

JC-1

Submitted on: 8/14/2023 9:46:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celeste M. Gonsalves	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments: Erika E. Ireland would be a GREAT District Court Judge. My Oral Testimony will provide more information.

DARRELL LIM AND COMPANY, INC.

A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants

August 18, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

This is written support of the appointment of Erika E. Ireland to fill a position in the District Court of the First Circuit.

As a certified public accounting entity, we have known Mrs. Ireland for 13 years and had the privilege of working directly with her on several conservatorship, estate, and trust cases that required in part the performance of accounting and tax compliance work.


We were able to witness her passion for the rights of her clients and a sincerity for their well-being. During the progress of our work, she displayed professional competence, a willingness to make inquiries on technical subject matters, analyze information to reach logical conclusions, and a meticulous attention to detail.

She possesses a temperament that allows for the effective communication of her thoughts and positions with clients, consultants, other attorneys, and representatives from various taxing authorities. Mrs. Ireland will bring to the judiciary an outstanding level of dedication, integrity, and an unbiased respect for the rights of all parties. She has a nature that will promote public confidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Erika E Ireland, as we firmly believe that she is an excellent candidate to fill the position in the District Court of the First Circuit.

Very truly yours,

DARRELL LIM AND COMPANY, INC.
A Corporation of Certified Public Accountants



Darrell Lim

August 12, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF
ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

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

This testimony is in strong support of Erika E. Ireland's appointment to the position of Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Ireland has the heart, intelligence, and work ethic to make a wonderful judge.

I have known Ms. Ireland for two decades. We served at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, initially as trial prosecutors and later as community prosecutors. We worked together daily for about four years and became friends. Although our careers took different paths, we have stayed in touch and enjoy catching up at professional events (i.e., Hawaii State Bar Association, William S. Richardson School of Law, The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Hawaii Women Lawyers, etc.).

Ms. Ireland brings over twenty years' experience as a per diem judge and lawyer in civil and criminal law, in private and public practice, including: jury trials, bench trials, motions and pretrial litigation/discovery, community-based strategies, and alternative dispute resolution. Ms. Ireland's broad legal experience, along with her background as a small business owner, gives her the flexibility and qualifications to preside over all District Court calendars.

Ms. Ireland is highly regarded in the legal community. She is also a people person who works well with others. As a community prosecutor, she collaborated with the Kamehameha Schools and the Department of Education to create and teach a youth violence prevention program called PAVE (Prosecutors and Advocates for Violence Education). As a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, she coordinated with federal and local law enforcement, helped solve chronic crime problems, and trained police. As a mediator, she received an outstanding leadership award from The Mediation Center of the Pacific.

I highly recommend confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cecelia C.Y. Chang
HSBA 3929

JC-1

Submitted on: 8/13/2023 7:20:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert A. Marks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Chair and members - it is a privilege to submit testimony in strong support of Erika Ireland's nomination to the District Court bench. I have co-mediated a number of disputes with Ms. Ireland and have been impressed with her mastery of the issues, her ability to establish rapport with disputants, and to present cogent and realistic solutions to problems. She has the right stuff. Please vote to confirm her nomination. Robert Marks Hawai'i Attorney General 1992-95

August 13, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA
E. IRELAND

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

Dear Senators,

I strongly urge confirmation of Erika Ireland as a judge to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Erika and I have worked together as volunteer Family Court matters co-mediators for the Mediation Center of the Pacific on numerous occasions over several years. Erika has always been knowledgeable, prepared, sensitive, balanced, and respectful of our assigned participants. She collaborates and shares mediation duties with me seamlessly and unselfishly. At the same time, she is learned, decisive, takes initiative, and manages processes, participants, and their attorneys with an eye toward using the little time we are assigned to get participants to a better place after mediation than they were in when they arrived.

Aloha,
Thomas J Mitrano
State Bar Member No.: 7136
(808) 735-6055

August 13, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

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

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Erika E. Ireland as District Court Judge. I have known Erika professionally for more than ten years in her capacity as an attorney, a per diem judge for the District Court of the First Circuit, and as a volunteer mediator for The Mediation Center of the Pacific. During that time, I have found that irrespective of what capacity she is working in (lawyer, judge, or mediator), Erika is an intelligent, caring, dedicated person who gives selflessly of herself and is committed to providing the highest level of services to all. I have seen firsthand Erika work with families in conflict, vulnerable elders, landlords and tenants, and emotional divorcing couples. She treats all respectfully, and patiently assists them to work through their issues.

In my experience, Erika has the temperament, intelligence, and commitment to make an excellent District Court Judge. I urge you to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,



Tracey S. Wiltgen

Rex Y. Fujichaku
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

August 14, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E.
IRELAND

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

Dear Senators,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to confirm Erika E. Ireland, Esq. as a district court judge of the first circuit. I have had the pleasure of being her friend and colleague for more than three decades, first as law school classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, then as fellow attorneys at the Bronster Hoshibata law firm, and lastly as a trusted professional resource in probate and fiduciary matters. Based on my personal experience of working side by side with her, I can say without any reservation that Erika will be an outstanding jurist who will serve the people of Hawai'i with distinction in that capacity.

Let me tell you why Erika has what it takes to be a great judge. I know you are familiar with her impressive paper credentials—per diem district court judge, ex-prosecutor, and years of litigation experience in law firms and her own law practice. What shines through to those who have worked with her is her impressive work ethic, her constant attention to detail, her formidable legal skills, and her ability to listen to all sides of an argument and reach the right result. She is demanding of herself, because she wants to excel and does excel. I was recently reminded of Erika's formidable acumen when she served as the special conservator in a case I was involved where she made recommendations to the probate court based on the hard facts presented, and let the chips fall where they may.

These are the qualities that have impressed me in the judges that I have gotten to know and admire during the time I have practiced law. These are the qualities that will carry her through the tough calls that she will inevitably have to make as a judge. And these are the qualities which will guarantee that she will faithfully execute her duties with the utmost care, compassion, and fidelity to the law.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this testimony for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rex Y. Fujichaku

Rex Y. Fujichaku

Randall M. L. Yee
Jared N. Kawashima



YEE & KAWASHIMA, LLLP

August 14, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am the managing partner for our firm and I submit this written testimony in support of Erika E. Ireland's nomination as a full-time District Court Judge. I have known Ms. Ireland for almost 15 years and have had the opportunity to handle cases with and against her while she was in private practice.

In addition to her legal acumen and professional courtesy, what impressed me most was her empathy and compassion. By way of example, Ms. Ireland was appointed the kokua kanawai for a case which involved a homeless woman with no family in Hawaii. Over the course of many months, Ms. Ireland went to great lengths to gain the trust of the protected person which even her closest relatives were unable to accomplish.

Despite her initial hostility, the protected person grew to trust Ms. Ireland to the point where she agreed to accept assistance with social services and housing. That result would not have been possible without the exceptional tenacity of Ms. Ireland stemming from her compassion for the concerned family and the protected person. Utilizing her legal knowledge, she formulated the best outcome for the protected person.

The types of cases for which Ms. Ireland will oversee requires someone to possess not only the legal knowledge but the practical knowledge and willingness to apply the law in a way best suited to the situation. I wholeheartedly support Erika E. Ireland's nomination and am confident that she will serve with honor and integrity. Thank you for considering this written support and please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared N. Kawashima".

Jared N. Kawashima

August 14, 2023

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL ANTHONY MARR
111 NORTH KING STREET, SUITE 314
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

Dear Senators Rhoads, Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Please note that I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Per Diem Judge Erika E. Ireland to the position the District Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I was first appointed as a Per Diem District Court Judge on September 17, 1987. I retired from my position, pursuant to law, on October 31, 2023, having turned 70 years old on December 4, 2022. During my tenure as a per diem judge, I have interacted with several judges, including of course, members of the Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, and District Court. I continue to work, on a pro bono basis, for the State of Hawaii and as a member of the State of Hawaii Supreme Court's Commission of Civility and Professionalism and as a Trustee for the State of Hawaii Supreme Court's Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. I can state unequivocally that Per Diem Judge Ireland is among the best of the best judges in the State of Hawaii Judiciary.

I first met Per Diem Judge Ireland when she was a young prosecutor. She impressed me with her knowledge of the law, civility, and professionalism. She used her prosecutorial discretion to zealously prosecute cases against defendants that she believed had violated the law and to dismiss those against whom she believed had not violated the law. She was a first-class prosecutor.

After leaving the prosecutor's office she began a career in the private sector specializing in estate planning. Over the years I have referred at least two cases to Judge Ireland. Given her reputation in the legal community for intelligence, honesty, and compassion, she was most certainly the right attorney for these cases.

August 14, 2023

Page 2

Given Judge Ireland's professional credentials, I was not surprised that she was appointed to a per diem judge position. During her tenure as a per diem judge, she has exhibited a clear understanding of the law, intelligence, compassion, patience, empathy, kindness, and a complete lack of arrogance. If confirmed, she will be among the best of the best, if not the best judge confirmed by the Senate.

Please note that I believe this is the first letter of support is the first that I have written for a judge during my career as an attorney and as a Per Diem Judge. I am writing this letter because of Judge Ireland's extraordinary personality traits as an attorney, judge, and good person. Please note that I'm available to testify in- person or through video conference before the Senate if it believes my testimony will assist the Senate in the confirmation process.

I can be reached at my office address which is located at 111 North King Street, Suite #314, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817, by telephone at 808-255-5017, and by email at MmarrADR@aol.com.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael A. Marr

Michael Anthony Marr

JC-1

Submitted on: 8/15/2023 6:57:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryll O.B. Apuya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: August 14, 2023 To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND HEARING: Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016 & Videoconference Thank you for the opportunity in providing a testimony for Attorney Erika Ireland for her nomination as a District Court Judge. I strongly recommend and support her nomination because I know that she can be a great asset to the state and very qualified to assume the position. I have seen how she worked and she is true to her words. She is a hard worker, low-key and a superb lawyer. She is very humble and pleasure to work with. Attorney Erika is very knowledgeable on what she does, a compassionate individual and truly a servant who is always committed to excellence. Sincerely, Cheryll O.B.Apuya

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: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

I write to you in strong support of Erika E. Ireland to serve as a Judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Erika since 1998, when we worked together as Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. I have always known her dedication to public service – both inside and outside of the courtroom.

As a trial lawyer with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, she was a zealous advocate. As a private attorney, she continued this same dedication in servicing her clients. I was consistently impressed with Erika's professionalism and dedication to the fairness of our judicial system. Currently, I work with Erika in her capacity as a neutral and her skills are well-suited to achieving resolution in my cases.

Erika is extremely well-rounded in her legal experience. She has practiced in State criminal and civil courts. In addition, Erika already has been gaining judicial experience as a Per Diem Judge.

Erika has served for several years as a mediator and won awards for her mediation abilities. Erika clearly possesses strong professional credentials and her experience and temperament would greatly benefit the Judiciary. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Emily H. Kawashima, Esq.

Submitted by
Kimo Leong

CARROLL S. TAYLOR
KIMO C. LEONG

LAW OFFICES OF
TAYLOR, LEONG & CHEE

737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1470
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 528-2222

FACSIMILE (808) 523-1869

GREGORY W. K. CHEE
(1956-2006)

August 15, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

I am writing to submit written testimony in favor of the appointment of Erika E. Ireland to the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Erika professionally for over ten years and consider her to be both a colleague and friend. We have served as co-counsel for mutual clients in guardianship and conservatorship matters and have also represented different parties in such matters. Our practices have some overlap since our firm specializes in trusts and estate planning and there are times where a trust is needed for a minor or protected person in a guardianship/conservatorship proceedings.

Erika is extremely well-organized, reliable and of unquestionable character. She would be a welcome addition to the District Court bench. I do not often submit letters of recommendation or written testimony in favor of judicial nominees because as I grow older and move away from litigation practice, I am less in touch with the "active" bar. I am making an exception for Erika because I feel that she is highly qualified and deserving of confirmation.

August 15, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND


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

I write in unconditional support of the appointment of Erika E. Ireland as a full-time judge in the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first encountered Erika as a student at the Richardson School of Law when I was teaching Randy Roth's Estate Planning class while he was on sabbatical about 25 years ago. She was an outstanding student. I did not have contact during her time at the Prosecutor's Office but have referred matters to her and co-counseled with her after she went into private practice. The clients to whom I have referred her have uniformly been pleased with her work.

She is intelligent, diligent, patient, calm and logical. Regardless of whatever decision she makes, the litigants who appear in her courtroom will know that they were heard and treated fairly.

Thank you for considering my thoughts. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Carroll S. Taylor
Taylor, Leong & Chee
737 Bishop St., Ste. 1470
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 528-2222
ctaylor@taylorleongcheelaw.com

August 15, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

I am honored to provide testimony supporting the nomination of Erika Ireland as a District Court Judge.

I have worked jointly with Erika Ireland for many years as a mediator, and have also come in contact with her legal work often.

She is an ideal choice for District Court Judge. Her intelligence and integrity are superlative. In addition, she has the ability to look at situations from an insightful, neutral point of view, while still being empathetic to the participants.

As she has already shown as a per diem judge, she would be a true asset for the Hawaii judicial system.

Mahalo for your consideration,

J. William 'Ned' Busch, Esq.

Mr. Busch's Background in Hawaii:

CADR – Hawaii Judiciary

Mediation Center of the Pacific

Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board (two terms)

Kaneohe Business Group (Past President)

Kailua Chamber of Commerce (Past Board member)

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Civilian/Military Council (Past President)

District 14 Staff Officer – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

JC-1

Submitted on: 8/16/2023 1:22:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth H. Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Over a period of approximately 10-15 years, I have worked on several cases with Ms. Erika Ireland where she served as a Court-appointed fiduciary, such as a Master, Kokua Kanawai, Guardian Ad Litem or Successor Trustee. In all cases I found Ms. Ireland to be responsive, knowledgeable, fair, ethical, and compassionate. For these reasons I think Ms. Ireland would be excellent as a Judge and would well-represent the Hawai'i Judiciary and the Hawai'i bar. I fully support Ms. Ireland's appointment as full time District Court Judge.

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2300

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone 808.524.5644

Fax 808.599.1881

info@bfrhawaii.com

A Law Corporation

Bronster Fujichaku Robbins

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

August 18, 2023

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

Re: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E.
IRELAND
HEARING: Monday, August 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Conference
Room 016 & Videoconference

Dear Senators:

I am a partner with the law firm of Bronster Fujichaku Robbins. I support the confirmation of Erika E. Ireland for the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Ireland for over thirteen years. She and I worked together as attorneys at Bronster Fujichaku Robbins from 2010 to 2014. She was always a pleasure to work with and a wonderful mentor.

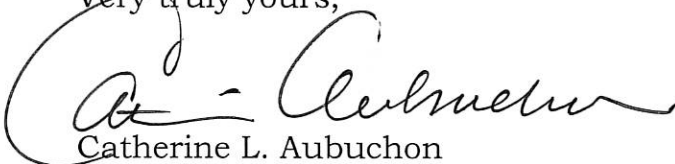
In my experience working with her, Ms. Ireland was smart, conscientious, and dedicated to her cases and clients. After she left Bronster Fujichaku Robbins, she continued her work in probate and often served as a court-appointed neutral or master. So I was fortunate to continue working with Ms. Ireland on cases in which she was appointed by the Probate Court. In that role, she was fair, practical, and level-headed in evaluating the facts, applying the law, and making her recommendations to the judge.

On a personal note, Ms. Ireland is humble, caring, and absolutely one of the nicest people I have ever known. She has all the qualities that make her the ideal judicial candidate. I am certain she will be an excellent member of the bench and a great asset to the Judiciary.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
August 18, 2023
Page 2

Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine L. Aubuchon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "A".

Catherine L. Aubuchon

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2300

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone 808.524.5644

Fax 808.599.1881

info@bfrhawaii.com

A Law Corporation

Bronster Fujichaku Robbins

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

August 18, 2023

Sent Via Electronic Submission

Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee,
ERIKA E. IRELAND

Dear Senators:

I write to offer my unqualified support for the nomination of Erika E. Ireland to the District Court. I ask that you vote in favor of her confirmation.

I have known Erika for more than a decade, ever since she began working with Bronster Fujichaku Robbins in 2002. Erika came to us from the Prosecutor's office and worked with us from 2002 to 2004, and again from 2010 to 2014. She was a delight to work with. She quickly learned about our civil practice and gained experience in a wide variety of civil litigation practice areas. Erika is smart, hard-working, and fair-minded. We were really sorry when she left us in 2014 to work in the probate area and ultimately work as a per diem judge.

I firmly believe that Erika has all of the attributes that will make her an excellent District Court Judge. She is thoughtful, diligent and compassionate. She has always portrayed the highest ethics and an abiding interest in the law. I have no doubt that she will devote the same attention to detail that she has shown in all of her past endeavors.

I was really happy when the late Judge Darolyn Lendio told me that she was pleased to have Erika sit as a per diem on her calendar when Judge Lendio was

Page 2

unavailable. Judge Lendio explained that she trusted Erika to take care of her cases with due care and she never had to worry about leaving on vacation.

In addition to having been a colleague of Erika's, I also consider her a friend. She is warm, compassionate, and a lot of fun to be around.

I would very much like to be there in person to support Erika, but unfortunately, I will be out of the country at the time of the scheduled hearing.

If you have any questions about Erika, I would be happy to make myself available to discuss them with any of you.

Best regards,

Margery S. Bronster

August 19, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

Your Honors:

I have been practicing law in Hawaii for over 29 years, all of which have been spent in the litigation setting. During this time I have had the opportunity to appear before and work with many of our State's judges, so am familiar with the nuances of each division as to their individualized case management strategies. Through this experience I have observed how congested each judge's caseload is. In the vast majority of cases my impression has been that the presiding judge is genuinely focused on the case before him or her and tries to follow the law. This is the case even when a particular case takes an inordinate amount of the Court's time. It is quite remarkable to me how prepared our judges are, and how patient they are in dealing with each individual case considering their many other cases. It is because of judges' heavy caseloads that settlement, mediation or other alternative dispute resolution methods, which collectively reduce the docket congestion, are so vital to the efficient operation of the Judiciary. In my many experiences with Ms. Ireland I have observed her unique ability to resolve cases short of requiring time-consuming and expensive court adjudication. These skills I believe suit her well for judgeship. The reality is that some cases simply cannot be resolved and must go to trial or other deciding hearing. My experience with Ms. Ireland again is that she possesses a masterful grasp of the law, so would be able to dispense justice properly when necessary. I welcome any questions you may have of me.

Chris Dias, Esq.
810 Richards Street, Suite 839
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 524-4600

August 19, 2023

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

Hawaii State Capitol
Senate Judiciary Committee
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Judicial Nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit –
Erika Ireland**

Sir/Madam:

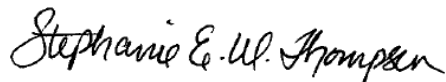
I am writing to give my highest recommendation of Erika Ireland for the District Court of the First Circuit judicial appointment.

In my practice, I regularly appear at the District Court for summary possession proceedings, both residential and commercial and representing tenants and landlords. Over the past year, I have only had a few occasions to appear in front of Judge Ireland as she sat as a per diem judge. However, and as you may be aware, appearing at return hearings and status conferences, an attorney usually must wait 20, 30 and sometimes even 60 minutes before his/her case is called. During this time, I have had the unique opportunity to watch how Judge Ireland handles multiple situations and cases. I have only observed Judge Ireland to be courteous, thoughtful and respectful to all litigants—attorneys and pro se litigants, alike. She understands the exigencies and limitations of District Court and the law—especially landlord/tenant law. She is decisive, fair and thoughtful in her opinions. (And I must admit that she has not always ruled the way that I would have wanted, but I felt that she did consider the arguments).

In all my interactions with her, and those that I have observed, Judge Ireland possesses the temperament and commitment to be an excellent judge at District Court. I strongly urge you to confirm her appointment to the bench at the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you very much for your consideration of Erika Ireland as your next nominee.

Very truly yours,



Stephanie E.W. Thompson

JC-1

Submitted on: 8/19/2023 10:26:24 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 Judicial Nomination of Erika A. Ireland to the District Court of the First Circuit of the State of Hawai'i. I am a trust and estate litigator and have known Mrs. Ireland for over a decade as opposing counsel and when she has served as a court appointed neutral. Whenever a Master or a Kokua Kanawai is needed, Erika A. Ireland is on my short list. People feel comfortable talking with her because she listens, is friendly, and pays attention. She works hard to understand the facts and the positions of the parties. Her analysis and recommendations are always thoughtful, fair, reasonable, and understandable. She will be a great judge.

August 20, 2023

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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

I have had the pleasure of knowing Erika Ireland since we met in law school some 29 years ago. I strongly support her nomination to the District Court bench.

Erika and I have worked together as associates in the same firm over the years and I have observed her to have high integrity and exceptional knowledge of the law. I regularly observed her dedication to our clients through her diligence, passion, and hard work. We routinely collaborated on cases where she provided me with valuable insight and feedback. She is even-keeled, patient, and an active listener. I have seen Erika work well with a variety of people and believe that she has the appropriate judicial temperament to serve as a District Court Judge.

I have always been impressed with Erika's experience and commitment to public service. I know in her work as a prosecutor she was very involved with initiatives for the public. Using her superb mediation skills, she volunteers for the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

I believe that Erika has the professional credentials, legal experience, and temperament to excel as a District Court Judge. She will be a great asset to the bench.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Amber Bougie

LAW OFFICE OF BRIAN S. KIM

A Limited Liability Law Company

August 20, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC-DELIVERY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Karl Roads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for the Confirmation of Erika E. Ireland to the District Court of the First Circuit (Oahu)

Dear Chairman and Members:

Please accept this letter as my sincere request that you support Erika E. Ireland's nomination for the position at the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have frequently appeared before Mrs. Ireland, where she has presided as a per diem District Court Judge. I am impressed with her hard work ethic, intelligence and patience. She has consistently demonstrated the judicial integrity, character and temperament necessary for this position. I sincerely hope that you will support Mrs. Ireland's nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Brian S. Kim

Brian S. Kim
Attorney at law

Submitted by Linda Martell

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, ERIKA E. IRELAND, for a term to expire in 6 years.

Report Title: District Court of the First Circuit

I am writing in support of Erika E. Ireland for confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. Ms. Ireland has extensive experience as an attorney (24 years), mediator and now as a per diem judge in District Court.

Ms. Ireland has the experience, background, and character so important for a judge. She is precisely the type of person needed for the position. As a retired Family Court per diem judge of the First Circuit for 16 years, it is my belief that Ms. Ireland's qualifications make her an outstanding candidate for the position.

Also, I worked with Ms. Ireland as members of the board of Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation. I can speak highly about her character and work ethic.

I strongly recommend Ms. Ireland's confirmation for the position of District Court Judge for the First Circuit. Thank you for considering my testimony.

MENG YU CHENG ROE, MD

LATE

RE: JC1 Hearing regarding consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee, ERIKA E. IRELAND

To Whom It May Concern

I have known Ms. Erika Ireland for approximately ten years, having first met with her as one of my representatives in a complicated and prolonged estate litigation that spanned two countries. She demonstrated a high degree of professional acumen, a quick wit and doggedness in advocating for my position. Her involvement in my case contributed greatly to a successful resolution for myself and my fellow litigants in both the US and abroad.

In the years since I have seen Ms. Ireland display the same qualities on behalf of other clients facing similarly challenging legal issues. She consistently demonstrates the intelligence, legal skills, and high level of ethical integrity that I witnessed during the time she was my attorney. She is truly a model of the level of excellence that the Hawaii legal system strives for, and her appointment to the judiciary will serve to strengthen that system.

In closing, I fully support the consideration of Ms. Ireland for the judgeship and strongly support her confirmation to the District Court. Please feel free to contact me for any questions regarding my position, and thank you for allowing me to express my support for such an important nomination.

Mahalo and aloha,



Meng Yu Cheng Roe MD

PO Box 240577
Honolulu, HI 96824
(808) 780-9519
mycrsb@hawaii.rr.com

The William S. Richardson School of Law
Professor John Barkai

August 20, 2023

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, ERIKA E. IRELAND, for a term to expire in 6 years.

Report Title: District Court of the First Circuit

I am writing to support Erika E. Ireland for confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

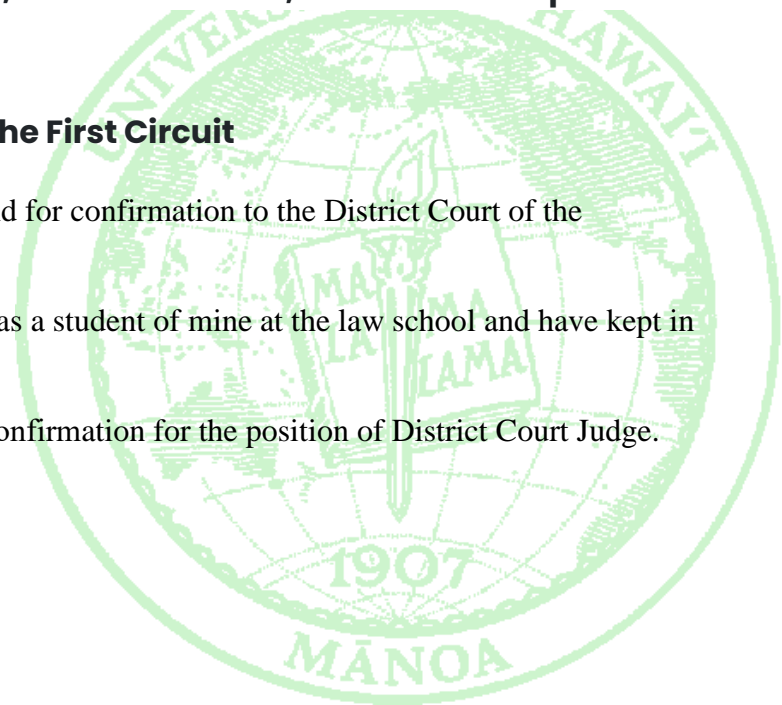
I have known Ms. Ireland since she was a student of mine at the law school and have kept in contact with her since graduation.

I strongly recommend Ms. Ireland's confirmation for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



John Barkai
Professor of Law



August 20, 2023



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

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF ERIKA E. IRELAND

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

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I have had the great privilege of knowing Erika Ireland both professionally and personally and unreservedly write in support of her nomination as Judge of the District Court in the First Circuit.

Erika is a talented, intelligent, and compassionate attorney who has acted with grace, dignity, and integrity throughout her career. She is unquestionably qualified to sit in the district court as she has had experience in both criminal and civil courts. Additionally, she has demonstrated her ability to act as a neutral party as a per diem judge, mediator, special conservator, and kokua kanawai.

Aside from her impressive resume, Erika is also exactly the kind of person who should be a judge. Her temperament, empathy, and kindness are qualities that will serve the judiciary and the public well.

There are very few people that embody both professional and personal excellence in the same way Erika does. We would all be very lucky to have her serve in this capacity.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,
Mia D. Obciana, Esq.



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

Erika E. Ireland
District Court Judge of the First Circuit (JC1)

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 Erika E. Ireland for the position of District 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.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board 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 Ms. Ireland on August 17, 2023, to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On August 18th, Ms. Ireland was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Ireland 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 Ms. Ireland 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.

First Circuit District Court nominee, Erika Ireland, brings over twenty years of experience as a civil law practitioner, Probate Court practitioner, mediator, and former Deputy Prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu. For the past two years, she has also served as a per diem District Court Judge. Ms. Ireland has gained experience in presiding over and participating as a practitioner in jury trials, bench trials, motions, pretrial discovery, and alternative dispute resolution. She is known for her integrity, knowledge of the law and rules and procedure, work ethic, initiative, and calm demeanor.

Comments from the membership note that she is decisive and makes decisions that are well-reasoned based on facts and the law. Commentors also note her balanced approach to the cases on her court calendar. She is known for her compassion and ability to deal with emotional issues involving individuals and families, always treating everyone with respect.

In addition to being a per diem judge, Ms. Ireland is on the court's list for Court Appointed Masters, Kokua Kanawai, and Special Conservators. As a court-appointed Special Conservator, the Nominee has been tasked with overseeing the preservation of rights and assets of the homeless, the disabled, and individuals who lack the capacity to make decisions for themselves. She makes an effort to meet and assess the needs of the individuals assigned to her, then works to protect their interests and preserve their assets. As a Master or Kokua Kanawai, the Nominee has acted as the eyes and ears

of the court and makes recommendations regarding how best to protect the incapacitated individual, The court has noted that Ms. Ireland's reports are comprehensive and submitted in a timely manner. Over the years, the Nominee has also been a pro bono volunteer for the Mediation Center of the Pacific (and received recognition for her work) and other legal nonprofits.

After a review of all documentation submitted and the interview of the Nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Erika E. Ireland to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District 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.