the co-managing partner. I am confident that Mr. Kimura will bring the same leadership qualities to the bench. Mr. Kimura remains the gold standard. In addition to being a skilled and experienced civil litigator, he is a dedicated husband and father to his young daughter. He is hard working, diligent, fair, impartial, ethical, respectful, and reasoned – all qualities that will serve him well as a judge. I therefore wholeheartedly support Jordon K. Kimura to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/17/2023 9:03:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Higa	Individual	Comments Only	Written Testimony Only

Comments: To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary It is my privilege to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura for Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have personally and socially known Jordon for 14 years. My interactions with him allow me confidently vouch for his character. He is direct, impartial, honest, and carries himself with a sense of confidence and integrity. He has excelled in his educational and professional pursuits. He is diligent in his craft, unselfish with his personal time, and routinely extends a hand where aid is needed. Jordon will undoubtedly enhance the quality of the court. I hope my ability to testify on behalf of his character is helpful for your consideration, and that you will confirm his nomination as a Circuit Court Judge. Jordon's confirmation would be an indisputable benefit to the people of Hawai'i. I appreciate this opportunity to write on behalf of Jordon. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Brittney Higa

O'CONNOR PLAYDON GUBEN & INOUE LLP

Jerrold K. Guben
Cid H. Inouye
Kelvin H. Kaneshiro
Jeffre W. Juliano, LL.M.
Dennis E. W. O'Connor Jr.

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW *Since 1876*

Pacific Guardian Center • Mauka Tower • 737 Bishop Street, Suite 2340
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3207

Telephone: (808) 524-8350 • Fax: (808) 531-8628
email: Info@opgilaw.com
www.opgilaw.com

Rachel A. Zelman
Katherine B. Hughes
Harley R. Mewha
Jonas J. Krave

COUNSEL
Dennis J. Hwang
Randolph R. Slaton
Kristi L. Arakaki
Bryson R. Chow

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura, Esq.

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Gabbard and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I firmly support and urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary to confirm Jordon J. Kimura, Esq. as a Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. I have worked with Mr. Kimura for many years and most recently in a jury trial in July, 2023 in the First Circuit Court. Mr. Kimura possesses the requisite education, knowledge, training and experience in litigation to serve as a circuit court judge. He is well-versed in the substantive and procedural law as well as the court rules which I believe is very important for a circuit court judge. I am also impressed with his research and writing skills.

Mr. Kimura further possesses the character and temperament that is necessary to be an effective circuit court judge. He is respectful, courteous and professional in his interactions with counsel, judges and court staff.

I have been practicing law, primarily in litigation, since 1987 and have participated in over 25 civil jury trials to completion in both the state and federal courts. I have had the opportunity to practice before and observe a number of circuit court judges in Honolulu as well as on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii. Based on my experience, Mr. Kimura possesses all of the qualities that I would desire in a circuit court judge.

For these reasons, I heartily endorse the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura, Esq. as the next Judge of the First Circuit Court.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration. Should you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Kelvin H. Kaneshiro

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM1
relating to the nomination of

Jordon J. Kimura
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM1)

Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:


I write to express my strong support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura to fill the judiciary vacancy in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have had the honor and privilege of knowing Jordon for over 11 years, both professionally and personally. I worked very closely with Jordon as his Legal Secretary/Legal Assistant at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. I had the opportunity to directly witness his temperate, thoughtful, and analytical approach to decision making and can attest to his diligence, unfailing ethical integrity, and commitment to the community. I believe he is highly intelligent and is one of the most honest and hardworking people I ever worked with. He is a team player who is always willing to help and do whatever is needed to get the job done.

I have the utmost respect for Jordon's abilities and character and I am confident he possesses the traits you look for in a judge and will be an outstanding addition to the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii. I humbly ask you to confirm the nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Jordon's nomination.

Sincerely,


Ivy Miyasaki

Dear The Honorable Karl Rhoads, The Honorable Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Mr. Kimura will be an excellent addition to the Circuit Court bench. I have known Mr. Kimura since 1997 when I first attended Punahou School. We both ran track together in high school and we still remain in contact with each other as our children often play together on weekends. I am always impressed with his honesty, integrity, work ethic, thoughtfulness, diligence, and ability to remain even-keeled in some highly stressful situations. The State of Hawaii will be a better place with Mr. Kimura as a Circuit Court judge. Thank you for the opportunity to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Marcus Chun

From:
Kyle Yoneshige

August 17, 2023

To:
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **Support** for GM1 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (island of O'ahu), State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee JORDON J. KIMURA, for a term to expire in ten years

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am humbly writing in strong support of Jordon J. Kimura (GM1) who is nominated to serve as a Circuit Court Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (island of O'ahu), State of Hawai'i.

I have known Jordon for approximately nine years in Honolulu. We often crossed paths as we shared mutual estate planning clients during his time at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. Through our interactions, I have observed Jordon's care, compassion, and ability to built trust with people of all ages and from all backgrounds. Most importantly, I see that Jordon is full of integrity and keeps to his principles.

Jordon possesses legal experience from a lengthy career as a true advocate for his clients and will bring a wealth of experience to the bench. His decisions will be well reasoned, compassionate, and from a genuine place of understanding. Jordon has the intellect, demeanor and patience to make an outstanding circuit court judge for the community O'ahu.

I believe you will find Jordon, by education, experience, and character, to be exceptionally qualified to be a judge.

I appreciate this opportunity to write on behalf of Jordon and sincerely thank you for your consideration.

All the best,

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

Kyle Yoneshige

YAMAKI LAW LLC

A Limited Liability Law Company
P.O. Box 7649
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Tel./Fax. No. (808) 935-4394
mmyamakilawlllc@hawaiiantel.net

August 17, 2023

Via Electronic Submission

The State of Hawai'i Senate Judiciary Committee

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Jordon J. Kimura, Esq.
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i
JDC Hearing: Monday, August 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

This is to provide my strong recommendation in support of Jordon J. Kimura as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Kimura for about fifteen years in both private and professional settings. I have worked with him on a number of cases, some involving litigation and some involving business transactions.

Mr. Kimura is qualified to be a judge. He has demonstrated profound integrity consistently throughout our relationship--I have always found him to be honest to all parties, truthful in his representations, and he has always kept his word. He has always performed his work with the highest of diligence by consistently preparing himself for meetings as well as providing high quality briefs to present before a court. He has demonstrated a wide range of legal knowledge and ability by successfully litigating matters on multiple islands, before both the federal and state courts, before the appellate courts, and even before judges on the mainland. He has a profound level of professional experience as demonstrated by his years as a partner with the McCorriston law firm that included recruiting and mentoring new associates. I expect that Mr. Kimura will be an even tempered judge as I have never seen him angry, upset, or even rattled. He is also an extremely financially responsible individual as demonstrated by the years of cases that he has successfully managed and decisions that he has made within his law firm.

If confirmed, I expect that Mr. Kimura will have a long record of public service that benefits the First Circuit and the State of Hawai'i. Given his background, support of his family and friends, his innate intellectual strengths, and his demonstrated endurance, Mr. Kimura has all the tools he needs to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of a State of Hawai'i Circuit Court Judge. Mahalo for your consideration of Mr. Kimura's nomination and your service to the State of Hawai'i. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

With the Warmest of Regards,



Mason M. Yamaki

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/17/2023 2:12:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Matsuurs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: To The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Jordon Kimura for circuit court judgeship. I have known Jordon personally for the last 5 years through my husband. From the brief time I have known him, I have witnessed his strong work ethic, intelligence, fairness, and how respectful he is of others. He is diligent and conducts himself with the highest level of integrity. He is also a loving husband and amazing father. I believe Jordon has all the qualities and more to be a fine judge and respectfully urge this Committee to vote in favor of his nomination. Mahalo, Cara Matsuura

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: Jordon J. Kimura (Measure GM1)
Confirmation for Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit, State of Hawai'i

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I write this letter in support of Jordon J. Kimura (GM1), nominated for the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawai'i.

I have been a part of the staff here at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP for the past 32+ years and I have known Jordon since he started as an associate and now in the trusted position of co-managing partner.

Post pandemic, Jordon has helped guide the firm through challenging and changing times with much care for its employees, and for which I am grateful. He conducts himself in a professional manner and always with respect for others. I know Jordon to be intelligent, trustworthy, fair and amiable, all of which attributes contribute to his thriving practice.

I proudly support Jordon's nomination and believe not only that he is well-qualified to serve, but that he would be a great addition to the judicial system.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Jordon's nomination and confirmation as a judge to the First Circuit Court.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Nichols

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM1 - Jordon J. Kimura, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Circuit Court of the
First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Senate Judiciary Committee:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura for Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have worked with Jordon for many years at the law firm of McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP.

I have great respect for Jordon both professionally and personally. His character is marked with the utmost integrity and fairness. His dedication to the highest work ethics and moral standards will serve the Hawaii judiciary well.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my full support of the nomination of Jordon Kimura for Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.


Vicky Abukoff



FERGUSON CASE
ORR PATERSON LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM1
relating to the nomination of

Jordon J. Kimura
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM1)

Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I submit these comments in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Jordon J. Kimura (GM1) for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Jordon for many years and, most relevant to these comments, have had the privilege of working with him at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (the "McCorriston Firm") from 2012 to 2017. I worked at the McCorriston Firm as a law clerk from 2012 to 2014 and litigation associate from 2014 to 2017. Those who have worked in private practice recognize that it can be an extremely harsh and challenging environment, especially for a young lawyer. The skills and life lessons that Jordon taught me, both directly and by example, are in large part why I am still a practicing lawyer today.

I witnessed firsthand Jordon's integrity, drive, professionalism, and generosity as a lawyer, colleague, and mentor. Not only is he a skilled advocate and writer, but he is incredibly thoughtful and his temperament is always even-keeled. Jordon was a senior associate when I started at the McCorriston Firm but if you had told me he was a partner, I would have believed it given the responsibility he already had to advise clients and run cases.

As you can imagine, shouldering an ever-increasing amount of accountability meant that he was very busy. Yet, he always maintained an open door policy for attorneys and staff to seek guidance—and many (including attorneys that were senior to him) took advantage of this. He

VENTURA OFFICE
1050 SOUTH KIMBALL ROAD
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93004
PHONE: (805) 659-6800 FACSIMILE: (805) 659-6818

WESTLAKE VILLAGE OFFICE
4550 E. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD., SUITE 250
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA 91362
PHONE: (805) 659-6800 FACSIMILE: (805) 379-1744

spent countless hours teaching and mentoring me and others in my associate class about how to effectively research, investigate, and write, respectfully communicate with opposing counsel and judicial officers, and balance the administrative demands of practicing with the actual legal work. This remains true about him today: If you need help, he makes the time.

Finally, those who know Jordon—either professionally or personally—will tell you that he is one of the most conscientious and reliable people you will ever meet. He takes every role he steps into seriously. He also has shown true dedication to the community through his pro bono legal work and past involvement with non-profit organizations, like the Hawaii Nature Center.

I am confident that all of the traits discussed above would serve Jordon well as a Circuit Court Judge. He is extraordinary and will be a great asset to the Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Jordon.

Sincerely,

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

Jessica M. Wan

August 18, 2023

VIA WEBSITE

Committee on Judiciary
Attention: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairperson
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairperson

Re: Support for Nomination and Appointment of Jordon J. Kimura to the
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Chairperson Rhoads, Vice-Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary

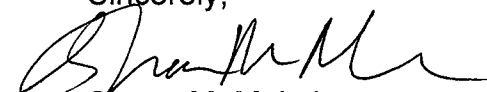
This letter is to express my strong support for the nomination of
Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Kimura for over sixteen years as a trusted
colleague at McCorriston Miller Mukai Mackinnon LLP. I recruited Mr. Kimura
back in 2007 to join McCorriston as a first-year summer clerk and have seen him
develop into an accomplished litigator and estate planning practitioner during his
fourteen years as a practicing attorney. Mr. Kimura also serves as co-managing
partner of McCorriston and has exemplified fine judgment and temperament in
dealing with the staff, attorneys, vendors, and clients of McCorriston.

Notwithstanding his busy work schedule, Mr. Kimura provides pro
bono services to the Sexual Abuse Treatment Center and serves as an officer
and director of the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Most importantly, he
is a proud dad to a young daughter and a good husband.

For the foregoing reasons, I ask that you strongly consider Mr.
Kimura's nomination for appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State
of Hawaii as he exemplifies the best qualities (dedication, integrity, sharp
analytical skills, extensive experience, even temperament, and intelligence) that
we would want in a jurist.

Sincerely,


Shaun M. Mukai

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/17/2023 6:36:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joni AuYoung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I have been a legal secretary for the past 30 years. I first met Mr. Kimura when I was a legal secretary with the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (the “McCorriston Firm”). Mr. Kimura first joined the McCorriston Firm as a summer clerk, where he was known throughout the office for his professionalism and hard work. As expected, Mr. Kimura was brought on as an associate and then becoming a partner, where his clients were able to witness those same admirable attributes. It is my honor to submit this testimony in strong support of Mr. Kimura’s nomination for the position of Circuit Court Judge (GM1) for the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i. Mr. Kimura has always demonstrated a strong work ethic, high moral standings and his fairness to all. Mr. Kimura never goes into a situation with his mind already made up. He listens to all sides and obtains all the necessary information needed to make an informed decision. This is why I believe Mr. Kimura will be an outstanding Circuit Court Judge and an asset to the judiciary. Thank you for this opportunity to support Mr. Kimura’s nomination.



August 18, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for nomination and appointment of Mr. Jordon Kimura

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Jordon Kimura to a circuit court judgeship.

I have known Mr. Kimura for over 25 years as classmates at Punahou School and now as colleagues in the legal and business community. And I can say with strong conviction that Mr. Kimura is amongst the hardest working and most competent attorneys I have met. He has exemplary academic credentials and deep practice experience as co-managing partner at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon.

One of Mr. Kimura's greatest talents is his ability to communicate and breakdown complex legal matters for everyday people. To me, that's the hallmark of a great attorney and a great judge. Hawaii needs talented judges like Jordon who grew up on the Islands, can communicate in a manner we all understand and loves the law.

The opportunity to have such a qualified judge for many years is one I enthusiastically support. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Chang".

Nicholas Chang BS, MS, JD
MedTruly Inc., CEO



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

August 18, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Testimony in Support of **Jordon J. Kimura, Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit**
Relating to the nomination of GM1 (Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.)

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

It is my privilege to write in strong support of **Jordon J. Kimura** for the position of Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Kimura, serving as the Hiring Chair and a Partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (“M4”), hired me to join the firm as a litigation associate in 2017. From the moment that I first met him, he exemplified the highest levels of professionalism and excellence. During my time at M4 from 2017 to 2020, I worked closely with Mr. Kimura on various complex litigation matters, including some pro bono matters. He is an exemplary attorney, role model, and mentor who demonstrates an unmatched work ethic, diligence, integrity, candor, empathy, compassion, patience, and leadership. Mr. Kimura’s even-handed and balanced legal analysis could always be trusted by colleagues and clients. One of the things that I truly admire about Mr. Kimura is his ability to generate calm and confidence for stressed and frustrated clients facing litigation and uncertainty. He always does the right thing in a fair and pono manner. He treats all with dignity and respect. He is humble and quick to share credit with his colleagues, uplifting and highlighting the work of associates, staff, and interns. He is intelligent and skilled in legal writing and analysis, oral advocacy, and client counseling, and he is a lifelong learner. He is also a family man with values steeped in our local community. I also consider Mr. Kimura to be a caring and supportive friend.

From 2020 to 2022, I continued to work closely on probate, estate, and trust matters with Mr. Kimura in my capacity as the Executive Director and Managing Attorney at Maximum Legal Services Corporation (“MaxCorp”), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that specializes in providing comprehensive legal, fiduciary, social and administrative services for trusts, estates, guardianships, and conservatorships for people of all ages across the state of Hawai‘i. Due to his high standards of excellence and his fair, compassionate, and respectful approaches, I both confidently referred potential clients to Mr. Kimura and retained him to provide legal services with his impressive expertise in this area of the law. Working in these capacities with Mr. Kimura was no different than when I was his colleague at M4—extraordinary and excellent.

Mr. Kimura is the type of attorney that I and others aspire to be. He will be the type of judge that attorneys, litigants, law students, and colleagues will look up to. Moreover, he is the type of person that will have the undaunted courage to lead from the bench.

For all the above reasons and more, I strongly believe that Mr. Kimura will be an outstanding judge and a tremendous asset to the judiciary. He will uphold the rule of law and serve the public in an impartial manner. Importantly, he will clearly and thoughtfully communicate his decisions with sound legal reasoning. He is exceptionally talented with the necessary judicial temperament. At this critical time in our history, with myriad complex issues facing our state and community, Mr. Kimura is exactly the kind of judge that we need on the state bench.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in strong support of Mr. Kimura. I respectfully urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,



Miyoko T. Pettit-Toledo

Assistant Professor of Law

William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i

August 17th, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Jordon J. Kimura for the First Circuit Court

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Jordon J. Kimura's nomination for Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (O'ahu). I have known Mr. Kimura for 30 years and he is also married to a dear friend.

Over the decades, I have witnessed Mr. Kimura's consistent commitment and reliability in both personal and professional capacities. Whether serving as a law firm partner, varsity team captain, or even in roles as personal as a husband and father or lighthearted as an elementary school drama class, his dedication and precision are evident and consistent. His composed demeanor, leadership, and precise decision making have made him indispensable both as a professional and a trusted friend.

I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Kimura's nomination for Circuit Court Judge. His extensive experience, combined with his inherent qualities of determination and fairness, makes him an excellent fit for our judicial system. I trust the Senate Judiciary Committee will recognize his potential to serve with integrity and distinction and confirm his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcus K Ono, FSA, CERA, MAAA
21 Laimi Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822
August 17th, 2023

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/18/2023 12:41:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse J. T. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Jordon Kimura and I came up together as associates at the McCorriston law firm over a decade ago. Although Jordon was only one-year ahead of me in terms of tenure, he was light years ahead in terms of experience and skill. Jordon's legal acumen has always been off the charts but what impressed me (and I'm sure most of the people who have worked closely with him) is his unbelievable work ethic. Yet, Jordon still found the time to mentor me first as a junior associate and then as a new partner. He is someone that I look up to as the paragon of a good lawyer and an even better person. Jordon Kimura will make a great circuit court judge. I wholly support his nomination/ confirmation.

BENNETT J. CHIN
BCHIN@GRSM.COM
(808) 441-1850

GORDON & REES
SCULLY MANSUKHANI
YOUR 50 STATE PARTNER®

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
707 RICHARDS STREET, SUITE 625
HONOLULU, HI 96813
WWW.GRSM.COM

August 18, 2023

VIA CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i
Gubernatorial Nominee JORDON J. KIMURA
Letter of Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

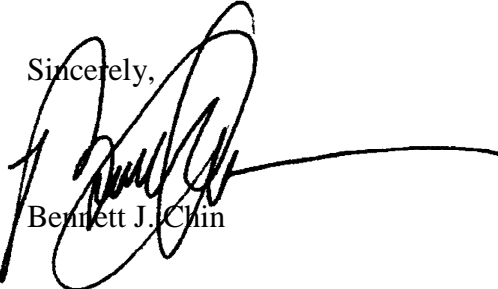
It is my absolute pleasure to recommend the appointment of nominee Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. It has been my privilege and honor to have come to know Mr. Kimura as a law partner when we both worked together at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon.

Throughout my interactions with Mr. Kimura, I have consistently been impressed by his commitment to upholding the principles of fairness, integrity, and the rule of law. His deep understanding of legal matters, combined with a sharp analytical mind, has allowed him to navigate complex cases with finesse and precision. One of Mr. Kimura's standout attributes is his ability to maintain a balanced perspective while considering various facets of a case. He has an innate talent for empathizing with all parties involved, ensuring that justice is administered with compassion and equanimity. His demonstrated track record of resolving disputes and making sound judgments speaks volumes about his suitability for the role of judge.

I am also proud to call Jordon a friend and I am confident that he possesses the requisite qualities and expertise to excel as a judge. His unwavering dedication, exceptional legal aptitude, and strong moral compass makes him a formidable candidate for this important position. I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Kimura and believe that his appointment as judge would be a significant asset to our legal system.

I highly recommend the Committee approve his nomination as I believe that he will make an exceptional judge.

Sincerely,



Bennett J. Chin

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/18/2023 12:30:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Tokioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I write in **STRONG** support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura as a Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and respectfully request that the Senate vote to confirm Jordon’s nomination. I first met Jordon when he was my camp counselor many years ago when I was in middle school and he was in high school, during which time I remember his natural ability to lead and genuine interest in the community and in mentoring. We later connected again when I became an associate at the McCorrison Law Firm where Jordon is currently a partner, and Jordon eventually became my supervising attorney. During this time, I (unsurprisingly) observed that Jordon still possessed all of the strengths and skills that make him the perfect candidate for this position as First Circuit Judge. In addition to Jordon’s unparalleled ethical standard and commitment to the community—including his commitment to pro bono notwithstanding an incredible case load and dedication to his family—Jordon has displayed an ability to lead graciously and work collaboratively, a strong and unwavering work ethic, and natural ability to quickly grasp complex legal and factual issues and resolve the same in an efficient manner while maintaining individualized attention to all of his cases despite a back-breaking caseload. Jordon also exudes an assuring, humble confidence and an unbiased disposition that would make anybody in the courtroom feel that they were heard, respected, and above all else received a fair ruling that was thoroughly considered. I am so grateful that I was given an opportunity to work with Jordon and learn from him. Notwithstanding all of Jordon’s responsibilities in both his professional and personal life, I always felt that I could count on Jordon. I cannot emphasize enough how much this community and our justice system needs someone like Jordon! If you should have any further questions, please let me know. And again, I **STRONGLY** support Jordon’s nomination!

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/18/2023 2:56:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Y. Tellio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I submit this statement in strong support of Jordon Kimura's confirmation as a Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Jordon for the past 17 years since we attended the William S. Richardson School of Law together as members of the Class of 2009. I have followed his career from a diligent law student to a hard-working associate and later to the co-managing partner of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. I have always known Jordon to be a highly competent attorney who exercises good judgment to reach practical solutions. He is well-respected in the legal community, especially among the Probate Bar and I am confident that he will work hard to fulfill all of the duties associated with the judicial office. Jordon has the intellect, legal skills as well as the right temperament to make him an excellent judge who will instill confidence in our Judiciary. It is with great pleasure that I submit this statement in support of Jordon Kimura's confirmation as a Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. Accordingly, I strongly urge the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to confirm this well-deserved nomination. Very Respectfully, Lisa Y. Tellio



TAMASHIRO SOGI & BONNER
A LAW CORPORATION

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

August 18, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in Support of **GMI**, Relating to the Nomination of Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I write to express my strong support of nominee Jordon J. Kimura for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am a licensed attorney in the State of Hawaii and a shareholder at the law firm Tamashiro Sogi & Bonner, ALC. I have known Mr. Kimura for over sixteen years, from the time that we were law students at the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law. In law school, Mr. Kimura was a stellar student who excelled academically and who was held in high regard by our fellow classmates. After our graduation from law school, it has been my privilege to work with Mr. Kimura as co-counsel, observe him in the courtroom in both adversarial and non-adversarial settings, and consult with him on numerous cases. Mr. Kimura is a diligent, proficient, and ethical attorney, who is thoughtful and responsible with his words and actions. He has an outstanding grasp of the law and a remarkable breadth of legal experience. I can personally attest to Mr. Kimura's exceptional ability to untangle complex legal and factual matters, as well as his unwavering professionalism as an attorney.

It is my firm belief that Mr. Kimura has the intellect, work-ethic, integrity, and temperament to be an outstanding Circuit Court Judge. I recommend him without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Tyson Tamashiro

Tyson T. Tamashiro
Attorney at Law

JOHN Y. YAMANO

88 Piikoi St., Apt. 805

Honolulu, HI 96814

jyy.yamano@gmail.com

(808) 721-4791

August 19, 2023

Re: GMI: Judicial Nomination of Jordon J. Kimura

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Dear Hon. Rhoads, Hon. Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

It is my honor to submit this letter of highest recommendation in support of the nomination of **Jordon J. Kimura** for **Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i**.

I have been a member of the Hawai'i Bar since 1985. I was a partner at the law firm of McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (the "M4 Law Firm") for almost twenty years before moving to the position of Counsel with the firm. My primary area of practice is litigation and I have appeared hundreds of times before our Hawai'i Circuit Court Judges. In addition, I have served on several HSBA committees and continuing education panels with Hawai'i judges and I continue to serve on the Hawai'i Civil Jury Instructions Committee. These experiences give me significant insight as to what makes a "good" judge.

I can attest that Mr. Kimura has all the necessary qualities to be an **outstanding** judge. I have known Mr. Kimura since the summer of 2007 when he worked as a first-year summer associate at the M4 Law Firm. It was immediately apparent to the firm that Mr. Kimura was especially gifted and had the potential to become a great attorney and a leader of the firm. His outstanding academic achievements throughout his remaining years in law school validated our lofty expectations. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2009 and joined the M4 Law Firm where he has excelled as an attorney.

Mr. Kimura has developed the highest reputation in the Hawai'i legal community as to legal acumen, leadership skills, and citizenship. More importantly, he has a remarkably even temperament, is extremely honest and trustworthy, and has impeccable character, integrity and citizenship. This is significant because our judges must use their intellect and their good conscience to shape our society according to the laws of our State.

I firmly believe that Mr. Kimura is as qualified as each and every one of those outstanding judges and that he will serve our state with great honor and excellence.

I am proud to know Mr. Kimura, and I am genuinely thankful for his past contributions to our law firm and more importantly, to our legal community. I strongly support his nomination to be our next Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I firmly believe that he will be an outstanding member of our judiciary and that he will serve our state with great honor and excellence.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,



John Y. Yamano

SHARON H. NISHI
88 Piikoi Street, Apt. 805
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
shn.nishi@gmail.com
(808) 721-4792

August 19, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **GM1** - Judicial Nomination of **Jordon J. Kimura**

Dear Hon. Rhoads, Hon. Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to voice my **wholehearted support of the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura** for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I was admitted to the Hawaii Bar in 1987, and was a partner at the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP ("M4") before moving to the position of Counsel to M4 in 2009.

I have known Mr. Kimura since 2007, when he was a summer associate at M4. Over the past 16 years, he has exhibited excellence at each level, first as a summer associate, then as an associate, and since 2015, as a partner at M4. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who have worked with him, both for his superior intellect and for his thoughtful and well-reasoned handling of both litigation and transactional matters. He is respectful and has always represented his clients, himself and the legal profession with integrity.

Mr. Kimura has earned a reputation as being a "super" attorney. He is an excellent writer, a thoughtful listener and an easy communicator. He has extensive experience and success as both a litigator and as a transactional attorney. Moreover, he is reasonable, fair, efficient, humble and dedicated to his profession and the legal community. I am certain that Mr. Kimura's superior intellect and significant experience in both the litigation and transactional areas of law, coupled with his admirable demeanor and disposition, would make him an outstanding Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,



Sharon H. Nishi

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/19/2023 1:03:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Wan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I have known Jordon J. Kimura (GM1) personally for over twelve years now and submit the following comments in support of his nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. In the time I have known Jordon, I have witnessed him as an incredibly hardworking, intelligent, and thoughtful individual. I am confident he would make an excellent Circuit Court Judge and give all his cases careful thought in the fair application of the law.

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/19/2023 8:35:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaynee Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, I write to you in strong support of the nomination of Jordon Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I met Jordon in high school and have known him for over 20 years. He has always shown an intelligence and maturity beyond his years. His work ethic and dedication to his career as well as to his family is commendable. His levelheadedness and compassionate nature will make him an invaluable asset to the Judiciary. Sincerely, Jaynee Kim



August 18, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

via website upload

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR JORDON J. KIMURA
GM1 – Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Senators:

It is with great honor and privilege that I submit my unqualified SUPPORT of the confirmation of Mr. Jordon Kimura to the position of judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I defer to the expertise of others who will testify to Mr. Kimura's knowledge and application of law. I will speak to my interactions with Mr. Kimura which I believe demonstrate his character traits which will serve him well as a judge.

I met Mr. Kimura almost a year ago, but in the short period since then, I have learned the type of leader Mr. Kimura is. I stepped into a position with very little history to fall back on. Any success I have achieved is due to Mr. Kimura's patience and his ability to provide historical data and resources and his willingness to explain the impact of the work I am asked to perform.

Mr. Kimura is compassionate; he recently restored the self-confidence of demoralized and defeated associates. He quite literally sat down with them, calmed their fears and put to rest their anxiety so he could help them see another way to approach assignments, led them as they researched their cases and assisted them with edits to their drafts.

Mr. Kimura is collaborative. He will not ask more of his colleagues than he will of himself. We once worked remotely through the night to complete a report to the partnership and with the associates above, he worked with them over a weekend so they would meet their deadlines. He is a hard worker who can be completely self-sufficient in his practice but is a team player when needed.

Mr. Kimura is decisive. His decision making comes from a place of what is right for all, not what is right for him as an individual or what would be easy. It comes from his code of ethics and a history of knowing our Firm. He leads with integrity and without fail, can provide applicable sections of the Firm's policies or Partnership Agreement to support his assertions.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

August 19, 2023

Page 2

Mr. Kimura is detail oriented, thorough, fair, and honest. But above all, the traits which will serve him best if he is allowed to be a judge will be his innate kindness and his commitment.

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Mr. Jordon Kimura's confirmation of his nomination by Governor Green.

Very truly yours,



Kerri-Ayn Masumoto
Managing Director & Controller

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/19/2023 8:40:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael David San Jose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Senate Committee on Judiciary Members. I humbly submit this letter of support for Jordon Kimura for the Court of the First Circuit. I believe Jordon Kimura will be an excellent addition to Court. I met Jordon in 2010 as my wife is close friends with his wife. Over the years, Jordon has shown great poise and dedication to his work, family, and friends. I believe he is a knowledgeable, hardworking, and honest person and will create a court that is both fair and just. Hawai'i's judiciary and people will significantly benefit from his service as a circuit court judge, and I support his confirmation. Sincerely Michael San Jose, Ph.D.

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/19/2023 10:24:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenn N Kojima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I recommend without reservation the Gubernatorial Nomination of Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai‘i. I am a trust and estate litigator and have come to know, during the past five years, Mr. Kimura as opposing counsel. He is able to quickly assess a complicated case, determine what needs to be done to move it forward, and communicate in a clear and understandable manner. He has always impressed me with his knowledge of the law, diligence, thoroughness, reasonableness, and professional manner. He will be a great addition to our Judiciary.

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/20/2023 1:06:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Jordon Kimura for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Jordon for nearly three decades, having attended the same school together, and am proud to consider him a close friend. After working with numerous partners at many of the law firms in New York City in my capacity as an investment banker at Citigroup and subsequently as a Director in Corporate Development at Neuberger Berman, I can confidently say that Jordon is one of the most intelligent, hard-working, and thoughtful individuals I have the pleasure of knowing. Perhaps more importantly, he has consistently conducted himself with the highest moral standards in the decades I have known him. Jordon's integrity, combined with his humility, dedication, and compassion for others, lead me to believe beyond a doubt that he would be an invaluable addition to the court and would carry out his duties in an honorable manner befitting the position. Sincerely, Philip Ho

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/20/2023 8:42:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I have known Jordon for five years now and have found him to be a commendable father, attorney, and citizen. I believe his keen mind, professionalism, and sense of integrity will be a great asset to the circuit court bench. He has demonstrated both a deep sense of compassion and a steely patience in the time that I have known him. I believe him to be great nominee for the position and fully support him.

August 20, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Letter in Support of Gubernatorial Nominee Jordon J. Kimura
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i (GM1)**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I humbly submit this letter in **strong support** of the confirmation of Jordon J. Kimura (“***Mr. Kimura***”) as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

I have worked with Mr. Kimura at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP (“***M4***”) for the past two (2) years. In the short time that I have known him, I am fortunate to have been a recipient of Mr. Kimura's mentorship, wisdom, and compassion. In addition to his calm demeanor and dedication, I believe such values will make him an invaluable member to the bench.

Mr. Kimura's skill set, experience, and breadth of knowledge are expansive—his teachings have been impactful. He asks thought-provoking questions and promotes solution-focused conversations. As a Co-Managing Partner of M4, Mr. Kimura continues to value fairness, integrity, and professionalism. But he has also chosen to lead the firm with humility and empathy. He is always asking, “How can I help?” or “What kind of guidance can I provide?” Such qualities have certainly contributed to much productivity and success at M4 and is just a glimpse as to the kind of commitment the community can expect from him.

Mr. Kimura has shown himself to be an excellent leader at M4 and I know that he will do the same in a judicial capacity. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly A.S.Y. Kwan', written in a cursive style.

Kelly A.S.Y. Kwan

LATE

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/20/2023 9:01:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa Lei Chong	Individual	Comments Only	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I respectfully recommend Senate confirmation of Jordan Kimura, GM1, for Judge. I have known Jordan since 2002. Throughout his high school, college, Law school and career as a lawyer he has always been a hard working. Jordan is diligent, intelligent, and honest. He is a wonderful husband and father. I frequently babysat his daughter as he and his wife put in long, extended hours for work. His work ethic and good legal preparation as well as his ability to listen to his clients to make his best recommendation for them. I strongly urge you to confirm him as a Judge. Sincerely, Elisa Chong

LATE

August 20, 2023

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support For Nomination and Appointment of Jordon J. Kimura
To The Circuit Court of The First Circuit

I submit this letter in support of the nomination and appointment of Jordon J. Kimura to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Mr. Kimura is the consummate professional deserving of this appointment. In his law practice, which includes litigation and wealth management counsel and advocacy for trust and estate clients, Mr. Kimura easily and effectively communicates with a diverse population of clients, co-counsel, opposing counsel, insurance companies, adversaries, experts, and judges. He has earned the respect of these colleagues.

In my experience, Mr. Kimura is of outstanding personal and professional character. He works tirelessly and navigates difficult and complex situations with intelligence, reason and integrity. He is diplomatic while decisive, and he maintains composure under pressure. I have never known Mr. Kimura to disparage or disrespect. He is empathetic and fair, but within the boundaries of applicable laws.

I would be honored to appear before Judge Kimura. He is smart, and not afraid to think outside the box. I have no doubt he will bring honesty, integrity and respect to the Bench and I look forward to his continued professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,
Malia E. Schreck, Attorney

August 18, 2023

LATE

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,
Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair,
Senate Committee on Judiciary, and

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION OF JORDON J. KIMURA TO
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

HEARING: Monday, August 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
GM1

I write in support of Jordon J. Kimura's appointment as judge to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii.

Jordon currently serves as an officer on the board of the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault ("HCASA") where I have had the privilege of working with him for nearly the past ten years as a fellow Board member. Because of his law background, the Board often looks to him for his perspective on issues that arise at meetings and Jordon has demonstrated an ease in responding with sound guidance. We have come to appreciate Jordon's quick on-the-spot analysis of issues and the options he suggests. I believe this to be an invaluable trait in a judge.

Above all else, if confirmed, the bench would gain an experienced litigator who understands the nuanced considerations of readying a case for trial, conducting a trial, and settling a case without referral to an expensive mediator. Jordon has the type of experience that courtroom attorneys value and respect in a judge. Both bench and bar would benefit from his appointment.

Very truly yours,


GAIL M. KANG



KOBAYASHI SUGITA & GODA, LLP
Attorneys at Law

Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.*
Alan M. Goda*

John R. Aube*
Charles W. Gall*
Neal T. Gota
Charles D. Hunter
Robert K. Ichikawa*
Christopher T. Kobayashi*
Jonathan A. Kobayashi
Jan M. L. Y. Kutsunai*
David M. Louie*
Nicholas R. Monlux
Jonathan S. Moore
Aaron R. Mun
Bruce A. Nakamura*

Kenneth M. Nakasone*
Harry Y. Oda
Gregory M. Sato*
Jesse W. Schiel*
Craig K. Shikuma*
Lex R. Smith*
Joseph A. Stewart*
Brian D. Tongg
David B. Tongg*
Caycie K. G. Wong

*A Law Corporation

Of Counsel:
Kenneth Y. Sugita*
Wendell H. Fujii*
Clifford K. Higa*
Burt T. Lau*
John F. Lezak*
Larry L. Myers*
David Y. Suzuki*

Sianha M. Gualano
Austin H. Jim On
Stephen G. K. Kaneshiro
Travis Y. Kuwahara
Ryan D. Louie
Zachary K. Shikada
Timothy T. Silvester

August 20, 2023



Via On-Line Submission

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: GM1—Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Judicial Court Nomination of Jordon J. Kimura
Letter of Support

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my great pleasure to recommend the Committee approve Mr. Kimura’s nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Jordon for approximately seventeen years. He was my classmate in law school, and following law school, we have had cases with and against each other throughout the years. As a civil litigator, I believe Jordon will make an excellent judge because he is intelligent, kind, patient, and a very hard worker-qualities we should desire in any judicial nominee.

Jordon graduated near the top of our law school class. He and I served together on the University of Hawai‘i Law Review, which is the school's flagship legal journal. During our time together in law school, serving together on law review, and throughout my years of practice, I have had the opportunity to witness the academic and legal acumen side of Jordon-namely his ability to quickly grasp and resolve complex legal issues-as well as his commitment to our community, which is reflected in his service to the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center and the Hawaii Coalition Against Sex Assault, among other organizations. In addition, though he has been my adversary in a number of civil cases, Jordon has always been a gentleman in every sense of the word. He has always been respectful and reasonable, including during very contentious and heated disputes between parties. Further, Jordon is responsive and follows through on his commitments. In short, Jordon exemplifies what it means to be an "officer of the court" and a "zealous advocate" without compromising any ethical standards governing lawyers and the practice of law.

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

August 20, 2023
Page 2

As a judge in the First Circuit, I have no doubt that Jordon will serve our judiciary, legal community, and most importantly the State of Hawaii and its people (both visitors and residents alike) with integrity and impartiality, and that he will ensure that all who come before the court are treated equally under the law.

Thank you for your hard work serving the people of our State, and the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Kimura's nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas R. Monlux', written in a cursive style.

NICHOLAS R. MONLUX

LATE

GM-1

Submitted on: 8/20/2023 2:55:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 8/21/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regan Iwao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am submitting this letter in support of Jordon J. Kimura to be selected as a Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit, Island of Oahu. I am a partner at Schlack Ito and have been a civil litigator for 23 years (previously with Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel). Although I first became acquainted with Mr. Kimura many years ago, I observed his skills as an attorney starting in 2020 when he represented an opposing party in a contentious lawsuit. In this lawsuit (which is still ongoing), there have been numerous written submissions (motions, briefs, etc.), depositions, trial preparation materials, presentations of evidence, settlement discussions, and court conferences and hearings. As such, based on my firsthand experiences, I feel that I am particularly well-qualified to speak about Mr. Kimura's legal abilities and character. Mr. Kimura's written and oral advocacy skills are superb - skills that are absolutely necessary for any Circuit Court Judge. He is knowledgeable and zealous in his representation of his client, and is able to make effective legal arguments without hyperbole, exaggeration, or making inflammatory comments. He is also able to deal with adversarial and difficult witnesses and parties regardless of the circumstances while maintaining his professionalism and temperament. He also has good litigation instincts, which is something that cannot necessarily be learned. From what I have observed, I believe that Mr. Kimura will be an excellent Circuit Court Judge. He is honest, humble, professional, courteous, fair, reliable, and even-keeled - all characteristics that will serve him well as a judge. He is also intelligent, knowledgeable, thoughtful, and hard-working. Circuit Court Judges need to have these qualities to examine the legal issues presented and to make the correct decisions to ensure that justice is served. I have no reservations about Mr. Kimura's abilities and character for the position. Respectfully, the judiciary needs more judges from the younger generations, and the time for Mr. Kimura's services in the judiciary should be now. Accordingly, I wholly support Mr. Kimura to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge and sincerely appreciate your consideration of my comments herein. Thank you.

LATE

THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, VICE-CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR AND PLEASURE TO HAVE KNOWN JORDON SINCE 2014.
HE REPRESENTED OUR KAIMALU HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN A VERY
CHALLENGING LAWSUIT.

HIS EXPERTISE, INTEGRITY AND PASSION WAS ILLUSTRATED IN MANY WAYS
DURING THE TWO PLUS YEARS OF LITIGATION.

I FEEL EXTREMELY CONFIDENT HE WOULD MAKE AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF
THE JUDICIARY,

SINCERELY,
LLOYD ETTINGER
PRESIDENT
WAILEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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

Jordon J. Kimura
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM1)

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

FROM: Rhonda L. Griswold
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, August 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Jordon J. Kimura 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; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

OFFICERS

Rhonda L. Griswold, President
Jesse K. Souki, President-Elect
Mark M. Murakami, Vice-President
Lanson K. Kupau, Secretary
Alika L. Piper, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Jocelyn W.C. Chong
Steven J.T. Chow
Vladimir Devens
Jessica R. Domingo
Geraldine N. Hasegawa (East Hawaii)
Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao
Ronette M. Kawakami
Carol S. Kitaoka (West Hawaii)
Erin M. Kobayashi
Jacob K. Lowenthal (Maui)
Emiko Meyers (Kauai)
Mark K. Murakami
Paul W. Naso
Zale T. Okazaki
Mark G. Valencia

YLD PRESIDENT

Lisa Yang

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Shannon S. Sheldon

HSBA/ABA DELEGATE

Leslie A. Hayashi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia A. Mau-Shimizu

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

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Kimura on August 17, 2023, to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On August 18th, Mr. Kimura was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Kimura 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 Mr. Kimura in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- 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 the totality of the documentation received, member and reference comments, and the interview of the individual appointed.

Nominee Jordon Kimura has been in the private practice of law with a major law firm since 2009. He began as an associate and is currently Co-Managing Partner and specializes in litigation and estate planning. Over the years he has had a diverse practice focusing on litigating complex civil, constitutional, probate, trust, health care, ERISA, construction, and medical malpractice matters. As a probate and estate attorney, Mr. Kimura advises clients on the preservation of their legacy. He also advises clients on administrative, regulatory, and legislative matters.

The Nominee is known for his diligent knowledge of the law, especially the Rules of Evidence. Commentors note that he will be attentive to listening to arguments and will ask the hard questions, but always in a respectful manner. It is noted the Mr. Kimura is very professional and has at all times practiced with civility.

For over 10 years, Mr. Kimura has been pro bono counsel for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of the Kapiolani Medical Center, devoting over 10-20 hours each month. As a volunteer, Mr. Kimura has represented the agency in criminal and family courts on issues relating to sexual assault evidence collection kits and other forensic evidence collected during victim examinations. He has trained physicians and clinicians on evidentiary issues, depositions, and presentation of testimony for trials.

If confirmed, colleagues have noted that the bench would gain an experienced litigator who understands the nuanced considerations of preparing a case for trial, conducting a trial, and settling a case. The Nominee has the practice experience that courtroom attorneys value and respect in a 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 Jordon J. Kimura 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.