

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

Friday, November 17, 2023
10:00 a.m
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 2

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. 2, the appointment of Vladimir P. Devens as an Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens currently serves as principal at the Law Offices of Vladimir P. Devens, LLC and has been a partner at the law firms of Meheula, Devens & Winer, as well as Meheula & Devens. Mr. Devens has successfully litigated numerous cases at all levels of the Hawai'i State court system, including the Hawai'i Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, District Court, Family Court, the Federal Courts, and before various administrative agencies such as the Disability Compensation Division and the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board. As an example, Mr. Devens served as the lead counsel in the Hawai'i State Supreme Court's landmark child abuse decision in *Kahoohanohano v. Department of Human Services*.

In addition to his legal background, Mr. Devens serves as a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Hawai'i Supreme Court and as a director for Crimestoppers Honolulu, Inc. In 2013, he also served as a member of the Governor's Hawai'i Impaired Driving Task Force and as the chair and vice chair of the State Land Use Commission.

A graduate of Kalani High School and the University of California, Berkley, Mr. Devens earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkley School of Law.

Testimony of the Governor
G.M. No. 2
November 17, 2023
Page 2

I am confident that Vladimir Devens has the knowledge of our laws and the experience necessary to serve the State well as an Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Mahalo for your consideration.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Friday, November 17, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of GM2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, for a term to expire in 10 years.

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

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue-collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW writes in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 2, which submits for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, for a term to expire in 10 years.

As a union leader, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Devens in many cases where he has acted as attorney for UPW and its members. I have been repeatedly impressed not only with his knowledge of the law, acuity of his advice, and the acumen of his professional judgment but also with his dedication to serving justice and helping working families.

Mr. Devens has handled complex legal matters with care and expertise. He has demonstrated a deep understanding of the law and a finely honed ability to apply it in ways that promote equity and fairness. Additionally, he has worked diligently to ensure that this union and its members are treated with respect and dignity within the courts and before other arbiters of fact and law.

As an advocate, Mr. Devens has proven himself to be thoughtful, skillful, and persuasive. He always strives to achieve the best possible outcome, while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct. His work has been exceptional.

HEADQUARTERS

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HAWAII

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Phone 808.961.3424

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2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
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841 Kolu Street
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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

Without question, Mr. Devens would make an excellent addition to the Hawaii State Supreme Court. His experience, excellence, and commitment to serving our community and the people of Hawaii make him a superb candidate worthy of an appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court. We humbly ask that this committee recommend Mr. Devens' confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Kalani Werner
State Director



The Committee on Judiciary
November 17, 2023
10:00 AM
Room 016

RE: **GM 2, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, Vladimir P. Devens, for a term to expire in 10 years**

Attention: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **supports GM 2**, to confirm the appointment of Vladimir P. Devens as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens is a dedicated advocate for justice and the community. Having served the Hawai'i community for over twenty-five years as an attorney, Mr. Devens has litigated cases across all levels of the Hawai'i State court system and has the operational knowledge, as well as the judicial know-how required to take over the role of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Actively serving on the boards of both the Hawai'i State Bar Association and Crimestoppers of Honolulu, in addition to being a former police officer, Mr. Devens has proven himself to be a leader, driven by fairness and upholding the law, rather than by what is politically expedient.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Devens in a personal capacity for many years, and can speak to his dedication and compassion for seeking justice; traits which have awarded him accolades and recognition by his peers. Mr. Devens is a dedicated workhorse who has always upheld a highly professional work ethic, while maintaining the necessary empathy and understanding to zealously advocate for his clients and uplift his staff. Mr. Devens' institutional knowledge and ability to address and resolve conflict will be invaluable to the position of Associate Justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 2, to confirm the appointment of Vladimir P. Devens as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Item: **GM2 – Consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee Vladimir P. Devens**

Position: **Strong Support**

Hearing: **November 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association and over 13,000 educators in the state of Hawai'i, I submit these written comments in strong support of Mr. Vladimir Devens, gubernatorial nominee for Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens has represented HSTA for many years as our eminently competent and well respected labor attorney. His success in matters related to collective bargaining make Mr. Devens and his firm highly sought after by some of Hawai'i's largest public and private sector unions. The legal advice he provides is rooted in a deep understanding and knowledge of Hawai'i state statutes and extensive experience in related case law.

With his record of success, HSTA has always felt confident with the representation provided by Mr. Devens and his firm either in court or before the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board. His work is always of the highest quality and his legal advice during consultations is always thorough and well reasoned.

Besides his legal work, Mr. Devens is involved in a myriad of community service that demonstrates how deeply rooted he is in addressing matters that affect Hawai'i's citizenry. His commitment to serving Hawai'i's people is critical for someone who will serve on Hawai'i's highest court.

It is without a doubt that Mr. Devens will be an Associate Justice whose legal decisions are well thought out and based on a careful and complete consideration of the law. Making it through the Judicial Selection Committee process and being nominated by Governor Green speaks to his indisputable qualification to serve in this role.

HSTA strongly supports Mr. Devens and asks for your consent to his appointment to the Supreme Court.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

November 17, 2023

GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
VLADIMIR P. DEVENS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court (Court).

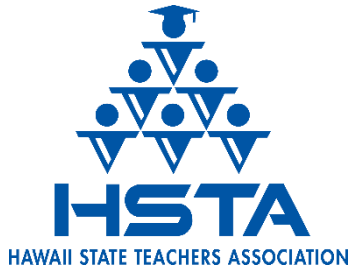
Born and raised in Hawaii, Mr. Devens has a wide range of experience including land use, permitting, law enforcement, labor relations and constitutional matters. His perspective on issues mirrors those of our Hawaii population, and his experience in criminal, civil and business matters is above reproach. As a practicing attorney, we strongly believe that Mr. Devens will bring a balanced point of view to the Court, given his background in administrative matters as well as his representation of both plaintiffs and defendants over a 35-year legal career. Mr. Devens represents himself and our community very well and has the appropriate judicial temperament and integrity to serve on the Court.

As a private attorney working in labor relations on behalf of working-class individuals, Mr. Devens presents the opportunity to have an advocate for working families on the Court for the first time in over a generation. At a time when issues and challenges of working families are often forgotten, we know that Mr. Devens will represent the views and values of local citizens as part of the Court. To our organization, his nomination is critical in ensuring the voices of working-class individuals will be represented.

We offer our unequivocal support and endorsement of Vladimir Devens nomination as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Morrison
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Item: GM2 – Consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee Vladimir P. Devens

Position: Strong Support

Hearing: November 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Submitter: Andrea D. Eshelman – Deputy Exec. Director, Hawai‘i State Teachers Association

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

I submit these written comments in strong support of Mr. Vladimir Devens, gubernatorial nominee for Associate Justice to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court.

As the Deputy Executive Director for Hawai‘i State Teachers Association (HSTA), I have worked closely with Mr. Devens since 2016. Mr. Devens' success in collective bargaining and employment law matters makes him a valuable asset to our legal community.

Mr. Devens has a firm grasp of the law, and his breadth and depth of litigation experience and knowledge in a wide variety of practice areas make him uniquely qualified to serve as an Associate Justice. Mr. Devens' legal advice reflects a deep understanding and knowledge of case law, statutes, and procedures, and he can get to the heart of any legal issue quickly. Mr. Devens is exceedingly competent; he approaches all cases with diligence and honest assessment, providing clients not only with the legal answer but thoughtful analysis and strategy for the best possible outcomes.

Mr. Devens conducts himself professionally and credibly, and his personality and temperament would serve the citizens of Hawai‘i well. Mr. Devens remains deeply rooted in Hawai‘i, having practiced here for over thirty-five years, giving back through various pro bono activities and community service. Most recently, I observed Mr. Devens' exceptional litigation abilities during the Hawai‘i Bar Association's Trial Academy, where Mr. Devens thoughtfully coached attorneys to improve their skills during the annual interactive trial practice program.

It is without a doubt that Mr. Devens would be an Associate Justice whose legal decisions would be well thought out and based on a thorough consideration of the law and honoring the unique and special place we call home. Mr. Devens' nomination by Governor Green speaks to his respected reputation and abilities to serve in this role.

I, along with HSTA President Osa Tui, Jr. and the HSTA Board of Directors, strongly support Mr. Devens and request your consent to his appointment to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court.

Colleen Hanabusa AAL LLC
3660 Waokanaka Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
and Members of
The Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: GM 2 Vladimir P. Devens Confirmation as
Associate Justice to the Hawai`i Supreme Court

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

I write in strong support of your recommendation of advice and consent of GM 2 Vladimir P. Devens (“Vlad”) as Associate Justice to the Hawai`i Supreme Court.

It is an honor and privilege to submit my testimony and appear before you at his confirmation hearing. It is especially an honor to see so many of you who I have served with in the past.

As many of you are aware, I have sat where you are now. I know you take very seriously the Constitutional mandate of advice and consent and will do so with the nomination of Vlad. The American Bar Association has listed eight (8) criteria in the consideration of a judicial nominee. They are integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, health, financial responsibility, and public service. From Vlad’s resume you can be assured that he solidly meets each of the criteria.

It is unfortunate that some have raised the issue of whether Vlad’s lack of judicial experience becomes a disqualifying factor for a nomination to the State’s highest court. It does not; and in fact, I believe some confuse “judicial temperament” with judicial experience. I know when I sat on this Committee, “judicial temperament” was probably the most difficult criteria to assess. Over the years, I have concluded that you know when someone has the proper judicial temperament. It is defined by the ABA as “common sense, compassion, decisiveness, firmness, humility, open-mindedness, patience, tact and understanding.” Vlad has these traits. In fact, one of the primary reasons why I believe he should be on the Supreme Court is due to these traits.

The balanced composition of the members of the Hawai`i Supreme Court is of great importance to me. I believe that the people of this State benefit when the three co-equal branches of government are functioning well and performing their respective constitutional mandates.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
The Honorable Mike Gabbard
November 14, 2023
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My support for Vlad is because I find the present composition of the Court lacks a Justice who understands administrative procedures and appreciates the duties of the Legislature and the Administration. Administrative procedures are how the public most often interfaces with government. This is why, I believe, so many of the United States Supreme Court Justices come from the D.C. Circuit Court and Court of Appeals. Most administrative challenges to decisions of any President's administration are decided by the D.C. Circuit Court and Court of Appeals. Currently, four (4) of the nine (9) Justices find their genesis in the DC Courts. Then add Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Antonin Scalia, two dominant members of the Supreme Court who also share that beginning. The DC Courts probably decide the most constitutional challenges to the laws of this nation.

As such, I believe that our Hawai'i Supreme Court needs a Justice who understands and has had the experience of representing parties before various agencies or has sat as a member of Board or Commission that decides contested cases. This is why one needs to have the traits of judicial temperament as defined by the ABA. Vlad is such a person and has the necessary experience. It is important to note that for many of our constituents, when they challenge the government's decision, it is more than likely through a contested case hearing. The administrative procedures were drafted so an individual could make a challenge without the assistance of an attorney. To evaluate and assess as to whether the intent of the law has been followed, it is necessary to have a Justice who knows this process and has common sense, compassion, patience and understanding, to name a few traits.

Some of the most critical cases for this State began as administrative appeals. The most notable is the two decisions regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope. I anticipate that the Maui/Lahaina Fires will bring issues before the Public Utilities Commission which is also an administrative process.

I am not ignoring Vlad's accomplishments and his reputation as a litigator and great advocate. Many who were before the JSC and the Governor for consideration have similar credentials. My support for Vlad is not only for his great skills as a litigation; but because he uniquely fills a void that I find in the Court.

Let there be no mistake, Vlad has shown his superb ability as a litigator and an advocate for the thirty-five (35) plus years that he has been a member of the Hawai'i Bar. He has also shown his commitment to the profession by serving as a member of the Bar Association during a time when the United States Supreme Court was deciding cases that could affect the ability of the Hawai'i Supreme Court and Bar Association to function as it does. He also represented public sector unions when their existence was and continues to be challenged by the *Janus* decision and its progeny. This challenge goes to the essence of *Hawai'i Revised Statutes* Chapter 89 and Article XIII of the *Constitution of the State of Hawai'i*.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
The Honorable Mike Gabbard
November 14, 2023
Page 3 of 3

Critical to me is his belief in and appreciation of the three co-equal branches of government.

It is for the reasons set forth above that I would appreciate your consideration in the advice and consent of Vladimir P. Devens as a nominee for Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at hanac841@yahoo.com or at (808) 595-3388. At this time, I expect to appear in person to offer testimony and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa

November 15, 2023

Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Distinguished Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Jim Takatsuka. I work in the technology sector and am a lifelong resident of Honolulu. I write in support of the nomination of Vladimir Devens to a seat on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Vlad for nearly my entire life. We grew up in the same neighborhood, were college roommates at UC Berkeley and have remained friends for over 50 years. Since I do not work in the legal field, I will leave it to others more qualified than I to speak to Vlad's legal acumen. However, I do feel I can speak to his character, as he clearly possesses qualities consistent with the judicial temperament of a supreme court justice.

Even at a university with the academic standing of UC Berkeley, I have not met anyone as intellectually gifted as Vlad. And yet in his encounters with people and situations, he always leads with a sincere humility and curiosity, an embodiment of what's often called "the beginner's mindset". He always seeks to learn first, to understand first, before formulating any opinion or taking any action.

In his interactions with others, Vlad's authenticity shines through. He puts on no airs, no pretenses, and doesn't prioritize the wealth, credentials or social status of those he meets. He enjoys seeing people as they are, interested in what they do and what they think, and always respects them for who and what they are.

After graduating from the UC Berkeley School of Law, one of the most prestigious law schools in the country, and shortly thereafter passing the Hawaii State Bar Exam, Vlad chose to join the Honolulu Police Department, despite having a number of options for going into private practice. When I teased him about the fact that he was passing on a good salary, Vlad replied that the money wasn't important. He was more interested in learning how the law worked and was excited that HPD gave him the opportunity to see the law from different perspective. It was a response that was at once a little surprising, and yet entirely consistent with the man I know.

I'll note that Vlad served in the HPD with distinction for many years. He effected multiple felony arrests and worked undercover, conferred with prosecutors on cases and judges on warrants, drafted a search and seizure operations manual for the department and provided instruction on the laws of arrest and the use of force for new officers. After leaving HPD and beginning his career in law, he even continued at the department as a reserve officer. Vlad's time as a police officer wasn't a token effort. His service there was sincere and his interest in the law genuine.

Vlad's professional and educational credentials are impressive, in my mind well qualifying him for a seat on the State Supreme Court bench, but I believe his humility, empathy and earnest curiosity truly distinguish him as an outstanding candidate for a seat on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,



Jim Takatsuka
520 Lunalilo Home Rd Unit 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/16/2023 9:15:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tenari Ma'afala	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Carl Rhoads, My name is Tenari Ma'afala. I am a retired Honolulu Police Officer of 29 years, and also former President of the State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO) for 20 years consecutively. I am humbly writing this letter of support on behalf of Mr. Vladimir Devens (1) integrity and moral courage (2) legal ability and experience (3) intelligence and wisdom (4) compassion and fairness (5) diligence and decisiveness (6) judicial temperament (7) such other qualities that the JDC deems appropriate By way of background, Mr. Devens has been licensed to practice in Hawai'i for over 35 years. He was born and raised in the Aina Haina area and graduated from Kalani High School. He attended the University of California at Berkeley where he majored in economics and graduated with high honors (Magna Cum Laude) and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and UC Berkeley's Economics Honor Society. His law degree is also from UC Berkeley's School of Law (fka Boalt Hall). Mr. Devens legal career has been dedicated and focused on litigation where he has represented plaintiffs, defendants, corporations, businesses, and public workers and unions in labor disputes, contract negotiations, and arbitrations. He has also represented parties in real estate development projects, business transactions, and other litigation matters. His practice has also included litigation before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Hawai'i Labor Relations Board, Building Board of Appeals, Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I have personally witnessed firsthand Mr. Devens' litigation experience of taking cases from the very start, through trial, and subsequent appeals filed with the appellate courts. He always authored his own appellate briefs and presented oral arguments before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and the ICA. I believe his accumulated legal knowledge, litigation experience, and writing skills over the last 35 years has established the foundation to fulfill the duties of an Associate Justice at the highest level, with discipline and reverence to the written law, and with utmost impartiality and fairness to all. Lastly, Mr. Vladimir Devens is a Son of Hawai'i who has and will continue to represent Hawai'i and its residence with great pride and professionalism as an Associate Justice of The Hawai'i Supreme Court. I humbly ask for your favorable consideration for Mr. Vladimir Devens. Respectfully, Tenari R. Ma'afala



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

**Re: GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS ASSOCIATE
JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS.**

Good morning, Chair Rhoads, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We are in support of Vladimir Devens of the Law Offices of Vladimir P. Devens, LLC for consideration and confirmation as an Associate Justice on the Hawai'i State Supreme Court.

We have known Vlad for many years. He has always shown himself to be well spoken, thoughtful, fair, knowledgeable, and an effective leader. With his background, experience, and passion in not only in defending laws but also in his work in community as well, Vlad will be a significant benefit to Hawaii's top judicial court.

He is also very much community minded and unselfishly gives his time to support the community in various ways. He participates on various non-profit Board of Directors as well as a staunch supporter and sponsor the events. In addition, he gives his time to help others by doing pro bono work. He always takes the time to help others especially those in need.

On a more personal note, I have worked with Vlad on various issues throughout the years and especially on non-profit boards and associations. While we may not always agree on the issues, we have found that he is open to speaking to us and understanding our point of view or how it will affect our industry. Vlad has also been very accommodating in sharing best practices and insights for our members to better understand the judicial system as well as cases affecting our businesses. He has always brought meaningful insight, innovative ideas and never hesitated to express his opinions during discussions.

We believe Vlad will continue to bring exceptional value and perspective to the State of Hawaii and will be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

Mahalo again for this opportunity support Vladimir Devens.

November 15, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/splsession.aspx?year=2023b>

Re: LETTER IN SUPPORT FOR VLADIMIR DEVENS

Dear Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (“SHOPO”) stands in strong support of Vladimir P. Devens as Hawaii’s next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

SHOPO proudly represents over 2,700 police officers from the Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Police Departments and is composed of four separate on each of these islands. SHOPO is dedicated to promoting local, state, and federal policies that protect public safety. We strive to work in partnership with community members because together, we can build stronger and safer neighborhoods.

We are very proud to know Vlad who has represented our police officers and served as union counsel for SHOPO for over 30 years. His advice and leadership helped to grow SHOPO into a well-respected organization and a leader in collective bargaining. He spearheaded lucrative collective bargaining agreements through the years that served as the shining examples for other unions, and his creative out of the box problem solving helped to bring parties together to reach compromises that benefited the members and helped our departments run efficiently.

Vlad is well respected amongst all of our county police departments and he is known by the Employer’s representatives as a tough and aggressive advocate, but respectful, smart, and easy to work with. He is also well respected across the country and has been sought out for his expertise, including being a highlighted speaker at the 13th Annual Police Union Leadership Seminar at the Harvard Law School and at various other conferences and seminars involving unions and police departments across the country. He also dedicates his time to our members and officials to teach and lecture on union fiduciary duties, the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act, Collective Bargaining Agreements, Fair Labor and Standards Act, and at our negotiation, business agent training, and union official training workshops.

Within our organization, Vlad is responsive, respectful, and we always follow his advice and guidance and his service has been invaluable to our organization.

Vlad is the epitome of what a Supreme Court Justice should be. He is intelligent, experienced, compassionate, fair, level-headed, and we as a State would be so lucky to have someone of his caliber serve this state in that capacity. We at SHOPO strongly support Vlad as our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

Very truly yours.

Robert Cavaco
SHOPO President

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/15/2023 3:22:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Roehrig	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments: This is attorney Stanley Roehrig from Hilo. I would like to take this means to hardly endorse attorney Vladimir Deven's as a member to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. His father Paul, another fellow lawyer, is a friend of mine that I have known for many years. On occasion he spoke of his son, whom he was very proud of. Vladimir's background in law practice will be particularly useful in the Supreme Court. I take this opportunity to thank the Governor, the Chairman, and members of this committee for endorsing his opportunity to serve the people of Hawai'i.

Testimony supporting confirmation of Vladimir Devens for Hawaii Supreme Court

Bambi Hifo <bambihifo@gmail.com>

Thu 10/26/2023 8:35 PM

To: Sen. Karl Rhoads <SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>

You don't often get email from bambihifo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

I write in favor of Attorney Vladimir Devens' appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court and respectfully urge your confirmation. I have known Mr. Devens professionally for many years including having presided as circuit court judge over his first jury trial (which he won). As his resume demonstrates, he has excellent credentials both academic and in service to a variety of civic organizations as well as a successful career with the Honolulu Police Department before law school. I believe he is well qualified, hard working, congenial and highly competent to serve on our highest court, and thus respectfully urge your confirmation of his appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

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

(808) 341-4592; bambihifo@gmail.com

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/8/2023 11:32:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
patrick ksl yim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am a retired jurist after having served for over 24 years as a trial judge. I was a member of the HSBA for over 52 years. I have been acquainted with Valdimir Devens professionally for 30 years. I am fully cognizant of his contributions to our legal profession and the greater community, and the high esteem he has earned and enjoys in our community. He is highly intelligent, competent, compassionate, and passionate in his commitment to our State. I support and urge favorable action by the Senate Judiciary Committee to consent to Vlad's appointment as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. I know that he will serve all of the people of Hawai'i well.

November 14, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support of GM No. 2
Nomination of Vladimir P. Devens as Associate Justice to Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Fellow Commission Members,

I am a recently retired Circuit Judge of the First Circuit and write this letter in strong support of nominee Vladimir P. Devens Esq. for Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Mr. Devens for over 30 years and wholeheartedly endorse his nomination.

We first met after I left the Honolulu Police Department to enter the William S. Richardson School of Law. Ironically, Mr. Devens had left the practice of law to join the police department. He served with several of my close officer friends, and I heard only great things about his work ethic, integrity, and commitment to serve the public during his time in the police department. Since we had mutual friends and similar work backgrounds, we became good friends and kept in contact through the years.

In my early conversations with Vlad, I discovered that he was born and raised in Honolulu, had graduated from Kalani High School, and attended the University of California, Berkeley where he obtained a degree in Economics. I also learned that he earned his Juris Doctor from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley Law (fka Boalt Hall). During the past years, I've had the opportunity to engage and see Vlad in social settings both formal and informal. He has always been affable, engaging, and entertaining with myself and others. I also know that he is a loving and devoted husband and father to his wife, Joy, and three daughters.

Our paths crossed professionally when I was a practicing attorney doing civil litigation. I witnessed first-hand his legal ability, due diligence, intelligence, and calm temperament during representation of his clients. Further, he was always very respectful to the Court and myself.

We crossed paths professionally once again when I was appointed to the First Circuit, Circuit Court bench. Having sat on the civil calendar, I became even more familiar with his well over 30 years of successful law practice as he appeared before the courts. I know that he has served as the lead counsel while negotiating contracts, mediating, arbitrating, litigating and trying different types of cases. I believe he has also authored and argued his own appellate briefs. He continues to have a varied civil law practice that includes but is not limited to representing both plaintiffs and defendants, professionals, corporations, unions, and other businesses. Finally, having had the honor of sitting as a substitute Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court on numerous occasions and seeing all type of legal matters come before the Hawaii Supreme Court, I know his breadth of practice and legal experience would serve him well as an Associate Justice.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

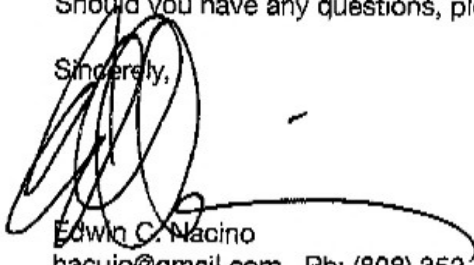
Page 2

November 14, 2023

I believe that Mr. Devens has the utmost respect for the institution of the Court and the legal process. Moreover, his insights on life and the real social circumstances that he has gained growing up in Hawaii coupled with his lengthy and varied legal and employment background will only enhance his abilities to decide, formulate, and transcribe an impactful and thoughtful appellate decision whenever required for the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask that the committee and its members consent and support Mr. Devens' nomination to the entire Senate.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin C. Nacino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edwin C. Nacino
hacuio@gmail.com Ph: (808) 352-1212

RUSH MOORE LLP

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

Attorneys at Law

Offices Honolulu and Kona

Kona Office: 75-167 Kalani Street, Suite 105, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 / Tel. (808) 324-7575 / Fax (808) 324-7576

SHAWN MAILE NAKOA

Resident Partner

Email: snakoa@rmkona.com

November 6, 2023

Via Fax: (808) 586-6131

Senate Judiciary Committee
Attention: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for Vladimir Devens for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Dear Senator Rhoads:

This letter is written in strong support of Vladimir Devens ("Vlad") for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

By way of brief background, as you may know, I have been the Resident Partner at Rush Moore LLP's Kailua-Kona office for approximately seventeen (17) years. My practice primarily focuses on civil litigation. Prior to this position, I was the Managing Partner at Strance & Nakoa, AAL. I have also served as a *per diem* Family and District Court judge in the Third Circuit. In short, I have been practicing as a litigator for approximately thirty (30) years and I have interacted with many attorneys over that time period. Vlad stands out among them as an excellent attorney and human being.

I have known Vlad for over ten (10) years. Approximately five (5) years ago, Vlad and I were co-counsel in an extremely sad drowning case involving a toddler. Although Vlad and I worked together, Vlad's expertise, guidance and natural manner in the courtroom, were the primary reasons for the exceptional outcome achieved in the case.

I. Integrity and moral courage

In my dealings with Vlad, whether professional or personal, he has consistently demonstrated integrity and moral courage. By way of one example, I specifically recall a hearing where the judge asked Vlad a question about the facts of the case. Although I knew the answer was somewhat unfavorable to his client, Vlad did not hesitate to answer the judge's question accurately and directly. It was clear to me that the judge respected Vlad's integrity and moral courage, as did I.

November 6, 2023

2. Legal ability and expertise

Vlad's *curriculum vitae* demonstrates his legal ability and expertise in a wide array of practice areas, including appellate work. Vlad has a curious mind about the law which is essential to becoming expert in the law. He has dedicated and focused on litigation representing all manner of clients, from plaintiffs, defendants, public workers, and corporations. I have never known him to be unprepared. If he does not know something, he will focus, learn and excel. I have no doubt that this would be the case if he were an Associate Justice.

3. Intelligence and wisdom

I enjoy working with Vlad because I always learn from him. He has a fierce intelligence, coupled with the wisdom to stay humble. There is no doubt that Vlad's intelligence and wisdom would enhance the Supreme Court of Hawai'i in its critical work.

4. Compassion and fairness

In working with Vlad as co-counsel in our toddler's wrongful death case, I personally witnessed and noted Vlad's compassion. He is a compassionate man who is unafraid of showing care and compassion for others. As my tutu used to say, he was "raised right." The fact that he represents both plaintiffs and defendants allows him the opportunity to be fair and to see issues and cases from different perspectives. These are exactly the types of traits one wants in a justice.

5. Diligence and decisiveness

Vlad has an extremely strong work ethic. As noted above, I have never seen him unprepared for anything. He has successfully operated his own law firm for decades. Being on the Management Committee of my firm, I have personal knowledge that in addition to being diligent in one's practice, one must be decisive even when it is not very popular to do so. Vlad is, in fact, diligent and decisive. No doubt he would bring his diligence and decisiveness to the Supreme Court of Hawai'i for the benefit of many.

6. Judicial temperament

Vlad is steady as she goes. Anyone who knows him can attest that he has a very even-keeled temperament. I cannot imagine that he would ever be discourteous to attorneys or litigants before him.

7. Other qualities

I find Vlad to be comfortable in his own skin, talented, fun and humble. I believe the other Justices of the Supreme Court would enjoy working with him for the benefit of our community. His legal knowledge, litigation experience, and written skills, serve as the foundation to fulfill the important duties of an Associate Justice at the highest level, with diligence and reverence to the law.

Senate Judiciary Committee
Page 3

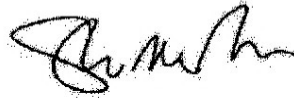
November 6, 2023

I strongly support Vladimir Devens for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

RUSH MOORE LLP
A Limited Liability Law Partnership

By



SHAWN MAILE NAKOA

SMN:sjn

November 14, 2023

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Senate Committee on Judiciary, Chair

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR VLADIMIR DEVENS

Dear Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads,

I am a proud graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and have the privilege of serving as an At-Large Trustee for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I also perform traditional Hawaiian music and my group, Nā Hoa, was fortunate to be nominated twice for the Grammy awards. Suffice to say that perpetuating and bettering the lives of Native Hawaiians is my life. To that end, I write to recommend Vladimir Devens to the Hawaii Supreme Court and submit this letter in my personal capacity.

Everyone knows Vlad for his kindness, intelligence, fairness, and for being a great attorney and person. One thing I want to share about Vlad that I have learned in the over 10 years that I have known him is his care and compassion for the Native Hawaiian culture which as I mentioned, is a cause I have dedicated my life to. Vlad's love for Hawaii and our people shines bright and has shaped him into the person that he is today.

Vlad was born and raised in Hawaii and perpetuates what it means to be a son of Hawaii. He grew up in the Aina Haina community where he enjoyed surfing, hiking, diving, fishing and was a talented boxer. To this day, he continues to be involved in the community that raised him as a volunteer and works with at risk youth through sports and academics.

Vlad was brought up through our public education system where he was an academic success. He attended Cal Berkley as an undergrad and thereafter was accepted into its law school, which was and continues to be one of the highest ranked law schools in the country. He achieved a long list of academic achievements in law school and has also been very successful in his law practice in Hawaii. I am not a lawyer, but I do know that his reputation as a lawyer in this community is beyond reproach. Whenever his name comes up in conversations, it is always associated with high praise for his skills as a litigator, compassion, and his reputation as a straight shooter.

He previously served on the Land Use Commission and at times was the lone voice fighting to preserve and perpetuate Native Hawaiian rights guaranteed by our constitution and laws. He is not the type of person who is swayed by money, fame, or influence. He puts doing what is pono above all else and I admire that. We see too often big money and political prowess guiding our policies. Vlad does not buy into that and instead focuses on doing what is right and

applying the laws and protections as they are meant to be applied. Whether it is with the Land Use Commission, his law practice, or his everyday life, Vlad is the epitome of being pono.

Professionally, Vlad is the most qualified candidate to serve on our esteemed court as he provides balance and experience to help guide our State into the future. I can also say based on my own experience that he is a strong supporter of Native Hawaiian rights. I stand in strong support of Vlad to become our next Hawaii Supreme Court justice.

Aloha,

Keoni Souza

Keoni Souza

THE PEOPLE'S
CHOI
JUSTICE CENTER

November 7, 2023

Karl Rhoads, Senate Judiciary Chair

Via fax at 808-586-6131

Re: Vlad Devens, Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice
Consideration and Confirmation

Dear Senator Rhoads:

It has been a minute since we were together in Nuuanu waving at friends and neighbors. It is my pleasure to endorse Vlad Devens without reservation.

Vlad Devens is the people's lawyer. He is always helpful, caring, and making time for people. Vlad has built a career on listening, advising, and taking action on behalf of his clients and colleagues.

Vlad Devens will make an excellent Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

Should you have any questions or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-258-4985.

On behalf of The People's Justice Center,

The People's Justice Center

/s/ John Choi

By: John Choi, Esq.

3142 George Street Honolulu HI 96815	<i>The People's Choice Law Firm</i> ® www.HIautoAccident.com	808-258-4985 attorneyjohnchoi@gmail.com 808-536-4988 fax
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OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION No. 3

2181 LAUWILIWILI STREET, KAPOLEI, HI 96707 • (808) 845-7871 • FAX (808) 682-0906

Jurisdiction: Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, and the Mid-Pacific Islands

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

November 13, 2023

RE: GM2- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII'S SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS.

Chair Rhoads,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo. I am the District Representative and Trustee for Operating Engineers Local 3. We are the largest construction union in the United States. I and the members of Operating Engineers Local 3 **strongly support GM2-** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii's Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, for a term to expire in 10 years.

Mr. Devens has litigated cases in all of the Hawaii State courts, including the Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, District Court, Family Court, the federal courts (District of Hawaii, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals), and before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Board of Appeals, Disability Compensation Division, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, Hawaii Labor Relations Board and Board of Land and Natural Resources. He has also represented police officers, sheriffs, adult correction officers, fire fighters, teachers, and public worker unions in numerous labor matters, including contract negotiations, interest arbitrations, grievances, and worker's compensation claims.

We feel that Mr. Devens' years of service representing working people at all levels of the government court system has prepared him for the Hawaii Supreme Court. We therefore ask for your support and positive recommendation of Mr. Deven to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Ana Tuiasosopo
Hawaii District Representative, Trustee
Hawaii Operating Engineers Local 3

IATSE LOCAL 665

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The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
IATSE Local 665

November 17, 2023

GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

IATSE Local 665 strongly supports the nomination of Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens has a wide range of experience including land use, permitting, law enforcement, labor relations and constitutional matters. His perspective on issues mirrors those of our Hawaii population, and his experience in criminal, civil and business matters is above reproach. As a practicing labor attorney working on behalf of hard-working individuals, Mr. Devens understands the issues that regular folks encounter daily – Mr. Devens gets it, understands it, and feels it. Mr. Devens presents the opportunity to have an advocate for working families on the Court for the first time in over a generation. During a time when issues and challenges of working families are too often forgotten, we know that Mr. Devens will represent the views and values of local citizens as part of the Court.

We offer our support of Vladimir Devens nomination as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

In Solidarity,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE 665
he/him/his



2865 Pali Hwy Honolulu, HI 96817
www.ilimanator.com

November 14, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/splsession.aspx?year=2023b>

Re: RECOMMENDATION – VLADIMIR DEVENS

Dear Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads,

My name is Ilima-Lei Macfarlane and I strongly recommend Vladimir Devens to be our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

I am a proud native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii. I make a living fighting professionally and held the flyweight championship belt for several years with Bellator MMA. However, I am most proud of my work with my foundation, Nā Wahine Toa (Women Warriors), which I founded to strengthen and empower native women by teaching self-defense, self-love, self-preservation and the protection of sacred sites including our bodies, our divine feminine entities and our 'āina. I strive to be an example to other Native women and to give them strength and inspiration, but this did not always come easily for me. Native women face an epidemic of violence and suffer the highest rate of sexual abuse. Unfortunately, I was also sexually abused as a child, and it took me many years to gather the courage to take back control of my life.

I was sexually abused as a child by one of my basketball coaches in a well-known case that I am sure you heard of. At first, I did not have the courage to file my lawsuit let alone publicize my name and childhood trauma. With help, I built up the strength to be vulnerable, to confront my truth, and to stand up for myself, and I give credit for that to my attorney Vladimir Devens. He was more than an attorney to me, my sister who was also a victim, and to the other girls victimized by the same predator coach. Vlad listened, he was compassionate, and he allowed us to move at a pace that we were comfortable with. He explained the process in scrupulous detail, stood by our sides during the most difficult phases of litigation, and was our strength as we re-lived the worst days of our lives. Vlad treated me as if I were one of his three daughters and fought for us with the passion and fearlessness that we needed and longed for. He was our booming voice when for years we suffered in silence. Knowing Vlad changed my life for the better, and because of him, I will continue my fight to protect other native women from their abusers and the internal damage that they cause.

OUR MISSION

The Nā Wahine Toa Foundation is dedicated to ending the missing and murdered indigenous women epidemic by empowering our native communities, women nation and youth.

Nā Wahine Toa Foundation

2865 Pali Hwy Honolulu, HI 96817
www.ilimanator.com

Vlad is the best candidate for the job and someone who has been a staunch supporter and protector of women's rights in our community for a long time. His reputation as a top-notch trial attorney is well known. For me, he has been an advocate for women's rights, especially those most vulnerable in our society like our native sisters and those who do not have the strength and courage to help themselves. I cannot imagine anyone better for this position than Vlad and I strongly recommend him.

Sincerely,



Ilima-Lei Macfarlane

Founder

Ph: (808) 372-6619

Email: imacfarlane09@yahoo.com

OUR MISSION

The Nā Wahine Toa Foundation is dedicated to ending the missing and murdered indigenous women epidemic by empowering our native communities, women nation and youth.



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikoula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

November 14, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/splsession.aspx?year=2023b>

Re: SUPPORT FOR VLADIMIR DEVENS

Dear Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads,

My name is Christian West, and I am the President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (“ILWU”) Local 142. We are the largest private union in the State of Hawaii with over 16,000 members that are employed in every major industry in the state, including longshore, general trades, tourism, and agriculture. As you may know, Hawaii has a sordid history of inequality, oppression, and subjugation of the working class, and ILWU has steadfastly stood against these injustices. While we live under better conditions today thanks to the efforts of the many who fought before us, inequality remains, and the fight continues. ILWU’s model states “An Injury to One is an Injury to All”, and Mr. Vladimir Devens has dedicated his legal career to and has a proven track record of advocating for equality and fighting for those in need of protection. It is in the spirit of this fight for equality that I write to you on behalf of the ILWU Local 142 in **STRONG SUPPORT for VLADIMIR DEVENS** to serve as the next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

The Hawaii Supreme Court is held in high esteem, and its decisions are far reaching and affect each and every person that visits our islands or who makes Hawaii their home. It is therefore imperative that our justices be of the highest moral character with the intelligence, compassion, and legal acumen to maintain the Court’s high judicial standards. These are the values that Mr. Devens has displayed time in and time out. Although in one sense it is bittersweet to make this recommendation because Mr. Devens currently serves as ILWU’s general counsel and it will hurt to lose a person of his caliber, integrity and ability, but we understand the bigger picture and strive to do our part in improving the lives of everyone who makes Hawaii their home. This mission is bigger than any single labor union, and with a supreme court justice like Mr. Devens, the benefits will flow down to everyone in Hawaii, including and especially our members. As such, the ILWU is committed to expressing its strong support of Mr. Devens in light of ILWU’s principles to fight for a “better life for the people in the communities in which we live.” Without a shadow of a doubt, Mr. Devens is the best candidate for the job.

As I am sure you can appreciate, before hiring general counsel to advise and assist our union, we have an obligation to our members to do our due diligence and to select the best and most capable attorney and law firm to represent us. Before Mr. Devens agreed to serve as our general counsel, his reputation was well known in the community, and he was well regarded as an intelligent, successful, and capable attorney with the tenacity to stand up and fight for what is right. He is also known for having a level-headed demeanor and his charismatic nature allows him to build meaningful relationships which helps to avoid unnecessary and wasteful fighting whenever possible while achieving excellent results for his clients. We learned that he graduated magna cum laude from the University of California at Berkeley and earned his juris doctorate from the University of California, Boalt Hall, where he served as an Associate Editor of the Industrial Relations Law Journal. Born and raised in Hawaii, Mr. Devens returned home after law school where he has worked as an attorney since 1987 and has built a solid reputation in our community as a formidable but well-respected trial lawyer known to be well-prepared, tenacious but cordial and keenly able to connect with our local juries. At the time Mr. Devens agreed to serve as our general counsel, he and his law firm represented nearly every public union in some capacity and we spoke to others who had experiences working with and against Mr. Devens, and astoundingly, every review of him was stellar. As general counsel, Mr. Devens and his law firm have provided us with invaluable service, advice, and guidance as the ILWU has worked to strengthen and build relationships and our reputation within the community.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention our proud history with the Hawaii Supreme Court. You may remember Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Edward H. Nakamura who built a legacy as one of our greatest Hawaii Supreme Court Justices, who during a much harsher time for our working class, dedicated his career to improving their lives and our State in general, including improving and establishing health care reform, temporary disability insurance, and collective bargaining rights. Like Mr. Devens, Justice Nakamura was a well reputed labor lawyer and served as general counsel for the ILWU before being selected to serve as a Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I see the same strengths, integrity, intelligence, and compassion that Justice Nakamura displayed in Mr. Devens, and am confident that Mr. Devens will similarly positively impact our state as a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice. I also see many of the characteristics of our great former Chief Justice William S. Richardson in Mr. Devens. Like CJ Richardson, Vlad is a Hawaii public school graduate, “just a local boy from Hawaii” as CJ Richardson famously described himself, a staunch supporter and protector of native Hawaiian rights and our ‘āina, and if appointed, he will also proceed straight to the Hawaii Supreme Court from his law practice. Mr. Devens has displayed these same traits and values in his 35 years of practice, during his time on the Land Use Commission, and throughout his many professional endeavors. I do not make these comparisons to our judicial giants lightly, but this is how confident we are that Mr. Devens will excel as a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice, use that position to improve the lives of everyone here, and make our State proud.

The following additional information is provided for your consideration:

Integrity and moral courage: Mr. Devens has displayed the highest level of integrity and moral courage in my day-to-day interactions with him, and as general counsel for the ILWU. With Mr. Devens, I am always confident that his advice and guidance is ethical, morally grounded, and given with the best interests of our union and our members at the forefront within the confines of the law. I am not aware of anything that would raise the slightest question or doubt as to his integrity and am confident that he will make the State of Hawaii proud as the next Hawaii Supreme Court justice.

Legal ability and experience: I am confident that anyone who knows or knows of Mr. Devens will attest to his highly capable legal ability and experience. Likewise, anyone who has seen Mr. Devens in litigation or sat across from him will confirm that he is one of the most, if not the most, formidable attorney in our community. He is smart, quick on his feet, thoughtful, and his strategy, planning, and preparation is unmatched. He has what can only be described as an obsessive need to understand each case and issue, works tirelessly to identify the strengths and weaknesses in every case, and works harder than anyone I have ever seen to represent his clients in the most capable and impressive manner. He communicates effectively and can decipher what any case or issue boils down to in simple terms that anyone can understand. He has an unmatched resume having served in some capacity with nearly every public union, as chair of the Land Use Commission, on numerous boards, and as lead trial and/or appellate attorney on some of the biggest and most important cases in Hawaii history, including the \$30 million dollar class action lawsuit for police officers and firefighters under the Fair Labor and Standards Act, the landmark Hawaii Supreme Court decision in *Kaho'ohanohano v. Dep't of Human Services*, State of Hawaii, which established and reaffirmed the State's Child Protective Services duties and responsibilities in protecting abused children in our State, as well as numerous Hawaii Supreme Court decisions concerning the protection of our collective bargaining right and the rights of union members. He also served as lead counsel for well-publicized child sex abuse cases that have led to meaningful changes in some of our most important institutions. There is no question that Mr. Devens possesses the legal ability and experience to serve as our next Hawaii Supreme Court justice.

Intelligence and wisdom: As above, Mr. Devens always displays a high level of intelligence, and his wisdom is invaluable to our organization. His ability to break down complex and hard to understand issues into a layman's interpretation is unparalleled. This helps our union to better understand our obstacles that exist now or may arise in the future, which in turn allows us to provide the very best service to our members. Likewise, his writing is concise, thoughtful, persuasive, and easy to understand no matter how complex and difficult the issue is. I am confident that he has both the intelligence and wisdom to serve as a justice.

Compassion and fairness: Mr. Devens is the epitome of compassion and fairness as reflected by his lifelong dedication to fighting for fairness and equality as a prominent labor attorney, former chair of the Land Use Commission, and member on various volunteer boards. Anyone

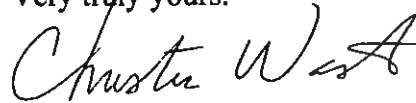
who knows Mr. Devens as a person can confirm that he cares about people, our State, and goes out of his way to treat everyone fairly. I, our elected officials, and our members have all had positive experiences when first meeting Mr. Devens and getting to know him. He is engaging, listens in a way that makes one feel that what they say is important, and treats people, no matter who they are, with dignity and respect.

Diligence and decisiveness: There is simply no other attorney in our experience that is more diligent and dedicated to their work. I know for a fact that he is up at all hours of the night until he completes a task and is assured that it is the best, most competent work he can muster for his client. There is no one that works harder in any career field, and it is truly amazing to see him in action. He is also direct, decisive, and he garners confidence with his guidance and advice and has never steered us wrong.

Judicial temperament: As stated above, Mr. Devens is tenacious, direct, and effective, and yet he treats everyone with dignity and respect, which is exactly what we believe exemplifies the appropriate judicial temperament.

Mr. Devens has made a positive and lasting impact on the people that he has encountered in his career, and if confirmed to the Hawaii Supreme Court, his reach and positive impact will extend to all of Hawaii. On behalf of our more than 16,000 members, we stand in strong support of Mr. Devens for this position.

Very truly yours.



Christian West
President, ILWU Local 142

CW/sai
howu

LATE

TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 2

Date: Friday, November 17, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, for a term to expire in 10 years.**

HAJ greatly appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Devens. HAJ is confident in Mr. Devens ability and commitment to preserving justice and the rule of law in Hawaii. His significant legal experience as a practicing attorney for nearly four decades makes Mr. Devens the ideal candidate to sit on our State's highest court.

Mr. Devens has demonstrated a deep understanding of the law and a commitment to fairness and impartiality. His extensive background in all aspects of commercial litigation, constitutional law, appellate practice, including serving as lead counsel in several high-profile cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court positions him as an utmost qualified candidate.

Moreover, Mr. Devens has exhibited a combination of a strong knowledge of the law, a superior legal analytical skill set, respect of the rule of law, and an immense attention to detail. In his practice, Mr. Devens has consistently set the standard for legal practice in Hawaii and led by example by demonstrating the ability to approach complex legal issues with fairness, impartiality, and a commitment to justice for all.

In addition to his vast legal knowledge, Mr. Devens as evidenced a strong dedication to public service in nurturing Hawaii's next generation of lawyers by serving as faculty of UH's Trial Academy, as a volunteer attorney for Courts in the Community, and as a judge in many

mock trial settings. He also demonstrated a commitment to Hawaii's youth outside of the classroom having served as a boxing, baseball, soccer and softball coach. Additionally, Mr. Devens is a prominent member of the Hawaii State Bar Association having served as a Subcommittee Chair for the Bench and Bar Conference for many years. Mr. Devens is a proven community leader making him suited for the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Accordingly, Mr. Devens's commitment to public service, integrity for the rule of law, and significant legal experience will make him an invaluable member of the Hawaii Supreme Court. HAJ is confident that he will serve the people to Hawaii with the same standard of excellence that he has exhibited throughout his legal carrier. For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to approve GM 2 and confirm Mr. Devens' nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Oue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Evan Oue
Hawaii Association for Justice
Executive Director



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

November 17, 2023

GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION & CONFIRMATION AS ASSOCIATE
JUSTICE TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
VLADIMIR P. DEVENS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

On behalf of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO and its affiliates, I am writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens brings a wealth of experience to this esteemed position. His diverse background, including expertise in land use, permitting, law enforcement, labor relations, and constitutional matters, uniquely positions him to understand and address the complex issues facing our state.

Mr. Devens' impressive legal career, spanning over 35 years, has encompassed a wide array of legal areas, from criminal and civil matters to business law. His extensive experience as a practicing attorney, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, showcases his commitment to a balanced and equitable legal system.

One noteworthy aspect of Mr. Devens' nomination is his dedication to representing working-class individuals. As a private attorney specializing in labor relations, he brings a much-needed advocate for the rights and interests of working families to the Court. We believe that Mr. Devens possesses the judicial temperament, integrity, and commitment necessary to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court effectively.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly offer our support of Vladimir Devens' nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court and respectfully request the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira'.

Randy Perreira
President



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaii firefighters.org

The Senate
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Interim of 2023

Committee on Judiciary
November 17, 2023

LATE

Governor's Message No. 2 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation JDC
As Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme
Court, Gubernatorial Nominee,
VLADIMIR P. DEVENS.

I, Robert H. Lee, President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO representing approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State of Hawaii with membership extending to associates and retirees submits this letter in support of Mr. Vladimir Devens' nomination to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As President of the HFFA, I have had the distinct privilege of being acquainted with Mr. Devens for over 15 years and can unequivocally attest to his exceptional qualities and steadfast commitment to the principles of equity and justice. Among those who work in the ever-challenging world of labor, Mr. Devens is respected by all for his deep sense of integrity and moral courage that underpins his legal practice. Throughout our professional association, I have witnessed his unwavering dedication to upholding the highest ethical standards and demonstrating moral fortitude in even the most demanding circumstances. In one instance, Mr. Devens represented the HFFA and prevailed in a lawsuit brought on-behalf of our firefighters who were wrongly denied overtime in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Mr. Devens' legal career is highlighted by his dedication and focus on representing Hawaii's various communities. He possesses a wide breadth of legal expertise with a rich and diverse background advocating on behalf of his clients in the areas of corporations, businesses, public workers, and unions, in labor disputes, contract negotiations and arbitrations. He has represented entities in real estate development projects, business transactions, and other litigation matters. His practice has also included litigation before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Hawaii Labor Relations Board, Building Board of Appeals, Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I firmly believe that Mr. Devens' unique blend of compassion, accumulated legal knowledge, litigation experience, strong roots serving Hawaii's communities, and writing acumen over the last 36 years has firmly established a legal foundation fit to fulfill the challenging obligations of an Associate Supreme Court Justice, with resolute discipline and reverence to the written law, and with utmost impartiality and fairness to all. I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Devens for this esteemed position.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Hawai'i Supreme Court
201 Merchant Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone (808) 521-4591
www.dbhawaii.org



*Deputy Disciplinary Counsel
Litigation Section*
Dana M. Harada
Walter Hebblethwaite
Josiah K. Sewell (s)

*Deputy Disciplinary Counsel
Investigation Section*
Michelle K.Y. Ching (a)
Shaunda A.K. Liu (a)
Charlene M. Norris (a)
Rebecca M. Salwin (a)

Disciplinary Investigator
Joanna A. Sayavong

Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Bradley R. Tamm

*Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Litigation Section*
Chloe M.R. Fasi

*Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Investigation Section*
Carole R. Richelieu (a)

(a) adjunct; part-time auth RSCH Rule 2.6(a)
(s) supervised law student intern, auth RSCH Rule 7

October 24, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Senate Confirmation of Vladimir P. Devens as Associate
Justice**

Dear Senator Rhoads,

Please accept this letter in support of Vladimir P. Devens' Senate confirmation as an Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I write specifically to provide you with my personal observations of his demonstrated judicial temperament, deportment and integrity while "sitting" as a "judge" in Hawai'i disciplinary matters. These observations are derived from his service since July 2017 as a member of the Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board.^[1] During that time I observed him while serving as both the Board's general counsel (until 2018) and as Chief Disciplinary Counsel (2018 to present).

As you know, the Disciplinary Board sits in both an adjudicative and administrative capacity in Hawai'i lawyer discipline matters. The Board reviews the findings and recommendations of formal hearings officers, and separately, individual Board members sit to review recommendations for disposition by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) on individual

^[1] Order of appointment, SCMF-10-0000186, dkt. #58 (June 28, 2017).

October 24, 2023

Page 2

investigations. The Board hears and deliberates on numerous formal cases each year, and hundreds of ODC investigations are reviewed by the Reviewing Board Member (RBM) panelists.

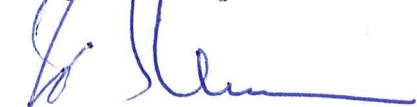
While I was Board Counsel (until mid-2018) I observed Mr. Devens present or otherwise participate in the review and deliberation of a number of formal discipline cases. At all times I felt he did so with distinction and helped the Board to achieve a fair result.

More importantly, since my time as the ODC Chief, I have noted that Mr. Devens has regularly and consistently volunteered to serve as an RBM. The RBM function is to review ODC's reports of misconduct investigations, supported by relevant evidence and then to decide whether probable cause exists to bring charges, or whether in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion, the matter should be otherwise resolved. RBM findings are adjudicative orders.

Over the years, I have found that Mr. Devens' has consistently performed his RBM duties in a timely and appropriate manner. While we don't always agree (what lawyer always agrees with the judge?), I can say that in every case he has made a fair and just determination and has never shown disrespect or bias.

In sum, while a lawyer to most of the community, Vladimir P. Devens is a "sitting judge" over the ODC, and I have had this unique opportunity to observe his judicial temperament, deportment and integrity. These are qualities that he holds in abundance, and for which I am happy to lend my sincere endorsement and recommendation for appointment as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,



BRADLEY R. TAMM
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

BRT:fh

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

From: Jon Nakamoto
PO Box 22375
Honolulu, HI 96823
jon.nakamoto@honolulucrimestoppers.org

Hearing Date: Friday, November 17, 2023
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Testifier: Written Testimony Only

In support of GM2:

The consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, Vladimir P. Devens, for a term to expire in 10 years

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

I would like to express my strong support for the confirmation of Vladimir P. Devens as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Mr. Devens for over 13 years as we both serve on the volunteer nonprofit Board of Crime Stoppers Honolulu, Inc. Mr. Devens has served in various capacities, most recently as the Chair of our Bylaws Committee. I serve as the Treasurer.

During this time I have found Mr. Devens to be highly competent, and possessing strong integrity and ethics. Mr. Devens works extremely well with others, and shares our strong desire for a safe community. Mr. Devens brings significant value to our Board, and I believe he will do the same for The Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Vladimir P. Devens.

Coralie Chun Matayoshi
854 16th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

November 10, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Vladmir P. Devens for Associate Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court**

Dear Senator Rhoads and Judiciary Committee members:

I am writing to express my strong and heartfelt support for the appointment of Vladmir P. Devens to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have known Vlad for over 30 years not only professionally, but personally, as our families are related by marriage. He is a highly intellectual and skilled lawyer, dedicated community leader, and devoted family man who has my utmost respect and admiration.

Vlad's litigation experience is rich and varied - something that will serve him well as a Supreme Court Justice. He has represented both plaintiffs and defendants, unions and corporations, public workers, and parties to real estate development projects and business transactions in cases involving construction, land use, permitting, public trust doctrine, constitutional issues, sunshine laws, privacy rights, uniform information practices, corporate governance, fiduciary duties, asbestos defense, wrongful death, products liability, sexual abuse, child abuse, defamation, class actions, and labor disputes.

He has successfully litigated a variety of cases at all levels of Hawaii's State courts (Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, District Court, Family Court), Federal courts (District of Hawaii, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals), and administrative agencies (e.g., Board of Land and Natural Resources, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Board of Appeals, Hawaii Labor Relations Board, Disability Compensation Division, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board).

In addition, Vlad has 33 years of experience with criminal law and criminal procedure, including effecting multiple felony arrests, working undercover, drafting and executing search warrants, consulting with prosecutors on cases, consulting with judges on warrants, drafting a search and seizure operations manual for the Honolulu Police Department, providing instruction on the laws of arrest and use of force to new officers, and consulting on criminal defense cases.

Vlad is a hard-working, down-to-earth, hands-on professional who is diligent and always well prepared. He takes his cases seriously, from start to finish, doing the legal research and authoring his own motions and briefs, and presenting oral arguments before various tribunals including the Hawaii Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals.

The adversarial process can be challenging and sometimes emotionally charged, but through it all, Vlad remains calm, thoughtful, open-minded, and fair. Through his words and actions, Vlad demonstrates high integrity and strong moral courage to do the right thing, no matter what.

As a former Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) Executive Director, I can tell you that Vlad's work to improve the administration of justice and promote access to the courts and civic education has been exemplary. From serving on the HSBA Board and Bench/Bar Conference committees, to his volunteer work at the Access to Justice Center, as a mock trial judge, and Courts in the Community mentor for Kaimuki, Moanalua, and Waianae High School students, Vlad's many years of dedication is making a difference.

Finally, I have personally witnessed Vlad in family settings and the loving relationships he has with his wife Joy and their children. Even with his demanding schedule of professional and community commitments, he always made time to coach his daughters' soccer and softball teams.

Given his high intellectual capabilities, decades of litigation experience, and passion for ensuring that justice is served, I believe that Vladmir P. Devens is well qualified and particularly well suited to serve as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter in support of his nomination to this very important position.

Sincerely,



Coralie Chun Matayoshi
JD# 3068

TESTIMONY
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: November 17, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

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

FROM: Steven J.T. Chow, Esq.

RE: Confirmation of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am writing to ask your support of the nomination and confirmation of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as one of two Associate Justices to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have been a practicing attorney in the State of Hawai'i for over forty-two years after graduating from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1981. My practice is primarily civil litigation and I have had numerous cases with Mr. Devens. He has always been well prepared and knowledgeable on all aspects of his client's case and writes clear and logical briefs based on the law. He is articulate and well prepared when presenting oral arguments to the Court and opposing counsel. He has a broad breadth of experience in all areas of civil law and, in addition to his civil background, Mr. Devens has over 33 years of experience with criminal law and procedures.

For the last 24 years I have been and currently serve as a Director on the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA). In 2003, I chaired the HSBA committee to develop policy and procedures for interviewing judicial nominees and making recommendations to the legislative confirming body (Senate Committee on Judiciary) whether a nominee is qualified or not for a judicial appointment. My committee developed the current criteria and factors upon which a judicial candidate should possess. The criteria include Integrity, Diligence, Legal Knowledge and Ability, Professional Experience, Judicial Temperament, Financial Responsibility, Public Service and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position. Having developed the HSBA criteria I can say without qualification that Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. meets, if not exceeds, each of the criteria to be an Associate Justice.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my humble opinion why Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. should be nominated to fill one of the two Associate Justice positions on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I would be happy to provide you with any additional information or comment. You can contact me at (808)225-3969 or by email at sjtc2927@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.



888 Mililani Street, Suite 401
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000

www.hgea.org

November 15, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Re: GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE HAWAI'I SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

I am writing this letter in strong support of the nomination of Vladimir P. Devens as an Associate Justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in Hawai'i since 1994 and have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Mr. Devens on the same and opposite sides of cases for more than 20 years. I am currently employed as the Deputy Executive Director for the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO (HGEA). In this capacity, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Devens on an even closer level over the past 5 years.

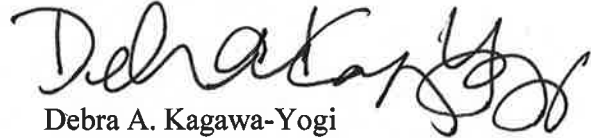
Mr. Devens is a local boy, born and raised in Honolulu. He graduated from Kalani High School and attended the University of California at Berkeley where he majored in economics. He attained his law degree from UC Berkeley's School of Law. Mr. Devens has practiced law in Hawai'i for over 35 years, representing plaintiffs, defendants, corporations, businesses, public workers, and unions, in matters relating to, but not limited to, construction, land use, constitutional issues, corporate governance, real estate, collective bargaining, products liability, sexual abuse, child abuse, wrongful death, and class actions. He also has 33 years of experience with criminal law and criminal procedure.

In his capacity as counsel and advisor for multiple labor unions in Hawai'i, Mr. Devens has worked closely with HGEA on numerous issues, cases, and legislation. He has a deep understanding of and connection to our communities and the working class, and a strong resolve for fairness and justice. In all of our dealings with Mr. Devens, we have found him to be extremely knowledgeable, articulate, prepared, and professional. In our "counsel hui" meetings, where counsel of various labor unions gather to discuss current issues and events, Mr. Devens stood out as a leader, respected by his peers. He is firm, yet humble, and someone who has demonstrated great temperament, integrity, empathy, and patience.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
November 15, 2023
Page 2

I truly believe that with his personal background, character, and rich diversity of experience, Mr. Devens will be an impartial, thoughtful, and outstanding addition to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I humbly request the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Kagawa-Yogi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "K".

Debra A. Kagawa-Yogi
Deputy Executive Director, HGEA

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/15/2023 12:34:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Levi K. Hookano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I write in support of Mr. Vlad Devens as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I served on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i State Bar Association with Mr. Devens for several years. During the time that I've known him, all of his decisions have been extremely well reasoned and supported by fact. He provided sound advice to me and others, and was always open to lend a helping hand to those around him. His community oriented attitude with respect for individual liberties, analytical thinking, and fantastic writing will undoubtedly make Mr. Devens a valuable member of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I wholeheartedly support his nomination and urge this Committee to forward his nomination to the full Senate with a positive recommendation.
Mahalo, Levi K. Hookano

THOMAS KOLBE
68 MAKALANI PLACE
MAKAWAO, HI 96768

November 14, 2023

Via Facsimile: (808) 586-6131

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

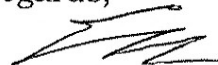
Re: Applicant Vladimir Devens
Hawaii Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I am happy to submit comments in support of Vladimir Devens as an associate justice for our Supreme Court. I have known Vlad professionally for approximately 10 years. As a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui, I have litigated several labor arbitrations with Vlad serving as counsel for the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO). Vlad was always prepared and represented his clients competently, demonstrating a deep understanding of the grievance procedure and collective bargaining generally.

While Vlad has represented SHOPO zealously in these matters, he and I were able to work amicably when it came to accommodating schedules, and when exchanging discovery, exhibits or other pre-arbitration materials. I consider him to be an excellent attorney with great integrity. I believe he possesses the legal ability and experience to be an appellate judge and I support his nomination.

With regards,



Thomas Kolbe
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

LATE

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES J. BICKERTON

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RELATING TO
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE VLADIMIR DEVENS, ESQ.

FOR A VACANCY ON THE HAWAI'I SUPREME COURT

Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and members of the committee:

I hereby give my strongest support and endorsement to the nomination of Vladimir Devens to the position of

I am a practicing civil trial lawyer, admitted to the Bar in 1982. I have served a Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and as Chair of the Bar's Special Committee on the Appellate Backlog, and was elected by members of the Bar to serve on the Judicial Selection Commission from 2009 to 2015, where I served as Vice Chair. I have tried numerous civil jury trials and have represented hundreds of injured or defrauded individuals and consumers over the years. The emphasis of my practice is on consumer rights and personal injury and, in particular, representing ordinary people against powerful corporate interests.

First, while I am sure you hear from many experienced attorneys, I wanted to note that I was the Chair of the HSBA's Committee on Appellate Issues, a special ad hoc committee that was charged in 2003 with discovering the causes of the then-severe appellate backlog. We successfully identified the factors in a detailed report and many of our recommendations were implemented. As a result of that work, I gained a deeper understanding of the appellate process than the average lawyer has. Thereafter, I was elected by my peers in the Bar to serve as the Bar's representative on the Judicial Selection Commission, which gave me further understanding and insight into the qualities it takes to be a good or great trial judge or appellate judge, and the types of persons who should not sit on the bench. Finally, I have an extensive appellate practice (filing 5-10 Opening Briefs per year in the last two years alone).

All this experience has given me a good vantage point from which to evaluate nominees to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Vlad Devens stands out, and will bring sorely needed skills, experience, insight and values to the position. I have known Vlad for 40 years. While we do not socialize and have only worked on two or three cases together, we have had many professional discussions over the years and I am very familiar with his work, both on the cases we discussed professionally and with the published decisions he obtained in landmark cases. He is a very hard worker, and our Appellate Issues Committee found that to be critical to the success of the Court. In private practice, he carried hundreds of cases successfully at the same time, showing me that he knows how to organize a heavy caseload, another critical factor in avoiding appellate delay and unjust results.

Vlad has represented the underdog against powerful interests and has stood his ground and stuck to important principles of justice and fairness. As a civil law practitioner with extensive civil trial experience, he brings an important dimension that other candidates, with either criminal law or no civil trial backgrounds lack. He is highly intelligent, perceptive and understands complex issues well.

I respectfully urge the Senate to give its full your consent to Vladimir Devins' nomination. I know he will serve Hawai'i and its people with distinction.

November 14, 2023

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

Re: GM2
Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Vladimir P. Devens

Dear Senators:

We highly recommend Vladimir P. Devens for Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

We have known Vlad for nearly 30 years and practiced against him. He has a strong work ethic, high level of intelligence, ability to connect with the local demographic, open-mindedness, and high moral character. He is also compassionate and fair. His legal skills are impressive. When we were young attorneys and learning our craft, Vlad was well-prepared and a strong advocate for his clients while maintaining a sense of fairness, which is uncommon in the personal injury arena. Vlad was one of the few lawyers that did not take advantage of our inexperience. While litigating many personal injury cases with Vlad throughout our careers, we have become accustomed to discussing with him a final “landing spot”, or settlement range, that would be considered fair by both sides. We have thought so highly of Vlad that we, as defense attorneys, often selected him to be the neutral arbiter in three-panel arbitrations, and on many occasions a single arbiter, despite the fact that he is a plaintiff’s attorney.

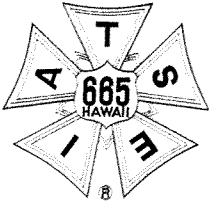
We believe that Vlad would be an excellent and welcomed addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Should you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very Truly Yours,

ROY & AU, LLLC

By: *Stephen K. Roy*
STEPHEN K. ROY

By: *Lance S. Au*
LANCE S. AU



Local 665
HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS
for
FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION
Since 1937

LATE

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
IATSE Local 665

November 17, 2023

GM 2 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE TO THE
HAWAII SUPREME COURT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE IN 10 YEARS

IATSE Local 665 strongly supports the nomination of Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens has a wide range of experience including labor relations, land use, permitting, law enforcement, and constitutional matters. His perspective and experience in criminal, civil and business issues are above reproach and mirrors those of our Hawai'i population.

As a practicing labor attorney working on behalf of Hawai'i's hard workers, Mr. Devens understands what regular folks encounter daily – he gets it, understands it, and feels it. Mr. Devens is an advocate for working families on the Court for the first time in over a generation. During a time when issues and challenges of our families are too often forgotten, we know that Mr. Devens will represent the views and values of local citizens as part of the Court.

We offer our support of Vladimir Devens nomination as an Associate Justice on the Hawai'i Supreme Court and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Irish Barber
Business Representative

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/3/2023 12:42:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly support Vlad Devens. I have known him his entire life. He has my endorsement.

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/3/2023 5:26:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Crumpton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: This statement is submitted in strong support for the selection and appointment of Vlad Devens as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Having practiced civil litigation in Hawai'i State and Federal Courts for 36 years, civil mediation and arbitration of Hawai'i State and Federal cases and cases in other jurisdictions for 38 years, served as adjunct faculty teaching negotiations and conflict resolution to US and international undergraduate and graduate students for 24 years, having provided training in civil litigation, mediation and arbitration for 38 years, having served as chair or member of a number of Hawai'i State Judiciary and Hawai'i State Bar Association programs and entities, and having known Vlad well for many years, both professionally and personally, I can personally affirm Vlad's admirable and well-respected professional and personal abilities, values, qualities, integrity, legal skills and knowledge, demeanor, communication and understanding skills, and his dedication to fair, just, responsible decisions and actions that serve the best interests of the community and of those involved and affected, including in particularly difficult, sensitive and challenging situations and issues. As an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Vlad would be of valuable service and would bring great credit to the Hawai'i Judiciary, legal system, those they serve, and the Hawai'i community. I would be glad to respond to any questions and provide any additional information that may be of benefit. Respectfully submitted, Charles W. Crumpton

GLENN H. UESUGI

Attorney at Law

841 Bishop Street, Suite 2201
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Telephone: (808) 521-3336
Facsimile: (808) 566-0347

October 27, 2023

VIA FAX (808) 586-6131 and EMAIL senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Capitol,
415 South Beretania Street, Room #228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Vladimir P. Devens Associate Justice Apointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court

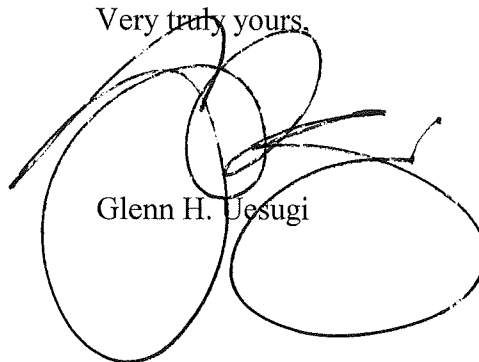
Dear Senator Rhoads:

I write today in wholehearted support of Vladimir P. Devens' appointment as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have had several cases with Mr. Devens over the years and always found him to be an intelligent, compassionate and well prepared attorney of the highest caliber.

One of Mr. Devens' best qualities is his balanced approach to the law. His ability to weigh all sides of an argument or issue from a big picture perspective will serve him well on our highest state court. Given his varied background as a litigator, I see him bringing a much needed unique perspective that has been missing from the Court.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,



Glenn H. Uesugi

GHU: ka

November 6, 2023

Hon. Karl Rhoads
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: GM2: Vladimir P. Devens, Esq.
Nominee to the Hawaii State Supreme Court.
Testimony in Support of Confirmation.**

Dear Senator Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to support the nomination of Vladimir P. Devens, Esq., to the Hawaii State Supreme Court. Mr. Devens comes from a well known and respected family of lawyers. His father was Paul Devens and his sister, Paula, is also a well respected attorney. You could say Vlad was born and raised to be a lawyer. But his path was much different. Throughout the course of his life, he has always chosen the path of helping people.

I first met Vlad, while he served with the Honolulu Police Department as a police officer. He was very well respected by fellow officers and supervising officers. Many in the City administration thought he was destined to be Chief because of his superior work ethic and intelligence. He later decided to leave the police department and practice law.

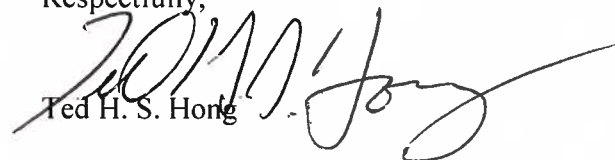
Based on his connections, going into corporate law or insurance defense, would have been easy. But again, he chose the harder path and represented individuals instead of corporate and insurance company interests. He even represented public sector Unions.

Vald is remarkable because his legal, analytical and writing skills are far superior to many lawyers and judges. Coupled with his exemplary work ethic, he will be an exemplary Supreme Court Justice.

What you can expect from Vlad, as a Supreme Court Justice is that he will see the person(s), for who they are and what they experienced, instead of routinely dismissing cases based on procedural rules or legal technicalities.

Some detractors have pointed out that Vald does not have prior experience as a Judge. That argument is transparently without merit. Throughout the history of the Hawaii State Supreme Court, a number of the Justices have come from private practice to the Supreme Court. What Vald brings to the Bench is more important than mere "seniority."

Respectfully,


Ted H. S. Hong



TED H.S. HONG
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC

EMPLOYMENT,
WORKPLACE LAW & LITIGATION

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Last Edited: 11/6/2023 9:02:28 AM
 Document ID: 1967108_1_BTK



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Austin H. Jim On
 Stephen C.K. Kaneshiro
 Travis Y. Kuwahara
 Ryan D. Loule
 Zachary K. Shikada
 Timothy T. Silvester

November 6, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
 Judiciary Chair
 Facsimile Transmission
 (808) 586-6131

Re: Appointment of Vladimir Devens to the Hawaii Supreme
 Court

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I would like to add my endorsement of the pending appointment of Vladimir Devens to the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Mr. Devens since he first started his career as a young attorney and have always been impressed with his intellect and legal ability. However, what I believe makes him stand out as a great fit for our Supreme Court is his knowledge of, feelings for and involvement with our community. I believe that he would truly serve our community well. My recommendation for his appointment is without reservations.

Very truly yours,

BERT KOBAYASHI, JR.

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/6/2023 1:46:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Huynh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: As a colleague of Mr. Devens, I've had the privilege of relying on his expert advice when navigating contested personal injury cases. As an attorney, I've entrusted Mr. Devens to serve as arbitrator in binding arbitration on a number of personal injury matters. I've always been impressed by Mr. Devens' professionalism, expert knowledge of trial work and litigation skill, and his fairness and objectivity as an arbitrator. There is no one better suited to serve as a Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice than Mr. Devens, and I support his appointment to the Hawai'i Supreme Court without reservation.

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November 7, 2023

Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony, GM2, Appointment of Vlad Devens to the Hawai'i Supreme Court

Honorable Members of the Legislature:

It is my honor to submit this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination of Vladimir Devens to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I am an attorney licensed to practice in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. My practice has emphasized the representation of public safety employees and their labor organizations. It is through that practice that I have become acquainted with Mr. Devens.

Beginning more than 30 years ago, Mr. Devens and I have worked together on a variety of projects in federal and state courts and in arbitration. Some of these projects have been quite complicated, including a Fair Labor Standards Act opt-in collective action involving more than 20 claims brought on behalf of over 2,000 employees of the City and County of Honolulu. On other occasions we have worked together on interest arbitration proceedings over the wages paid Hawai'i's police officers, proceedings where hundreds of millions of dollars have been at issue. Cases of this scale require considerable planning, dedication, and intensive preparation.

I have worked with Mr. Devens in a variety of litigation settings, from the complicated to the routine. I have observed him in court, in mediation, in informal settlement negotiations, interacting with clients, and in social situations.

It is with that background that I wholeheartedly recommend the confirmation of Mr. Devens' nomination to the Court. I'll start with the most important qualification of the Court, that of integrity. Mr. Devens' integrity is beyond question. He deals with everyone – clients, co-counsel, opposing counsel, courts, and others – with the same scrupulous honesty. Perhaps the best measure of Mr. Devens' integrity is the long relationships he has with opposing counsel, who have had the first-hand opportunity to make judgements about Mr. Devens. Those relationships have been uniformly positive.

An important aspect of service on the Supreme Court is collegiality, the ability to build relationships with other members of the Court to produce the best possible

decisions. Mr. Devens' collegiality is a core part of his character. On occasion Mr. Devens and I have been involved in cases where the parties have had contentious relationships. I have watched him build consensus where others thought doing so was impossible, both in the board rooms of clients and in meetings with opposing counsel. His temperament is precisely that we would want of any jurist.

Mr. Devens is also a marvelous communicator. I have seen him argue complex legal issues in court, organizing his thoughts in a logical, persuasive fashion reacting on the fly to questions raised by the court or arguments raised by opposing counsel. I've then seen him explain the discussion to his lay clients, fully capturing the nature of the legal issues in straightforward terms. Unsurprisingly, these traits serve Mr. Devens well as an educator, presenting training on the law to groups of non-lawyers.

Mr. Devens is also a superb technical lawyer. His research is thorough and complete, his thinking is incisive. He quickly grasps legal issues, even in areas that were previously unfamiliar to him. He writes with an enviable ease, no matter how complicated the topic. He works tirelessly in preparing for cases, something to which hundreds of emails sent to me at all hours of the day and night can attest.

Beyond all of this is Mr. Devens' commitment to the community. I've lost track of the number of different things for which he has volunteered. He has been a reserve Honolulu police officer, served on the State's Land Use Commission, coached youth sports, been part of the boards of non-profits, volunteered for school programs on the law, and so much more. His commitment to the community is a genuine one, part of the fabric of his character.

I've worked with hundreds of lawyers over the 45 years I've been practicing. I can think of no one I would as unreservedly recommend for appointment to the bench as Mr. Devens. He would be a superb addition to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Aitchison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and affiliation.

Will Aitchison
PUBLIC SAFETY LABOR GROUP

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/7/2023 8:49:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Fukumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I fully support the nomination of Mr. Vladimir Devens to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have first hand interaction with Mr. Devens for over 10 years while I served as a Hearings Officer with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Disability Compensation Division Workers Compensation Unit. Mr. Devens has appeared before me on countless occasions while he represented his clients on workers compensation contested hearings. Mr. Devens was always always cordial to all the parties, me, his client and opposing counsel. He had a unique ability to convey his statements in a very fluid and logical manner. I am convinced that he will serve the Hawai'i Supreme Court in that same manner. If you need any follow up information I will be available for any further assistance. Thank you for your time and patience in accepting my testimony.

Dennis W. Chong Kee
Cades Schutte Building
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4212
Direct Line: (808) 521-9209
Direct Fax: (808) 521-9210
Email: dchongkee@ca-des.com

November 7, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Recommendation of Judicial Nominee – Vladimir Paul Devens

Dear Senator Rhoads:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my written comments and recommendation in support of Vladimir Paul Devens (“**Vlad**”), whose name has been submitted to the Senate for its advice and counsel, as a nominee to fill one of the vacancies on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. The information below is largely the same as the information I earlier submitted to the Judicial Selection Committee and the Governor's Office on behalf of Vlad; however, I wanted to make sure this information is shared with your office as well.

I have been practicing law in this jurisdiction since 1991 and, early on in my career, I became familiar with Vlad's work and reputation as an attorney. He had an outstanding reputation as one of the better litigation attorneys in town but, more importantly to me at least, he had a reputation for practicing law in a fair and honorable manner. Several years later, in or about 2010, I had the opportunity to work closely with Vlad in connection with the Hawai'i State Bar Association's Judicial Administration Committee (“**JAC**”), and it allowed me to learn that this reputation was well deserved.

Vlad and I are part of a small group of attorneys and judges that have been continuous members of the JAC since 2010. This has provided me the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Vlad, over an extended period of time, on a wide range of issues affecting the practice of law in our jurisdiction. As part of its responsibilities, the JAC has been responsible for putting on either a Bench-Bar Conference or Civil/Criminal/Family Law Forum each year. The planning of these conferences and forums is a year round affair. During the past 12 years of putting on these conferences and forums, I have been able to observe Vlad as a tireless member of the JAC in addressing a wide range of legal issues. Vlad has proven to be a skilled lawyer, taking time away from his busy practice, to selflessly (i) identify current legal issues affecting the practice of law in

a wide variety of practice areas, (ii) identify the best way to present these issues to members of the bar for a thorough, on point, and balanced discussion, (iii) identify members of both the bench and the bar who are likely foster a positive environment for discussing and addressing these issues, (iv) communicate with lawyers from both the bench and bar to participate in either a conference or forum to discuss these issues, (v) work with members of both the bench and the bar to plan for the presentation and discussion of these issues, (vi) moderate and facilitate the discussion of these important legal issues in a manner that allows all views, including the minority views, to be heard, (vii) report the results of these efforts to the Supreme Court and the bar, and (viii) follow up as needed on recommendations resulting a discussion of these issues. Each year, Vlad has been at the forefront of the Committee's efforts and Vlad's efforts have been instrumental to the success of the conferences and forums. While Vlad's strength is in the civil law area, it is important to note that the conferences and forums also address a wide range of criminal and family law issues. Thus, Vlad's work on the JAC is not limited to civil law issues. Vlad's contributions to the JAC's work have been so valuable that he was eventually appointed to be and currently serves as one of the co-chairs of the JAC.

From our work together with the JAC, Vlad has become a trusted and valued friend and colleague, and has routinely proven himself to be someone who is sharp, honest, passionate, practical, and fair. Because of his wide range of experiences in the legal field, Vlad is someone I have the utmost confidence in and seek counsel from on a wide range of matters. In my position as General Counsel for Cades Schutte, I routinely face a number of challenging and sensitive issues that affect our law firm. I have consulted Vlad for guidance on some of these issues and he has routinely provided me with practical and sound advice. I have also sought Vlad's counsel on matters for my outside clients and, in one notable instance, his guidance and counsel were instrumental in helping with the settlement of a very challenging and emotionally charged lawsuit.

As your office might be aware, Vlad was born and raised in Honolulu and is a product of our State's public school system. Despite his humble public school beginnings, he has advanced to the highest levels of the legal profession in this State. He is the classic success story of the local public school kid making good. Because of his background and experiences, Vlad is one of those rare people who has the ability to, in one minute, effectively communicate with the CEO of a major corporation, and in the next minute, effectively communicate with a custodian taking care of a public park. I have no doubt that Vlad will treat those that appear before him with the utmost respect and fairness. Furthermore, I believe that people appearing before him will feel that they have been treated respectfully and fairly because of his personality and because of his familiarity with our State's customs and values. This will in turn serve to promote confidence in our State's judicial system.

I strongly believe the Judicial Selection Committee and the Governor's Office got it right in submitting Vlad's name to the Senate as a nominee to fill one of the vacancies on the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i, and I am hopeful that the Senate, with the support of the Senate's Committee on Judiciary, will share the confidence they, and others in the legal community like myself, have in Vlad's capabilities to fill this important position. I appreciate the consideration of these comments by you and your Committee. If you or any of the other members of your

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

November 7, 2023

Page 3

Committee have any questions regarding the information in this letter, or if there is any additional information I can provide that may be helpful, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,



Dennis W. Chong Kee

for

CADES SCHUTTE

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

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

November 8, 2023

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. Vladimir "Vlad" Devens, who is a candidate for a seat on the Hawaii Supreme Court. I felt compelled to submit my recommendation letter and endorsement of Vlad as I have known him for over 32 years and know he would be an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

I first met Vlad after he graduated from the Honolulu Police Department Training Academy. I was one of his Sergeants that supervised his field training to prepare him to perform his duties as a police officer. During the 12 months of field training, I observed how quickly Vlad applied everything he learned from his training and excelled in his police work. I attributed that to his maturity, calm demeanor, compassion towards others, intelligence, great attitude, work ethic and his willingness to learn. At such a young age, it was impressive. I knew then he would be a successful officer and serve the community well.

Vlad proved me correct in my assessment of him. He excelled quickly in the police department and was selected to the non-uniformed Crime Reduction Unit where they were called upon to handle a myriad of urgent and difficult cases and investigations. Only the best officers were selected for this elite unit. Vlad continues to excel in his police career as a volunteer reserve officer in the Crime Reduction Unit for the last 28 years.

Vlad has excelled even more as an attorney. He continues to serve the public well with his expertise in law and has built a very successful practice. His litigation experience in all Hawaii State Courts, from the Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, Circuit, District and Family Court as well as various administrative agencies. His many awards and accolades speak for themselves. All of this while continuing his dedication to public service. Vlad serves on many volunteer boards and organizations. One of the boards he serves on is Crime Stoppers, and we see each other every year at the annual fundraising and recognition awards dinner. Vlad has also volunteered as a coach for various youth sports teams.

Vlad is also a great husband and father. He and his wife, Joy, raised three stellar and ambitious daughters. To be able to build a successful law practice, raise a family and contribute with his community service, speaks volumes as to Vlad's legal ability, character, even temperament and wisdom. His integrity is unquestionable, and you will not find a better qualified or more deserving candidate.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Ikeda
Director of Safety & Security
Halekulani & Halepuna Waikiki
Vice President, Hawaii Hotel Visitor Industry & Security Association
Honolulu Police Department-Retired Lieutenant

Mr. George Kaho'ohanohano
2723 Kamelani Loop
Pukalani, Maui, Hawai'i 96768
GKahoohano@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 357-7759

Aloha, Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads;

My name is George Kaho'ohanohano, I am a retired Police Captain from the Maui Police Department and an employee of the State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers, but today I am sending you this letter as a Citizen of the State of Hawai'i. The reason for this letter is to **support** the selection of **Attorney Vladimir Devens** to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have known Vladimir Devens for over fifteen (15) years, and during this time I have seen him work in several areas of law and representing people of the State of Hawai'i. I have also had the unfortunate situation that needed the expertise of a Lawyer with knowledge to represent my family in a Civil situation and he represented our family from the beginning and this took a very long period of time (over five (5) years) with the final presentation to the State Supreme Court. I have seen what type of work that he does and have nothing but praise and gratitude for his skill, knowledge and expertise in making sure all needed matters are covered and presented.

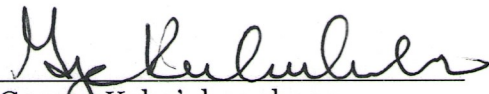
With the fact that I am a retired Police Officer in the State of Hawai'i I have had the opportunity to be present in court for the Maui Police Department as an investigator (witness) for the State and have observed several different attorneys, who are licensed in the State of Hawai'i, represent their clients in cases and in my humble opinion, Mr. Devens would be the one that I want to take care of my interests in any

case. I have also seen Mr. Devens in Labor issues to include Contract and Union representations thru the Grievance procedures and again seen the fact that he is a very articulate person in his presentation and use of the research for getting any and all needed information to assist with the case and the best possible representation for the Grievant and Labor Organization.

I must also mention that Mr. Devens has quite a bit of experience in the area of Criminal Law and criminal procedures to include making multiple felony arrest and drafting and executing Search Warrants and consulting with prosecutors, Judges on warrants. He has also been working with the Honolulu Police Department on different manuals, and being an instructor for them in the area of Laws of arrest and other matters.

Again, you have a huge decision to make on this matter and I can only inform you that in selecting Mr. Vladimir Devens for this very honorable and knowledgeable position that you will (in my humble opinion) be making a great choice in the selection of Mr. Vladimir Devens as I strongly believe that Mr. Devens has the best interest for the people and Government of Hawai'i and their rights at heart when looking at the facts of the cases or situation at hand and I believe that he will be a great asset to the State Supreme Court when selected.

Very Truly yours;


George Kaho'ohanohano

I write this letter in support of the application of Vladimir Devens for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Devens for over twenty-five years, both personally and as a fellow member of the Hawaii State Bar. He has always exhibited those qualities which, in my opinion, are important in serving our community in a judicial capacity.

Mr. Devens' character for honesty and integrity are beyond question and he has demonstrated a level of fairness and compassion in his professional endeavors which are necessary requirements for serving as a member of Hawaii's highest court. I have come to know and appreciate these character traits in Mr. Devens because I have had multiple opportunities to be involved in the handling of litigation matters where he served as counsel of record for the opposing party. As an adversary in these proceedings, Mr. Devens consistently demonstrated his capacity for honesty and fairness as well as his commitment to the concept of civility in the handling of matters that can at times become quite contentious.

I firmly believe that prior experience in the field of litigation is always an asset for a sitting judge. Significantly, Mr. Devens has had a wide range of litigation experience which included the representations of individual plaintiffs, defendants and corporate businesses. Mr. Devens legal practice has involved the representation of individuals in personal injury claims, as well as public workers and unions in labor disputes, contract negotiations and arbitrations. He has

also represented clients involved in real estate development projects and business transactions. He has also represented clients before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, the Building Board of Appeals, the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. His wide-ranging experience as an attorney has provided him with a better understanding of and appreciation for the needs of the parties to such proceedings. His litigation and business experience will not only make his transition to the court that much easier and smoother but will clearly assist him in the handling of matters that will be presented to him as a sitting Justice of our high court.

Over the years that I have known Mr. Devens, he has shown a willingness to work tirelessly when the situation required it in order to accomplish his goals and objectives in the representation of his clients. He has demonstrated to me a degree of diligence and decisiveness in the handling of legal matters as well as the ability to be compassionate and fair to all parties that he has come into contact with in the representation of his clients. There is no question that his law practice has provided Mr. Devens with the accumulated intelligence and wisdom required of a sitting Justice to address the varied legal issues that will be presented to the Court.

I wholeheartedly support the appointment of Vladimir Devens to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii without reservation and ask that the Commission act favorably in its consideration of his application.

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/8/2023 7:42:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Lebb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Vladimir Devens for the Supreme Court. This is a very qualified and competent professional. Mr. Devens is ethical, fair and honest. As a practicing Social Worker, I have seen Mr. Devens' work in various settings.

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

LEAVITT, YAMANE & SOLDNER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A LAW CORPORATION

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November 9, 2023

Attention: Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

RE: Nomination of Vlad Devens

Aloha Senator Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write this letter to express my hopes that this Committee will consent to the nomination of Vlad Devens to become an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

There are several reasons why this Committee should vote to consent to this nomination.

First of all, Vlad has the intelligence, the knowledge, the experience, and the trust of all the lawyers I know, to properly perform the momentous duties that he will undertake as a Justice of our Supreme Court.

Since all members of this Committee have, no doubt, familiarized themselves with his resumé, I will not repeat here his impressive educational and professional achievements, but leave those to speak for themselves.

Many lawyers – including myself – limit their practice to a small area of the law. In contrast to these lawyers, Vlad has years and years of experience with many different spheres of practice. This provides him with a broader and deeper understanding of these many areas of the law.

Vlad has earned the respect of his peers. I would be surprised if there are any negative comments from a reliable source on his nomination.

LEAVITT, YAMANE & SOLDNER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
A LAW CORPORATION

Vlad Devens

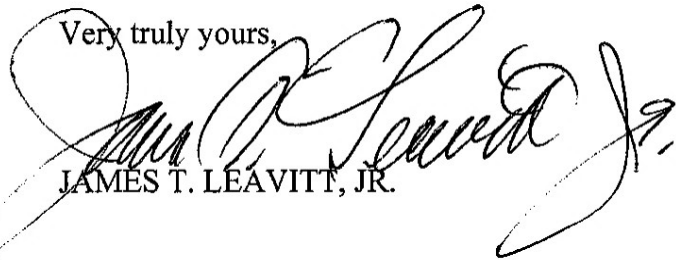
November 9, 2023

Page 2

If this Committee consents to his nomination, I believe Vlad will be a wise, knowledgeable, and fair Justice who will follow the law and preserve the integrity of our Supreme Court.

Therefore, without any reservations, I ask that the Committee consent to Vlad's nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James T. Leavitt, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

JAMES T. LEAVITT, JR.

November 11, 2023

State Senator Karl Rhoads
Judiciary Chair Committee
State of Hawaii

Re: Vladimir Devens Judicial Nominee

Aloha,

My name is Gabriel K. Malani, Executive Business Agent, State of Hawaii Org. of Police Officers (SHOPO) Hawaii Chapter. In the past fifty plus years I have been involved in Law Enforcement both as an Officer and as a Business Agent within the State of Hawaii.

It is my Union affiliation that I initially met Mr. Devens, as outside Counsel for our Union involved in training, negotiations, and the handling of our grievances.


It was through his efforts that our Union (SHOPO) became nationally recognized among all Enforcement Unions. I am certain if nominated, he would bring this same ethical personality, and expertise to the Judiciary Department.

I've been involved with Mr. Devens in many arbitrations defending our police officers, and I would have to say that I was very impressed with his knowledge of court room proceedings, his conduct and professionalism within these court proceedings with everyone present, truly was inspiring.

His presence within the court room commands respect he has an aura about him that made one pay attention to his every word. His presentation was always well planned, well executed, and a joy to watch him work.

As you well know, a lot of our cases involve police officers in criminal cases. Mr. Devens is well versed in both criminal and labor laws and his records show that his attention to details is one of the best I have ever experienced. He reads everyone within the court room proceedings, one's body language, voice recognition, when and how questions are to be presented. He constitutes the entire package of what a lawyer does and needs to do. If appointed, he would use that same skill on the bench.

On a scale of one to ten, one being the highest I would say he is number one in my book. I cannot say enough about Vladimir Devens and am very proud to be an associate, a colleague, and to know him especially as a true friend. If nominated, he would be an outstanding asset to the State of Hawaii Judicial System.

Aloha,

Gabriel K. Malani
Executive Business Agent
Hawaii Chapter (SHOPO)

MIYASHITA | O'STEEN

LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

November 10, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee
ATTN: Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St., Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-6130
Fax: 808-586-6131

RE: Written Testimony in Support of Mr. Vladimir Devens for the Hawai'i Supreme Court Associate Justice Position

Dear Judiciary Chair Senator Rhoads:

I strongly support Mr. Vladimir Devens as a candidate for the Hawai'i Supreme Court Associate Justice position because Mr. Devens is exceptionally qualified for the Associate Justice position and he will be a necessary addition to the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I had the privilege of being introduced to Mr. Devens in 2017 through his dedicated involvement with HSBA. Mr. Devens has been an exceptional role model and mentor for younger and newer attorneys like myself. He has impressed me with his ability to excel in his endeavors, remarkable analytical skills, and most admirably, he has never strayed from core values based upon compassion, fairness, humility, and a selfless commitment to others.

In addition, I was fortunate enough to work on a case with Mr. Devens and observe his interactions with clients and fellow bar members. What was most striking was his display of consistent professionalism and civility, and genuine actions dictated by the type of objectiveness and fairness that is typically expected of a Judge/Justice.

Now having an opportunity to fully appreciate Mr. Devens' professional history and experiences, Mr. Devens' strong ability to handle conflicts with success makes perfect sense. He has had a broad exposure to various courts from the trial court level to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, and legal practices representing a wide variety of clients, whether plaintiffs, defendants, corporations/businesses, public workers and unions. He has represented parties in real estate development projects, business transactions, and other litigation matters involving numerous administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Hawai'i Labor Relations Board, Building Board of Appeals, Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

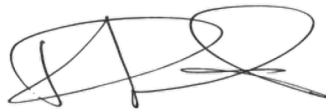
Mr. Devens' extensive experience, continuous demonstration of his effective abilities, and aloha for the State of Hawai'i does not only qualify him for Associate Justice, but his consistent and

expeditious accomplishments serve as undeniable proof of his versatility and capacity to excel as an Associate Justice.

Because of the above, I state with confidence and with pride, that Mr. Devens is well qualified for the Associate Justice position, and his addition as an Associate Justice will serve a great benefit to the people of Hawai'i. As such, I respectfully urge you to sincerely consider Mr. Devens for the Associate Justice position.

Thank you for your sincere consideration and time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miyashita', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert S. Miyashita
808-909-8771
miyashita@molawhawaii.com

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/11/2023 10:25:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Matsui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support Mr. Devens's appointment to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. For many years, I have had the opportunity to work with him and observe his style of practice. I believe he has the legal experience, integrity, demeanor, and temperament for the position and that he embodies the qualities needed to be a fair and impartial adjudicator.

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/11/2023 10:42:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Toma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear Senator Rhoads and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am writing to support the nomination of Vladimir Devens to fill one of the judicial vacancies on the Hawai'i State Supreme Court. I am an attorney licensed to practice in Hawai'i since 2000, and I served as a law clerk and as the administrative law clerk to Chief Justice Ronald T. Y. Moon over the course of four years. I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Devens in a complex civil case that lasted for over six years, with proceedings in state and federal court, including an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In the course of that litigation, I observed Mr. Devens investigate claims diligently, advise clients with compassion, draft well researched pleadings, negotiate fairly with opposing counsel, and advocate effectively with the utmost integrity. He also consistently demonstrated an understanding of and sensitivity to the judicial process and the broader and implications of the issues presented to the courts. As an associate in a separate firm cooperating for our respective clients, I appreciated Mr. Devens's ability to foster a collegial environment, taking in differing ideas on strategy and issues of law, and working with those differences to maintain a positive working relationship and an effective team. I also appreciated that he sought input from and discussed issues with the less experienced members of the team, like me. Mr. Devens has the ability, experience, temperament, and vision to be an excellent member of the Hawai'i Supreme Court who will work well with the other justices and their chambers and provide invaluable mentorship to the young attorneys who will serve as his law clerks. I wholeheartedly support his nomination. Very truly yours, Brian T. Toma

Andera Rosehill
5020 Saint Annes Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89149
(808) 561-3357

November 12, 2023

Hawaii Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn.: Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads.

Re: Nomination of Vladimir Devens, Hawaii Supreme Court

Senator Rhoads:

This is submitted in support of the nomination of Vlad Devens to the Hawaii Supreme Court. It has been my privilege and honor to know Vlad for nearly 30 years - as an employee.

I was a secretary at Jervis and Winer when Vlad began his career in private practice and continued with the firm as it evolved. I feel so fortunate to have worked for and beside him all these years because, although my husband and I no longer live in Hawaii, I have freelanced for Vlad for the last 10 years. Vlad's attention to detail, his intelligence and focus are incredible. He treats people fairly and with respect, I have watched him with clients and staff, I have seen him in public with people in service positions and he is consistently kind and respectful. Thirty years is a long time to work for someone and we haven't always seen eye to eye, but he has always been fair, kind and respectful. If I had it to do over again, I'd sign up sign up in a heartbeat. Vlad would make a great Associate Justice.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrea Lee Rosehill
Andrea Lee Rosehill

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WAILUKU, HI 96793
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October 13, 2023

Via On-Line Comment Only
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawai'i

RE: Supreme Court Associate Justice Candidate Vladimir Devens

Dear Esteemed Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Vlad Devens for consideration as Associate Justice in the Supreme Court, State of Hawai'i. I hope the information below is helpful.

When I first met Vlad, I was on the defense side of the bar, working for Ken Robbins. Ken advised that he was impressed with how Vlad had adjusted his temperament to become less abrasive and how it had transformed him into a really formidable opponent, as he was already known for being very intelligent and hard-working.

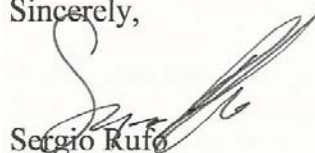
My personal experience with Vlad on the opposite side of cases was that he was very reasonable, professional, ethical, hard-working, and excellent to work "against." He was an intelligent, zealous, and compassionate advocate for his clients with excellent legal ability. Yet, he was always of high integrity and professional civility; always fair and reasonable when issues arose.

Thereafter, in both contemplating and making my move to the plaintiffs' side of the bar, Vlad was very supportive, helpful, and a mentor of sorts. He counseled me to remain true to my roots of hard work and integrity and encouraged me to fight for the less fortunate. He is a fine example to all attorneys on both sides of the bar on how to be a strong and respected litigator and advocate of justice.

It is without hesitation that I support and recommend Vlad for appointment as a Justice. I think he would be fair, even-handed, astute, and efficient. The whole state would benefit.

Thanks for your time. Good luck with your task and please advise if you need more information.
sergio@RufoLawGroup.com

Sincerely,



Sergio Rufo

November 12, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, No. 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads:

**Testimony Hawaii Supreme Court-JSC
Mr. Vladimir Devens, Esq.**

I am a principal at the R. M. Towill Corporation, I've known Vladimir "Vlad" Devens for 47 years and strongly believe he has the judicial qualities to be an exceptional Supreme Court Judge. These qualities include integrity, compassion, fairness, and moral courage; legal ability and experience; intelligence and wisdom; diligence and decisiveness; and judicial temperament.

As a high school student, Vlad exhibited integrity, compassion, fairness, and moral courage. When the cafeteria lady missed collecting lunch money, Vlad realized that she had not collected lunch money, so he went back up to the lady to pay for his lunch. My friends were shocked at Vlad's integrity and honesty. In high school, when one of the smaller kids was getting bullied (he was a Freshman and Vlad was a Senior), the bullies were shoving this kid into the trunk of a car when Vlad went against a group of bullies to stand up for the small defenseless kid and told them to "stop harassing him and leave him alone". He had the moral courage to stand up for what was right at a very high cost (risked getting beaten up by the bullies). Since the small freshman kid didn't have friends, Vlad invited him to "hang out" with him. His compassion for this small and helpless kid was exceptional. He was always standing up for defenseless/helpless people to do what was right, as a result, classmates respected him, and he had a lot of friends. Now as an adult, he often expresses his passion to protect people who were unfairly treated and is willing to sacrifice time with his family and friends (working long hours 7 days a week) to work toward a just outcome and to ensure that they receive fair representation.

Vlad's legal ability is exceptional, and his 35 years of experience speak on its own merit (voted as top lawyer many times) and winning cases against top mainland attorneys. He wanted to attend UC Berkley because he thought that Berkley law school would provide him a good legal education. When we were in college (I was at UH and he at Berkley), he would always encourage me to do my best. He believed strongly in excellence. He would always say to me "*learn your lessons well because our education will help us serve others in the future*". He is very smart and graduated from law school with top honors. His legal ability and logic are exceptional. My brother passed away at 47 years old. My sister-in-law asked multiple lawyers to help with her case. None of the lawyers wanted to take the case because they all thought the doctors followed the standard of care and my sister-in-law "didn't have a case". However, Vlad took the case because his sense told him something was not right. He used his exceptional legal abilities and extremely high logic skills to understand what really happened. It turns out that my brother's doctor's reports were not in alignment and incorrect. Vlad was able to meticulously read through medical reports, speak with medical experts, understand the medical jargon, find

discrepancies with the various doctor's reports, and bring the truth to light. His legal ability is exceptional.

Vlad is extremely intelligent and wise. He speaks fluent Japanese language. His grandmother and mother are from Japan. His mother taught piano. I remember his grandmother teaching him lessons on Japanese writing with a Japanese calligraphy brush. It was fascinating to watch him write Japanese characters with a calligraphy brush and play the piano. In High School, he was always reading. He especially liked to read current events to find out what was happening in Hawaii and around the World. I was impressed that he knew what was going on in Hawaii and around the World. In high school, most of us didn't care much for reading and current events. Vlad had a lot of friends that asked for his advice. He gave wise advice and was nicknamed "the Owl". Today many of our friends from High School consult with Vlad on legal matters (somethings never change).

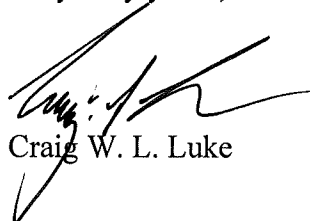
Vlad is very diligent and highly decisive. I'm a civil engineer and our company serve landowners. One of my friends at Campbell Estates was commenting on the new State Land Use Commission (LUC) Chair that was "very sharp and could understand what was going on and make excellent decisive decisions compared to the last few Chairs that couldn't grasp what was going on and often dragged meetings out with no clear outcome". The State Land Use System is very complex and difficult to understand. Hence, it would take many years of education and experience to understand how it works. When I asked who the new LUC chair was, he surprised me by saying the Chair was Vlad Devens. Vlad's exceptional ability to quickly grasp land use laws, apply the law and make wise, impartial, and intelligent decisions made him an excellent Chairman of the LUC. Also, he didn't tell me that he was the LUC chair, I had to find out via my client, he is very humble.

Vlad's Russian father, Japanese mother and Japanese grandmother have taught him well. They have engrained and modeled the important values of honesty, hard work, honor, compassion, open-mindedness, respect, courtesy, humility, generosity, and fairness. I have personally seen all these rare and exceptional qualities in Vlad.

Vlad will be an exceptional Supreme Court Judge which Hawaii can be proud of.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important process. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me on (808) 224-6180.

Very truly yours,



Craig W. L. Luke

October 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Wendy Watanabe. I am a court reporter born and raised in the state of Hawaii. Please allow me to offer my wholehearted endorsement of the appointment of Vladimir P. Devens for the position of Supreme Court Justice on Hawaii's Supreme Court.

Having been a court reporter in Hawaii for the past 25 years, I have worked professionally with Mr. Devens for the majority of that time. I know that he has a true passion and respect for the law and has worked long and hard to achieve those professional milestones in his career. As you can see, his professional resume is quite impressive and truly represents the absolute value he places on the law, the judicial system as a whole, and, of utmost importance, the people who are impacted by and count upon the legal system in Hawaii.

There are many who can vouch for Mr. Devens' career accomplishments, but I can provide my insights as to how it is I know Vladimir Devens. Mr. Devens is a man of high integrity, and his work ethic is unparalleled. Through countless depositions and arbitrations, Mr. Devens has always demonstrated professionalism and an even disposition through the most tense and challenging situations and has been a fierce advocate for clients. He is decisive, honest, and fair, qualities which I believe a good Supreme Court justice should have.

I have never seen Mr. Devens as someone who boasts about his accomplishments, responsibilities, and titles he has attained and held over the years but, rather, a person with high intellect and remarkable reasoning who focuses his energy and resources towards the task at hand. Mr. Devens brings the right mix of humility, diligence, and intelligence, and his commitment to his local and the statewide community and moral character make him the type of person that the legal community and the state can be proud to call a Supreme Court justice.

In closing, I respectfully request you give Mr. Devens' desire to serve on the Hawaii Supreme Court serious consideration as, in my humble opinion, he would be a great benefit to the people of the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Wendy M. Watanabe

RPR, CSR No. 401

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/13/2023 8:43:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David M. Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly support Vlad Devens for appointment to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. As a now retired trial attorney, I have known Mr. Devens for many years and have nothing but the greatest respect for his intellect, diligence, and ethics. He will, without question, be an incredible asset to the Court.



Imanaka Asato
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

November 13, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary
Thirty-Second State Legislature, Interim 2023

RE: GM 2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, for a term to expire in 10 years

Hearing Date: November 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM2 confirming Vladimir P. Devens as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Devens both professionally and personally, and I am confident in his abilities and dedication to upholding the principles of justice.

Mr. Devens brings to the table a wealth of legal experience and expertise. Having practiced as an attorney for nearly four decades, he has demonstrated a profound understanding of the law and a commitment to fairness and impartiality. Mr. Devens extensive background in all aspects of commercial litigation, constitutional law, appellate practice, including serving as lead counsel in several high-profile cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court. This experience positions him as an utmost qualified candidate for the Hawaii Supreme Court.

In addition to Mr. Devens' impressive background, he possesses qualities that are essential for a Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Devens is known for his thorough knowledge of the law, meticulous attention to detail, superior analytical skills, and a deep respect for the rule of law. He has consistently demonstrated the ability to approach complex legal issues with fairness, impartiality, and a commitment to justice for all.

Mr. Devens also has a strong record of community involvement and a dedication to public service, especially as it relates to training Hawaii's next generation of lawyers. He has served as faculty of UH's Trial Academy, as a volunteer attorney for Courts in the Community, and as a judge in many mock trial settings. He has also shared his love for sports with Hawaii's youth by serving as a boxing, baseball, soccer and softball coach, demonstrating a commitment for the well-being of the youth in our community.

Based on his commitment to public service, integrity and hard-working nature, I am confident that Mr. Devens would serve the people of Hawaii in the Supreme Court with distinction, bringing a wealth of experience, a commitment to justice, and a deep understanding of the legal system. For these reasons, I strongly support urge you to approve GM 2 and confirm Mr. Devens' nomination as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Michael L. Iosua, Partner
Imanaka Asato, LLC

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/13/2023 3:26:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Teves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, My name is Stephen Teves and I'm testifying in strong support to the nomination of Vladimir P. Devens for the position as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Mr. Devens for the last 20 years. In seeing Vlad in his legal practice, I always found him to be a highly skilled attorney and an exceptional litigator. I was also impressed and amazed at the diversity of Vlad's practice and representation, and how he excelled when he was serving his clients and the community at large. The thing that I believe sets Vlad apart from most attorneys and makes him extremely qualified to be a Supreme Court Associate Judge, is the diversity of his life experiences and his tireless commitment to public service and causes for the less fortunate. I wholeheartedly recommend Vlad's appointment to the Hawai'i Supreme Court as an Associate Justice and humbly ask you vote for his confirmation. Mahalo, Stephen Teves, Esq.

Law Offices of Yeh & Kim
A Limited Liability Law Company
505 Kilauea Ave. Suite B, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2830
Telephone (808) 961-0055

RONALD N.W. KIM
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JOHN MUKAI
jmukai@yehandkim.com

November 13, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Chair
415 S, Beretania St., Rm. 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

VIA FACSIMILE: (808)-586-6131

**RE: Nomination of Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. to the
Hawaii Supreme Court**

Dear Senator Rhoads:

Please accept this letter in sincere and unequivocal support of Vladimir P. Devens, Esq.'s nomination as a Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court. I first met Mr. Devens thirty (30) years ago when I was an associate in private practice. Mr. Devens represented the Plaintiff, and after almost a year of discovery, meetings, and settlement conferences, the matter was amicably resolved with both parties being satisfied with the outcome.

Since then, I have encountered Mr. Devens on numerous occasions in civil litigation during my years in private practice, and labor and interest arbitrations during my 15+ years of practice as a Deputy Corporation Counsel on Oahu and Hawaii County. Although we were always on opposing sides and represented competing interests, Mr. Devens displayed the highest level of integrity and honesty in every instance. Moreover, his legal ability, intelligence, and ability to clearly evaluate and articulate his position is at the highest level. Mr. Devens is also a fierce advocate for every client he represents.

Mr. Devens also possesses a keen ability to see issues clearly and look at the "big picture." Such attributes will be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Supreme Court, and ultimately, the citizens of the State of Hawaii. I recommend Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. highly.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience at (808) 961-0055.

Very truly yours,



JOHN S. MUKAI

WILLIAM H. LAWSON
EMAIL: bill@hilaw.com

AMY LAWSON WOODWARD
EMAIL: amy@hilaw.com

LAW OFFICE OF
WILLIAM H. LAWSON
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1188 BISHOP STREET
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 528-2525

WEBSITE
AccidentLawyerHawaii.com

November 6, 2023

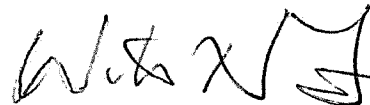
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Vladimir Devens as an
Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court
Hearing Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

This letter serves as my testimony in full support of the appointment of Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mr. Devens is a well-respected colleague of mine, he has served as an arbitrator or mediator in some cases I have handled, and he was always fair and impartial in any dealings we have had. Mr. Devens would be a valuable addition to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,



William H. Lawson

WHL:sy

Hawaii State Senate
Judiciary Chair Karl Rhoads
(808) 586-6131 fax

November 10, 2023

Subject: Personal Testimony for Mr. Vladimir P. Devens

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the qualities, integrity, and capabilities of Mr. Vladimir Devens, Governor Josh Green's nominee for the seat of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

I have known Mr. Devens for most of my life, 43 years to be exact. We met at Kalani High School and formed a strong friendship which continues until today.

I have had the opportunity to work with him as a client in a personal injury case when his career was just beginning. Even back then, his approach was to be clear in his arguments, fair in his ask, and stern in his commitment. He was ultimately successful, and I will forever be grateful.

I have been by his side through the many iterations of his life and career, as a single law student, honors graduate, policeman, husband, new law firm founder, father of three incredible daughters, and established, respected, and highly successful lawyer.

In my nearly 40-year career as a Social Worker, I have regularly worked with a diversity of people and clients in a myriad of situations, so I have learned to "see" people and where they are coming from. Mr. Devens is one of the most honest people I have ever met, his integrity is beyond reproach, and his intelligence is unquestionable.

While Mr. Devens has reached lofty heights in his career, he has remained the same person I met over 40 years ago, extremely down-to-earth, someone to talk with about anything, who is always there for me and my family no matter what, who possesses a clear mind based on common sense, fairness, and strong ethics, and who respects others' points of view while remaining steadfast in his commitments.

Having been born and raised in Hawai'i, and nurtured by the values we hold dear here in the islands, our community can surely benefit from Mr. Devens' leadership and guidance in Hawai'i's highest court.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Mr. Vladimir P. Devens.



Mr. Kirkland Ching
(808) 779-3158
kaleikc@yahoo.com

November 14, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/splsession.aspx?year=2023b>

Dear Senator Rhoads,

My name is Joyce Alapa, and I am a retired detective with the Honolulu Police Department. I am in support of Vladimir Devens as our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

I've known Vlad for nearly 30 years. I met him when he applied for the Honolulu Police Department many years ago. At that time, I was a sergeant assigned to his three-member hiring panel. Vlad was a unique applicant because he was a law school graduate and practiced law before applying with HPD. During the application and interview process, I found that he was intelligent, charismatic, and had an engaging and genuine personality and was more than qualified to be a police officer. In fact, I believed the department and the community would be so fortunate to have an officer of Vlad's high character, ability, and integrity. He passed with flying colors, had my overwhelming recommendation to proceed to the HPD police academy for training.

Vlad excelled in the police academy and won various awards for his stellar performance in the classroom and in the field. After graduating from the academy, he was quickly selected by one of our premier plainclothes units and built a reputation as a hardworking, smart, fair, and vigilant police officer. He was well-liked by his co-workers and supervisors alike, was a leader, formulated and led many important investigations and projects, and put his life on the line time and time again to protect our community. He is one of the best officers I've ever seen perform, and I have the great privilege of being on the panel that hired him.

He left the department after about 6 years to continue his law practice, and served as general counsel for our union, the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO). As our union attorney, he was well-respected by our officers, and spearheaded the most lucrative collective bargaining agreements that I've ever seen in my career. His work for SHOPO changed my life for the better, and the lives of our fellow officers. It is a pleasure to see that he continues to be the same humble, kind, and focused man that appeared before me and the hiring panel many years ago.

I wholeheartedly support Vlad's selection as our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,

Joyce Alapa

RUSSELL T. HIGA

60 N. BERETANIA ST., APT 3101, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
TELEPHONE: (808) 561-5049 / EMAIL: hingat004@hawaii.rr.com

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Senator
Chair, Judiciary Committee & Members
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Governor's Message No. 2; Letter In Support of
the Appointment of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i**

Dear Chair Rhodes and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

This letter is written in strong support of the nomination of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS for appointment to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

I have known Mr. Devens for over 20 years. During my career as an administrative law judge, arbitrator and mediator in labor matters, Mr. Devens has appeared before me on numerous occasions in his capacity as legal counsel, representing unions and individual grievants. I have never interacted with Mr. Devens in a social setting; accordingly, all of my observations are based solely on the interactions recited hereinabove.

Mr. Devens is an outstanding attorney. His credentials are impeccable. Time and again, he has demonstrated exceptional legal skills. His case preparation and presentations have been flawless. He is well organized and presents succinct and authoritative legal arguments. In my view, his writing ability and oral skills are at a level far beyond most attorneys.

While zealously advocating the interests of his client, I have never observed Mr. Devens to demonstrate any anger, frustration or engage in intimidation. He has always been cordial, courteous and respectful to opposing counsel as well as adverse witnesses and has always exhibited the highest standards of professionalism and decorum in his appearances as a member of the bar.

With regard to his lack of experience as a trial or appellate judge, the constitution does not require judicial experience as a prerequisite for appointment to the Supreme Court. Indeed, it is my firm belief that his lack of judicial experience is truly an asset that provides a fresh perspective on the state's highest court from one who regularly appears before the bench.

I can state unequivocally that Mr. Devens embodies those qualities that are essential to those individuals serving on the Supreme Court. He possesses the integrity and intestinal fortitude necessary to make proper decisions based solely on the law and is impervious to pressure which may be brought to bear by outside interests.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Hawaii State Senator
Chair, Judiciary Committee & Members
State of Hawaii
Page 2
November 13, 2023

In closing, I wish to thank both the Chair and members of the committee for this opportunity to comment on the nomination of Vladimir P. Devens to a position as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i, and urge that he be confirmed.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Russell T. Higa

RUSSELL T. HIGA

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/14/2023 12:39:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha, Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the nomination of Vlad Devens to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Mr. Devens will bring a fresh voice and a strong work ethic, and I look forward to his tenure on the court. Yours truly, Elizabeth

Clark Hirota
chirotalaw808@gmail.com

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony on G.M. 2

This testimony is submitted in strong support of Mr. Vladimir ("Vlad") P. Devens to the position of Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice. As a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association, I have had the opportunity to have various types of cases against him. In the matters where we stood in opposition to each other, Mr. Devens was always well prepared and very knowledgeable on whatever legal subject matter that was before us. He was always courteous and very professional despite being on the opposite side of the table. At times, he would also give me pointers on the practice of law, which I have adopted and made part of my practice.

Based on the foregoing, I am confident that Mr. Devens will be an up standing addition to the Court and maintain the integrity of the Hawaii Judicial system if he is selected to the position of Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Devens' nomination.

Very truly yours,

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

Clark Hirota

Duane R. Miyashiro, Esq.
First Hawaiian Center
999 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

November 14, 2023

VIA Online Submission

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn.: Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads

Re: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court (GM2)

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Mr. Vladimir Devens be confirmed as a highly qualified nominee for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Mr. Devens for over 30 years, first as a fellow police officer with the Honolulu Police Department ("HPD") and later as counsel for opposing parties in civil litigation. I believe that he will bring a wealth of practical legal expertise and diverse insight to the court for the reasons below.

First, Mr. Devens is an exceptional attorney with a distinguished career that spans over 35 years. He possesses a profound understanding of the law, a strong commitment to justice, and an unwavering dedication to public service as a reserve police officer with HPD among other things. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and integrity, earning the respect and admiration of his peers and clients.

Moreover, Mr. Devens' vast experience and expertise in civil litigation, primarily representing claimants and consumers in civil litigation and public unions, would undoubtedly strengthen the Hawai'i Supreme Court's ability to deliver fair and equitable justice to the people of our state. His dedication to upholding the Constitution and protecting the rights of all citizens aligns perfectly with the values that our judiciary should embody.

Finally, Mr. Devens has demonstrated his commitment to the improvement of the administration of justice through his volunteer work with the Hawai'i State Bar Association ("HSBA"), including his active roles with HSBA's Bench/Bar Conference and Civil Law Forum.

In conclusion, I highly recommend Mr. Devens for the position of Associate Justice. His impeccable qualifications and unwavering commitment to justice make him an outstanding candidate for this esteemed role. I have no doubt that his appointment would greatly benefit our state and the judiciary.

Senate Committee on Judiciary
November 14, 2023
Page 2

Thank you for your time and consideration of this recommendation. I trust that you will make a decision that reflects the best interests of Hawai'i and its citizens.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Miyashiro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Duane R. Miyashiro

DRM:mms

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/15/2023 7:16:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Pavey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I write in strong support of Vlad Devins' confirmation as Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. His broad range of experience as a lawyer is impressive and will bring a new perspective to the Court. That's a good thing. He has an excellent reputation and most importantly he is a man of integrity and heart. Best wishes, Judy Pavey

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Attorneys At Law

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

November 14, 2023

Letter of Support for Vladimir P. Devens

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Senator Mike Gabbard, and Judiciary
Committee:

I write this letter in support of Valdimir P. Devens for Associate Justice on the Hawai'i
Supreme Court.

I have been practicing trial law for about 50 years. I have known Vlad for much of that
time. I know him to be an intelligent, experienced, and passionate advocate. I have
also had cases arbitrated by Vlad and found him to be fair and very knowledgeable
about the law.

I heartily recommend Vladimir P. Devens for the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Very truly yours,



Collin M. (Marty) Fritz



CMF:



KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

AND AFFILIATED PARTNERSHIPS

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November 15, 2023

Karl Rhodes
Judicial Chair
Senate Judicial Commission
417 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Vlad Devens

Dear Judicial Chair Rhodes,

I write to enthusiastically support Vlad Devens' confirmation to serve on Hawaii's Supreme Court. I have known Vlad since 1982, when we were undergraduates living in the dorms at UC Berkeley. I then overlapped with Vlad at Berkeley Law School. Vlad and I have remained friends for 40 years. I can unequivocally attest to Vlad's integrity as well as his outstanding legal ability. Vlad was a voracious reader during our undergraduate and law school years. It is hard to capture the intensity of both his intellect and his drive. Vlad graduated Magna Cum Laude at UC Berkeley in part because he was a gifted student, but even more so because of his intense commitment to excellence and to mastering whatever subject he studied. Vlad also excelled in law school, and he continued to grind for countless hours every day in our law library to master our law school class. Vlad's drive and commitment to excellence were evident 40 years ago.

Over the years, Vlad and I have often talked about the practice of law and we have kept up regarding our work. I am now a "senior" partner at one of the largest law firms in the world, with over 3,000 lawyers around the globe. Over the last 30 plus years, I have been struck by how Vlad applies his legal sophistication and deep analytical skills in a way that is akin to what our "top" lawyers do for our Fortune 500 clients. . Vlad has applied his outstanding legal acumen, intellect and his commitment to our legal system on behalf of individuals from all walks of life, not just to large corporations. . In large law firms, many lawyers specialize in narrow fields of law and become an expert in a sliver of the legal system. Vlad stands out to me as someone who has been uniquely skilled in a plethora of different areas. He is an expert in labor law, contract law, real estate law, and he is also deeply knowledgeable regarding Hawaii's administrative law and various agencies. Vlad represents individuals and corporations and has been active on the plaintiff side and the defense side. Vlad's deep expertise in so many areas of Hawaiian law makes him ideally suited to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Karl Rhodes
Judicial Chair
November 15, 2023
Page 2

I have always admired how Vlad also gave back to his community while running his law firm and practicing law at the highest level. Vlad also served on the Honolulu CrimeStopper's Board. Vlad boxed in school at Berkeley, and he then went on to coach boxing to underprivileged kids and also, he raised the money to send his boxing students to mainland tournaments. Amazing to me that Vlad has kept this up for over twenty years. He also remains active in the police reserves for nearly thirty years. From my personal experience, I know just how difficult it is to stay engaged in community service while also dedicating oneself to the legal profession at the highest level. Vlad is one of the few top lawyers I know who has been able to excel at both, which shows his true commitment to his community.

I have also personally observed another of Vlad's traits that are so important for judges in our country. Vlad treats everyone around him with dignity and respect. Vlad recognizes the decency of women and men from all walks of life, whatever their societal position in society. I can promise you that Vlad will treat all who come before him fairly and with compassion.

I sincerely hope you confirm Vlad Devens to serve on Hawaii's Supreme Court. For 40 years, I have watched Vlad dedicate himself to excellence with unflinching integrity. He would be a fantastic addition to your Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Mark Holscher

JAMES KAWASHIMA

1015 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

November 15, 2023

Mr. Karl Rhoads
Judiciary Chair Senator
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Vladimir P. Devens

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

My name is James Kawashima, and I submit the following testimony in support of the nomination of Vladimir Devens as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I submit the following background information to place my testimony in its proper perspective. I was a practicing attorney in Hawaii for over 40 years until my retirement in 2015. During that time, I handled litigation cases in all state and federal courts in Hawaii.

I served as secretary and treasurer of the Hawai'i State Bar Association and I served as the HSBA-elected member of the Judicial Selection Commission from 1997 to 2003.

I also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, for eight years in the late 90s and early 2000s.

It is with this background that I submit the following testimony on behalf of Vladimir Devens.

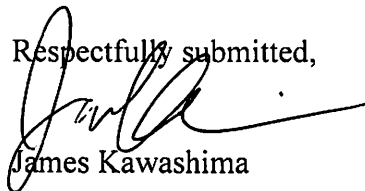
During my years of practice, I handled a number of cases involving Mr. Devens, almost exclusively as an opposing counsel, representing my client and Mr. Devens representing an opposing party. As an opposing counsel, I was able to understand and appreciate the fairness and intelligence that Mr. Devens brought to the case. I found him always to be prepared on behalf of his client, and always appeared to be aware of the relevant and pertinent authorities, representing the issues in the case.

Mr. Karl Rhoads
November 15, 2023
Page 2

He would always treat opposing counsel and their clients with all due respect and never once did I see him mistreat an opposing attorney. He brings to the position of Associate Justice, a great deal of maturity and understanding of the issues of law facing him. There is no doubt in my mind that he will bring a substantial amount of experience and maturity to the position that he will soon occupy.

I am prepared to appear before this honorable committee to provide testimony and answer any questions that the committee may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Kawashima', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Kawashima

HOSODA LAW GROUP

Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

Three Waterfront Plaza, Suite 499 | 500 Ala Moana Boulevard | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Telephone: (808) 524.3700 | Facsimile: (808) 524.3838

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

November 15, 2023

VIA FACSIMILE: (808) 586-6131

Senator Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: **Recommendation for Vladimir P. Devens, Esq.**

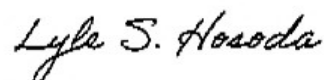
Dear Honorable Senator Rhoads:

This is my wholehearted recommendation in support of the confirmation of Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. ("Mr. Devens") to become a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Devens both personally and professionally for almost 40 years. Mr. Devens has had a remarkable and outstanding legal career, and he has the requisite intelligence, skills, training, and experience to serve our community as a Supreme Court Justice.

I have had cases for, with, and against Mr. Devens. We have also referred cases and clients to one another. I would not have referred cases to him unless I had complete trust and belief in his abilities and professionalism. I have also socialized with Mr. Devens through the years, although not on a regular basis. The quality and character of Mr. Devens that I respect and appreciate the most is his practical approach and caring for our community. He is as local and humble as one can get, with a big heart for the people, issues, and concerns confronting us. He will not back down from anyone or anything. Mr. Devens is strong and he will continue to serve, protect, and defend the people of Hawai'i with all he is, and all he has, as a Supreme Court Justice.

Should you have any questions regarding Mr. Devens, I remain available.

Very truly yours,



Lyle S. Hosoda

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Jonathan L. Ortiz
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erin@ortizlawhawaii.com

November 15, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads
Judiciary Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of Vladimir P. Devens

Dear Senator Rhoads:

It is my distinct honor to highly recommend attorney Vladimir Devens for a seat on the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court.

By way of background, I have been a trial attorney handling both criminal and civil trials statewide for over 45 years. During that time, I have dealt with hundreds of attorneys. It goes without saying that there are numerous highly qualified attorneys practicing in the State of Hawai'i. However, at the top of that list are very few who practice with civility, intelligence, and professionalism. The top of that list are individuals such as Vlad Devens.

Mr. Devens and I have practiced on opposite sides for the majority of our cases together. I have found him to be honest, open, intelligent and above reproach. All of these traits will transfer well to a seat on the Hawai'i Supreme Court, and the judiciary will be well served by his appointment.

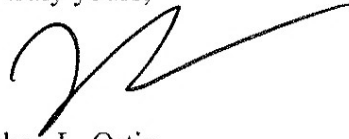
As a side note, there is a great need for experienced trial attorneys to become members of the judiciary. The experience of a trial lawyer is an invaluable tool in evaluating legal issues and creating solutions.

One could not ask for a more qualified candidate. I strongly recommend his confirmation.

Senator Karl Rhoads
November 15, 2023
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Should you have any questions or comments, I am available at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan L. Ortiz

JLO:jlc

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/15/2023 4:13:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hoffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: While Mr. Devens is not a personal friend of mine, I have had the honor of working with him on many occasions and have used him as a sounding board (something I do not often do) for complex legal issues and for a personal/"on the ground" perspective from a practitioner-- he has always been professional, courteous and humble. Given Mr. Devens' experience prior to becoming an attorney and his vast experience as an attorney, I have no doubt that he would serve the people of our state in a non-political and objective manner. Please consider the opportunity to have Mr. Devens serve on Hawai'i's highest court as an opportunity to shape Hawai'i's judicial future for the better. Aloha, Rodger

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*Adrian Y. Chang
Leilani Ann DeCourcy
Randall Y. Kaya
Michael A. Lorusso
Norman K. Odani*

*Carlton W. T. Chun
Wade J. Katano
Leslie R. Kop
Kyleigh F. K. Nakasone*

November 15, 2023

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads – Judiciary Chair
and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Judicial Selection Commission
State of Hawaii
417 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Vladimir Devens
Associate Justice Hawaii Supreme Court**

To the Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my support for Mr. Vladimir Devens for the position of an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mr. Devens is an outstanding lawyer and individual and he would be an excellent representative of the judiciary.

I have been a member of the Hawaii Bar since 1983 and have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Devens for approximately 36 years while practicing on opposite sides of the Bar in civil litigation. Throughout that time, I have always been impressed by his knowledge of the law and how well-prepared and thorough he is in his presentations throughout all aspects of a case, whether in a deposition, mediation, settlement conferences, arbitration or a Motion. Mr. Devens embodies the qualities and characteristics at the highest level set forth in Rule 10 of the Judicial Selection Commission's Rules.

Mr. Devens is an exemplary representative of the Bar and sets the standards of what attorneys should strive for in their practice as he is forthright, honest and a true "person of his word". He would make an excellent representative of the judiciary for his open-mindedness, fairness, legal knowledge, credibility and ability to interact at a personal level, all while maintaining the necessary decorum within a courtroom and certainly at the highest level in the Supreme Court. He is flexible, fair and forthright in developing his case and adjusting to both the strengths and weaknesses of any theory.

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Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads – Judiciary Chair

November 15, 2023

Page 2

Mr. Devens is well-respected by both sides of the Bar and by the Judiciary. While always an advocate for his clients, he practices in a professional, courteous and cordial manner. He has an excellent judicial temperament, remaining calm under the most stressful of circumstances and he is always respectful of all parties involved.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express my unqualified support for Mr. Devens. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-527-7063.

Very truly yours,



MICHAEL A. LORUSSO

To whom it may concern,

My name is Derek Kaaukai and I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. Vladimir Devens. I have known Mr. Devens for almost 20 years now and we had first met through his profession as an attorney. He represented me on an issue that I had with my employer. The litigation took almost 5 years to resolve, but during that time, Mr. Devens was impressively knowledgeable, sharp and articulate, regarding everything involving the case. Watching and listening to him present his case was a sight to behold. Needless to say, the case was found in my favor, thanks to Mr. Devens. But what also impressed me was the genuine care and concern that Mr. Devens showed me during those 5 years. He was constantly calling me to inform me of what was going on, and to check on how I was doing. I knew that he had a tremendously busy schedule, but he would always take the time to listen to my concerns and frustrations and then offer kind words of encouragement and positivity. We have since become very close friends. Although I live on Maui, he still calls to check up on me and I definitely call him when I need advice. He has helped me out numerous times and I know I can count on him to be there. Knowledge, wisdom, caring, fair and impartial. All words that describe Mr. Devens. He is outstanding in his professional capacity, but even more so as a friend and confidant. He would definitely serve Hawaii well as a Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,
Derek Kaaukai

DEREK R. KOBAYASHI

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

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

November 16, 2023

Honorable Karl Roads, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Gov. Msg. No. 2 – Nomination of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS, ESQ. to
Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court – **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Judiciary Committee Members:

I write to express my **strong support** of Governor Green's nomination of Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. to the position of Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known "Vlad" for over 12 years and first came to work closely with him as Directors on the Hawai'i State Bar Association ("HSBA") Board of Directors. Throughout the years, we have maintained a close professional relationship and I am very familiar with Vlad's background, practice, legal experience and qualifications to serve as an Associate Justice.

Vlad is of the highest integrity, moral courage and is decisive. I know this from matters that came before the HSBA, particularly one involving a *Keller* issue and whether or not the HSBA could take a position in response to a request to support funding for legal service providers. Vlad spoke out and framed the issue in relation to the HSBA's stated mission and courageously asked the fellow directors to favorably consider the request. While fairly addressing the concerns of others, Vlad argued for a position of support, rather than have the HSBA adopt a cautious approach to avoid any potential *Keller* issue by stating no position, at all.

I know that Vlad has been in legal practice in Hawaii for over 35 years. He has very strong legal ability and broad legal experience; having focused on litigation where he has represented plaintiffs, defendants, corporations, businesses, and public workers and unions in labor disputes, contract negotiations, and arbitrations. Has also represented parties in real estate development projects, business transactions, and other litigation matters. Vlad has appeared before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Hawai'i Labor Relations Board, Building Board of Appeals, Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

He has taken litigation cases from the start, through trial, and subsequent appeals filed with the appellate courts. Vlad has prepared his own appellate briefs in his cases and presented oral arguments before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Page 2

Vlad is highly intelligent and graduated from UC Berkeley with high honors (Magna Cum Laude) and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and UC Berkeley's Economics Honor Society. He graduated from UC Berkeley's School of Law (fka Boalt Hall). He has wisdom beyond his years.

I have always known Vlad to be compassionate and fair. He has often served as a sounding board for me in cases, particularly in my plaintiff's personal injury cases, as I have sought his insights on how to pursue and resolve, fairly and compassionately, cases for injured clients.

Vlad is certainly diligent. I have personally experienced his diligence through his many years of volunteer service, in various professional organizations and especially through his service as Co-Chair of the Committee on Judicial Administration and his organization and presentation of the Bench-Bar conferences.

Vlad has always been pleasant, courteous, and professional to work with and I have no doubt that if appointed, he would serve on the Hawai'i Supreme Court with an excellent judicial temperament.

In summary, Vladimir P. Devens, Esq. will fulfill all of the responsibilities and duties of the position to which he has been nominated - Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court – and I strongly support his nomination by Governor Green. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Very truly yours,



Derek R. Kobayashi

November 15, 2023

Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Michael Gabbard
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter *in strong support* of Vladimir Devens' nomination for Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have known Mr. Devens for over 15 years. We first met when I worked at an insurance defense law firm. Our firms litigated several cases against one another.

Mr. Devens' reputation is one of being well-prepared, intelligent, an excellent writer, a consummate professional, and a worthy adversary. He is known for maintaining his composure, and treating adversaries with respect and dignity, while accomplishing his objectives and furthering his clients' interests. He is an experienced and exceptional trial attorney.

In 2013, I opened my law practice with an emphasis on personal injury law. On occasion, I've reached out to Mr. Devens seeking his thoughts on legal issues. He was always unfailingly generous with his time and knowledge. During our conversations, I experienced (and was the beneficiary of) his knowledge of legal precedent, civil procedure and strategy. Mr. Devens often followed up our discussions with emails in which he would provide further legal memoranda and research. As an advocate for children, Mr. Devens litigated *Kaho'ohanohano v. Department of Human Services* from trial through a successful appeal before the Hawai'i Supreme Court, which established and clarified DHS' duty to protect endangered minors.

Mr. Devens is held in high regard by defense attorneys and plaintiffs personal injury attorneys alike, and he will exceed all expectations as an Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon S. Jacobs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon S. Jacobs

Clayton Hee
47-630 Uakea Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-5428
<senatorhee@gmail.com>

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

November 16, 2023

Aloha Senator Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I write in support of the Governor's nomination of Vladimir Devens as Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As honorable members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary I am certain all of you hold to the highest standards using the maximum time afforded by law for the confirmation process. Moreover, I am confident your committee does its best to ensure that a thorough and thoughtful process is undertaken to provide fairness to every nominee that you evaluate.

I first met Mr. Devens when I served as Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. During my tenure as a member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Mr. Devens had, on occasion, testified in support of legislation relating to fairness and an even playing field for everyone. In my opinion, he evaluated issues from all sides - not just one side - even when doing so may not have been in his best advocacy interest as a private attorney.

As importantly, Mr. Devens also offered testimony for individuals nominated to the bench for consideration by the Judiciary Committee. Not surprisingly, he has spoken highly of gubernatorial nominees with whom he may have had an adversarial relationship, such as attorneys representing different clients.

Mr. Devens is one of a very few private sector attorneys, as opposed to a sitting judge, being considered for the Hawai'i Supreme Court. This is an asset for individuals who have served the bar with distinction. The private practice perspective contributes to a more diverse judiciary reflecting multiple types of legal experience.

Others who served on the Hawaii Supreme Court who did not serve as judges include Former Chief Justice William Shaw Richardson, for who the UH School of Law is named and Associate Justice Edward Nakamura, a former labor lawyer who was known during his service as a balanced jurist who, because of his experience, understood how

employers were adversely affected by lower court rulings on appeal before the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

More recently, other Justices who served without prior service as judges included Justice James Duffy, a private attorney appointed by Governor Lingle who also became known as one of the most balanced jurists that evaluated all sides of arguments before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and present Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald who served as a Director of a State Department.

Hawaii is better for the service of Hawaii Supreme Court Justices Richardson, Nakamura, Duffy and Recktenwald. Nominee Vladimir Devens belongs in that same category of jurists who understands issues from all sides and is unafraid to make decisions underscored by sound reasoning, logic, thoughtfulness and fairness.

Thank you for considering this submission as a vote of confidence in Vlad Devens. I would be happy to speak with you further if needed.

Best Regards,

Clayton H.W. Hee

LATE

November 14, 2023

Judiciary Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Rhoads,

My name is Rance Okano and I currently work as a Police Sergeant with the Honolulu Police Department. I am also a boxing coach with several of our local boxing gyms. I write to recommend Vladimir Devens's confirmation as our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

I met Vlad over 10 years ago but knew of his reputation long before that. He worked as a police officer for about 6 years and was known as an officer with smarts and compassion that held his integrity above all else. After leaving the department, he served as our union attorney for decades and provided excellent representation to our members. This is all well known in our community and I'm sure you will hear about this and more from others.

The thing about Vlad that I wish to share with you is his generosity and devotion to our community. He continues to volunteer with the Honolulu Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer which he has done for decades without pay. He also works with at risk youth from our public housing projects by teaching and coaching them in boxing and providing them with much needed guidance and support. He continues to volunteer with Crimestoppers Honolulu which he has done for a number of years and their efforts have been a stalworth in keeping our community safe and providing our police officers with the tools to do the same. Vlad is also very generous with his time and legal expertise, and often provides pro bono services to members of our community who cannot otherwise afford an attorney.

Vlad has a tremendous legal mind, loves this State, and wants to do what is best for all of Hawaii. He would make you and the rest of the State proud as our next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Rance Okano

Vern K. Sasaki, M.D.
Occupational Medicine
1010 South King Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: (808) 591-0077
Fax: (808) 591-0076

LATE

November 13, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate District 13
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228

RE: Letter of Support for
VLADIMIR DEVENS, ESQUIRE
Nominee for Associate Justice, Supreme
Court, State of Hawai'i

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am honored to write this letter to show my strong support of the nomination of Vladimir Devens for the appointment to the Hawaii Supreme Court as an Associate Justice. I have known Vladimir for over 40 years, first as a classmate at Kalani High School, as a friend, and later as we embarked on our chosen career paths. From the time I met him in high school where we had many classes together, I have known him to be an extremely intelligent, personable, motivated and humble individual as well as an excellent communicator with a sharp and analytical mind.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with him professionally and have the utmost respect for Vladimir's strong work ethic, high moral and ethical character, sound judgment, intellect, excellent temperament, and caring and compassionate nature – all attributes that would make him an exceptional Justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I am Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and have had the pleasure of working with Vladimir on numerous Workers' Compensation cases as a treating physician, an independent medical examination physician, and expert witness over the past 20 years. In all of my interactions with Vladimir, I have always admired and respected him for his unwavering dedication to his clients while still being respectful, reasonable and fair to all parties involved in the cases. At times I have testified as an expert witness for employers at Hearings and been on the opposing side of Vladimir's clients. No matter the situation, Vladimir treats everyone with courtesy, respect, fairness, and professionalism. He is highly regarded and respected in the legal field as being a fair, respectful and open-minded attorney who is honest, hardworking and highly ethical. He never used our friendship to unfairly influence my medical opinions. He is also very

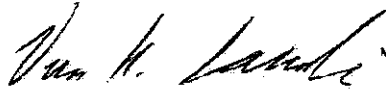
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
RE: VLADIMIR DEVENS, ESQUIRE
November 13, 2023

kind and generous with his time and cares deeply about his family, clients and community.

It is without reservation I give Vladimir Devens my highest recommendation, and it is my hope he will be appointed to fill the vacancy at the Hawaii Supreme Court, as I hold him in the highest of regards. He brings the experience level and education, as well as the right temperament and integrity, for the appointment. The Hawaii Supreme Court and the people of Hawaii would benefit immensely with the addition of Vladimir Devens in the position of Associate Justice. I believe he possesses the qualities necessary to be an outstanding Associate Justice and will serve our State well.

Thank you for your consideration of Attorney Vladimir Devens. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Vern K. Sasaki, MD, MPH
Diplomat, American Board of Preventive Medicine
Board Certified, Occupational Medicine

Lt. Col, Senior Flight Surgeon/State Air Surgeon
HQ Hawaii Air National Guard

VKS:rs

LATE

Rosenberg McKay Hoffman

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November 16, 2023

VIA FACSIMILE: (808) 586-6131

Senator Karl Rhodes, Judiciary Committee Chairman
Senator Mike Gabbard, Judiciary Committee Vice Chairman
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter of Support for Confirmation Hearing
Gubernatorial Nominee Vladimir Devens for the Hawaii Supreme Court

Dear Senators Rhodes and Gabbard:

I write this letter of support for Vladimir Devens, who is a Gubernatorial Nominee for the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Vlad for approximately 25 years. I know he started as an HPD officer, serving his community before he decided to practice law in Honolulu like his father and his sister. My first contact with him was many years ago when I was appointed as a Court Annexed Arbitration Program arbitrator for a personal injury case in which Vlad represented the injured plaintiff. The case went to hearing and the attorneys each presented their position on the case. I found Vlad to be well-prepared, articulate, and insightful. The case settled following the issuance of the arbitration award.

In later years, I had the opportunity to speak with Vlad on multiple occasions about legal issues, as both our practices became focused on plaintiff's personal injury and later, with the enactment of the "window" statute, HRS § 657-1.8, in 2012, even more focused on child sex abuse cases. I became more aware of his legal skills but, more importantly, I learned the level of his dedication to his clients and his willingness to fight for them against some of the larger Hawaii institutions and schools.

Child sex abuse cases are not easy for lawyers to handle. In fact, there are only a handful of lawyers in Hawaii taking on such cases. There can be a lot of emotional trauma involved and, as such, most of it is unseen. These unique clients often have a difficult time talking about what happened and the necessary details sometimes have to be slowly and carefully drawn out over successive interviews. It is a delicate balance to work through the client's anger, despair, mistrust, and need for constant support and validation from the attorney. It can be tempting to reach early

Rosenberg McKay Hoffman
Attorneys At Law

Commission Chair Nadine Y. Ando, Esq.
Judicial Selection Commission
November 16, 2023
Page 2 of 2

settlements that may not represent full or sufficient compensation for severely damaged clients. I saw Vlad reject early settlement offers on several occasions. Eventually, he obtained extremely favorable results for the clients he was representing by refusing inadequate settlement offers and threatening litigation and trial. By raising the bar on case value for these cases, Vlad's steadfastness and integrity benefited all of our clients.

My respect for Vlad's abilities and compassion for his clients also has caused me to refer him many cases over the years. He continues to be a leader in our area of the law and the head of a very successful law firm. He is the type of judge we need on the highest Hawaii court; a financially successful attorney who is willing to take substantially less money to serve the community in which he grew up.

Regards,

ROSENBERG MCKAY HOFFMAN

RANDALL L.K.M. ROSENBERG, ESQ.

RLKMR:lra

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY



TESTIMONY FOR GM2 BY
WILLIAM K. WATERS (RETIRED)

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
November 17, 2023

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

I am in support of the nomination of Vladimir “Vlad” P. Devens to serve as an Associate Justice on the State of Hawai‘i Supreme Court. I have known Vlad in a personal and professional capacity for approximately 55+ years. Vlad and I grew up in Aiea in the mid-1960s. Vlad was a frequent guest, as his sister, Paula (Judge Paula Devens), and my sister were best friends, he would visit because his sister was responsible for watching him, if she wanted to come over. I was older but ended up playing with him often while our sisters conversed. How ironic, we played “cops and robbers” and one day Vlad asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I immediately answered a “police officer” and he said to me, me too! Over the years, his family moved, and I lost track of Vlad but knew that he graduated from Kalani High School and went to the University of California Berkeley.

Our paths crossed again in our professional careers. In 1996, I was a Sergeant in the Honolulu Police Department, assigned to the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU). When I assumed command of the Unit, one of the young officers assigned to me was Vlad Devens. I was shocked and amused when I saw him! Our goals had reached fruition as police officers, and we were both working as police officers assigned to CRU. For young officers assigned to CRU, it required that they excel in patrol and understand policing from a patrol perspective. We both laughed when we met up again, now as real police officers assigned to serve our community by catching the bad guys.

As his supervisor, I noted that Vlad continued to excel as a police officer, especially in the area of investigations. He conducted thorough and accurate investigation reports. His law school and legal training aided in developing the unit’s investigative abilities for those assigned, because he was a leader. There were countless times when he advised the unit that we should get a search warrant, the fact that a prosecutor and then a judge would review the warrant made our investigations and cases stronger. He educated the unit on the value of using a search warrant as a tool for investigations. In a real case of “cops and robbers,” we had a bank robbery series going on in Waikiki (The Christmas Greeting Card Robber) and the Kapiolani area. The District VI CRU unit located the suspect in Waikiki, and we were able to successfully arrest and later achieve a conviction on the case with Vlad’s diligent efforts in guiding the unit.

Vlad was always willing to share his knowledge and influence other officers. One of those officers was Larry Khan-Smith. Larry also used the skills that Vlad had taught him to expand his career with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency. After I retired from HPD, my path crossed with Larry, who credited Vlad with his sharing of knowledge of search warrants.

As a police officer, Vlad displayed his commitment to his work as a public servant and this continued when he left the police department to focus on his legal career. We crossed paths again in 2003 after I retired from HPD and went on to work at TSA. I became a Reserve Police Officer with HPD. Reserve Officers work for no compensation, commit to 5 hours per week working in the Department, and attend Wednesday Night Training sessions. I ran into Vlad again as he was also an HPD Reserve Officer and had been one since returning to his law practice.

I strongly believe that Vlad possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities to represent the values of Hawaii's community as a member of the Hawaii State Supreme Court. Vlad is best described as dedicated, and intelligent, with extensive legal knowledge and abilities of the law. He is a devoted advocate for his clients and the community, where his integrity and loyalty truly reside.

The key success of a Hawai'i State Supreme Court Justice requires being above reproach, fair, and of unwavering character with strong ties to the community of Hawai'i, which I genuinely believe describes Vlad.

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Vladimir P. Devens to serve as an Associate Justice on the Hawaii State Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ William K. Waters

William K. Waters



LATE

November 16, 2023

RE: GM2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Associate Justice to the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Gubernatorial Nominee, VLADIMIR P. DEVENS

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the chance to express my strong support for Mr. Vladimir Devens as he is considered for selection to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

In my capacity as the Principal at KL Enterprises LLC, a consultancy with over two decades of experience specializing in advising executives on market entry strategies and organizational improvements both locally and internationally, I've had the privilege to amass a comprehensive perspective of sound leadership and good governance. And although I have not been a direct client of Vlad's, my insights into his work as a civil attorney are grounded in firsthand accounts within our shared professional circles.

Vlad's exceptional character and wealth of talent makes him a standout candidate for the Hawaii Supreme Court. On a personal level, our nearly forty-year friendship has provided me with valuable insights into his unwavering personal integrity and deep commitment to friends and family—a quality I believe is crucial for someone in a judicial leadership role.

Our connection has been marked by numerous instances over the years, one of which stands out: our shared journey through PAC-12 colleges. In the lively banter of sporting events, Vlad and I engage in good-natured exchanges, often concluding with a gracious concession and humble congratulations. Despite his busy schedule, Vlad's thoughtful gestures during these moments are particularly touching and exemplify his innate curiosity, astuteness, humor, and effortless ability to relate to others.

In my professional experience, Vlad stands out as an exceptional individual. I've confidently referred individuals in need of legal services to him, and without exception, Vlad has not only graciously assisted them but also successfully resolved their cases in their favor. The feedback from these individuals underscores Vlad's qualities as a dedicated, passionate, competitive, and intelligent attorney who genuinely cares about his clients and their situations.

I am confident that Vlad's unique blend of skills, experiences, character, and personal integrity makes him an ideal candidate for the Hawaii Supreme Court. Beyond his legal acumen, Vlad brings intelligence, values, dedication, and compassion—qualities vital for making a positive impact when presiding over legal issues. I am certain that Vlad will serve Hawaii's community and its people in a fair and deliberate manner.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this referral in support of Vlad's selection to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Keona Leong'.

S. Keona Leong
Principal, KL Enterprises LLC

Park & Park

Attorneys at Law, A Law Corporation

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Arthur Y. Park, P.C.
Patricia Kim Park, P.C.
Travis A. Yu
John C. McLaren (1951 - 2018)

November 16, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Committee on Judiciary
The 32nd Legislation, Interim of 2023
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Our File No.: n/a
Subject : *Consideration and Confirmation of the Appointment of Vlad P. Devens to the Supreme Court*

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I write to wholeheartedly support Vlad P. Devens to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i.

Because I am sure you have his outstanding specific qualifications before you, I will not repeat them here. Rather I am conveying my thoughts as a former member of the Judicial Selection Commission of the State of Hawai'i (1999-2005), and as a practicing civil trial lawyer in Hawai'i for almost 50 years.

In the years I had the honor to serve on the Commission, we were constantly on the lookout for candidates who possessed the best and highest qualifications and credentials to serve as judges, with the reputation of honesty and fairness as lawyers.

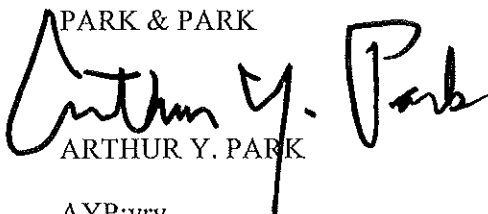
In the years I was on the Commission and as a practicing lawyer in the State of Hawai'i, I can honestly state that Mr. Devens is one of the most qualified candidates I have ever encountered.

Not only is Mr. Devens an excellent product of the Hawai'i Public School system, his superb academic background is one of the best of any candidate I have ever encountered. Mr. Deven's varied legal experience in civil litigation, criminal law, labor law, and administrative law, as well as his experience as an arbitrator and mediator, is complimented by his temperament.

His real life experience as a working police officer, to his appeals and arguments before the Hawai'i appeals courts, and every thing in between make him uniquely qualified to sit on the Supreme Court and hit the ground running when he gets there.

Vlad would be another great addition to the Supreme Court, and it would be sad loss to the State of Hawai'i for him to not be confirmed.

Very truly yours,

PARK & PARK

ARTHUR Y. PARK

AYP:vrw
119831.2



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November 16, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Re: Letter is Support of Vladimir P. Devens

Dear Chair Rhoads:

I write in strong support for the appointment of Vladimir P. Devens as Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I have known Vlad, both professionally and personally, for almost 20 years. We served together in the State Land Use Commission and I have actively litigated cases (mostly against) him. I consider him a close friend. I can attest, without reservation, to Vlad's character and integrity. He is hardworking, pragmatic, and devoted to the rule of law. Vlad, as a respected and experienced civil litigator, will bring immeasurable value to the intellectual and professional diversity of the Hawaii Supreme Court. I cannot say enough about Vlad as an attorney and an individual. The State of Hawaii will be better for his service in our judiciary.

I ask that you please look favorably on Vlad's appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

//S// Normand R. Lezy

Normand R. Lezy
COX, WOOTTON, LERNER,
GRIFFIN & HANSEN LLP

NRL/ark

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LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/16/2023 8:13:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Jane Agas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I do not support the nomination of Vladimir Devens.

Testimony

Faith Lebb <faithlebb@hawaii.rr.com>

Tue 11/7/2023 8:24 PM

To: Sen. Karl Rhoads <SenRhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov>



You don't often get email from faithlebb@hawaii.rr.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the Honorable Karl Rhoads & Committee Members:

My name is Faith Lebb. I am a practicing Licensed Clinical Social Worker. During my 46 years of practice, I provided services in corrections, mental health, senior citizens, and the State's workers' compensation system.

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Vladimir Devens as an Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court. I witnessed Mr. Devens' professional conduct with his clients both in the public and private sectors. Mr. Devens is an ethical, honest, fair and very straight-forward professional.

Mr. Devens is experienced in handling both civil and criminal matters. His background in the Honolulu Police Department gives him a unique perspective of the law and how it is administered.

I am certain that Mr. Devens will serve Hawaii honorably.

You may feel free to contact me if there are questions I can address. I thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Faith Lebb, DCSW, CRC
(808) 265-3855

LATE

GM-2

Submitted on: 11/16/2023 10:22:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 11/17/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Ponce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Senator Rhodes and respective delegates. My name is Bryson Ponce, a retired Assistant Chief of Police from Kauai. I am testifying in support of Vladimir Devins for the Nomination to Hawaii's highest honorable court, the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. I have known Mr. Devins for 25 years and I can vouch and affirm that his integrity, judicial knowledge, experience in litigation and demeanor is worthy and deserving to hold such a coveted and honorable position on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. You will not be disappointed with Mr. Devins as he brings to the table the unique ability to problem solve, effectively communicate, compromise, and make progressively sound legal, moral, and ethical best decisions in the interest of fairness and justice for everyone. With unwavering hard work and commitment, Mr. Devins has continued to impress me with superior legal advice, litigation strategies and effective outcomes for the greater good, the everyday working class men and women of this beautiful island State. It is with great humility and honor to have a person with the characteristics and compassion that will indeed make your and our Hawai'i a better place to live, work and flourish. Aloha and thank you for the opportunity!

*Law Offices of James J. Stone**

**A Law Corporation*

LATE

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Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing November 17, 2023; Room 016

Re: GM 2 – Nomination of Vladimir Devens as
Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court

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

I am a private attorney for over 35 years handling a variety of matters including without limitation personal injury and defense litigation, family court matters and administrative hearing matters.

I write in strong support of the nomination of Vladimir Devens as Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens is well known and respected in the legal and general community not only as a litigation, administrative and appellate attorney who has handled cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court but also a person who has given back to the community in many ways including without limitation serving on various Boards and Commissions, the Hawaii State Bar Association, providing Community Service, as a public speaker and author of various publications. In addition, he is happily married and the proud father of 3 children.

I recall a legal issue I once had and I called Mr. Devens for some advice. I was simply amazed by the time he took to explain various matters to me and his insights that resulted in my being able to solve the problem with my opposing counsel.

He clearly has the temperament and skills to be a great Associate Justice.

I respectfully urge you to approve and recommend his nomination for Associate Justice to the Hawaii Supreme Court. You will not be disappointed.

Thank you for considering my testimony in strong support.

November 14, 2023

LATE

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I would like to recommend Vladimir Devens' confirmation for the vacant Hawaii Supreme Court justice position.

Vlad was my attorney for a lawsuit I filed against my high school and my former basketball coach because he sexually abused me when I was a child. My abuse is still difficult for me to talk about, much less think about, but I think it is important for me to share with you how much Vlad helped me. Other victims involved in my lawsuit participated anonymously because their abuse still haunts them today, but I did speak to them, and they share the same gratitude, fondness, and appreciation for Vlad that I am sharing with you today. Importantly, they are in a much healthier state of mind today than they were before they met Vlad.

When I was young, I was a pretty vibrant girl, had an outgoing personality, and loved playing basketball and volleyball. I had many friends and dreams of playing college basketball. I trained all the time and was laser focused on reaching my goals. I made my high school varsity team as a sophomore which was a great accomplishment, but that was when I was sexually groomed and abused by one of my high school coaches, Dwayne Yuen. When I tried to speak up, he spread rumors about me and turned everyone against me. I won't get into the details here, but it was the worst experience in my life, completely ruined high school for me, made me a loner that had no real friends, and shattered my basketball dreams.

I went through life with this dark cloud hanging over my head and blamed myself for the terrible feeling I had in me. After learning that the statute of limitations had been extended for sexual abuse claims, I and others sought out Vlad because of his great reputation, and I had met him in the past and he has always been a nice and respectful person. It was not until Vlad helped me and other victims that we truly understood that what happened to us was not our fault because that inner turmoil and guilt never left us. We were just children that were taken advantage of by a person with power and authority over us and were manipulated into thinking that we were at fault for everything bad that happened to us. In our brains, we knew that it was not our fault, but something inside of us lingered that continued to perpetuate self-hate. Taking the leap to come out publicly and to confront my demons helped me to finally find closure to this terrible experience and I can proudly say today that I am a strong woman that can stand up for myself and take on all challenges with my chin high. I could not say that before.

Vlad was such an amazing attorney. I was so impressed with his ability to build the case, he worked so hard and never stopped until we reached our goals. He always treated us with dignity and respect and made us feel like strong, independent women that were taking over control of their lives. Vlad was instrumental for me in finding my true self and I can now say that I am truly happy with my life today thanks to his help.

Vlad is the perfect person to take on the job of an associate justice because he cares about people, he is so smart, and he fits the part in every way. I strongly support Vlad and hope he will be our next Hawaii Supreme Court Justice.

Mahalo nui loa,


Mahina Macfarlane Souza

GILBERT C. DOLES
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November 17, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chairman of the Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via e-mail: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Re: GM2 - Senate Confirmation Hearing of Vladimir Paul Devens, Esq.
as an Associate Justice for the Hawaii Supreme Court**

Dear Sen. Rhoads:

It is both an honor and a privilege that I present this letter in full support of Vladimir Paul Devens, Esq. ("Vlad"), upon his selection by the Judicial Selection Commission and Governor Josh Green to become an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. For the past 30 years, I have known Vlad well, on both personal and professional levels. Based upon my long-standing relationship with Vlad, I am able to personally attest to his personal and professional character, integrity, legal and analytical skills and knowledge, demeanor, communication and understanding skills, fairness, and empathy as being of the highest quality.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Vlad's academic credentials following his graduation from Kalani High School are impressive and noteworthy. He excelled at both the University of Hawaii and the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Economics, inducted into the UC-Berkeley Economics Honor Society, and ultimately awarded distinctive recognition as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. Vlad continued to achieve academic excellence at the UC-Berkeley Boalt School of Law where he earned a law degree and received academic recognition as an Associate Editor of the Industrial Relations Law Journal.

For the past 36 years, Vlad has been an accomplished attorney and litigator, having successfully litigated a variety of cases at all levels in the Hawaii State courts, including District, Family, Circuit, Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawaii Supreme Court, federal courts (District of Hawaii, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals), and before various administrative agencies, including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Board of Appeals, Disability Compensation Division, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, Hawaii Labor Relations Board, and Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
November 17, 2023
Page Two

While licensed as an attorney, Vlad also served in law enforcement as a Honolulu Police Officer and continues his involvement with the Honolulu Police Department as General Outside Counsel for the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers in various labor matters, including contract negotiations and grievances. Vlad's commitment to the law profession has inspired him to volunteer much of his personal time and acumen as an author and speaker in various Hawaii State Bar Association ("HSBA"), continuing legal education seminars, at Kapiolani Community College, and to serve in the capacity as an Arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program ("CAAP"). Vlad has also volunteered many hours, unselfishly, as an HSBA Board Director and on various HSBA Committees (Judicial Administration, Strategic Planning, Civil Form, Bench/Bar Conference, Continuing Legal Education), along with the Access to Justice Center, and Courts in the Community. On a personal level, Vlad has volunteered as an AYSO Soccer, KAC Baseball, and Girl's softball coach.

Clearly, Vlad's training, background, and experience as an attorney would serve him very well as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. In his professional career, he has established himself as a successful legal advocate yet demonstrated his ability to be fair-minded and objective when serving as a CAAP Arbitrator. Moreover, his knowledge and experience in handling matters before the Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Board of Appeals, and Board of Land and Natural Resources should greatly assist him greatly in his role as an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Overall, I have known Vlad to be a thoughtful, well-respected, and responsible individual, whose honesty and integrity are appreciated by his colleagues and other members of the community. Not only has Vlad excelled in his legal career, it is quite evident that he realizes the value and importance of public service by his involvement and commitment as a volunteer in many various ways.

Therefore, based upon the foregoing reasons, it is without reservation that I would strongly support and urge your Committee's approval of Vlad's recent nomination by Governor Josh Green to become an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for your time and attention in allowing me to present my testimony.

Very truly yours,



GILBERT C. DOLES

Attorney at Law

cc: Vladimir Paul Devens, Esq.

LATE

October 5, 2023

The Hon. Josh Green
Governor - State of Hawaii
5th Floor - State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Placing the name of Vladimir Devens for Associate Justice

Dear Governor Green:

It is an honor and pleasure to recommend the name of Vladimir Devens to become the next Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court,

He possesses all of the attributes that an Associate Justice should have. First, he attended the then Boalt Hall at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, a fine and respected law school in our country. Second, he is a very successful private practitioner. And, third, he is a man of integrity and character as demonstrated by his work while serving as the Chair of the State Land Use Commission. From my 52 years of practice, I would opine that the Governor does not have too many opportunities to select a candidate with these combined qualifications.

In addition, he represents "new blood" that the judiciary should welcome. As I understand, all other applicants are now serving as a judge in one capacity or another.

And, finally, he comes from "good stock." His father Paul who recently passed away, served as the Corporation Counsel and Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu. His mother, now 95, is a Japanese national who was an accomplished concert pianist and studied at the world famous Juilliard School of Music in New York City where she met her husband who was studying law at Columbia.

Please consider my thoughts and recommendation.

Sincerely,

/S/

Ronald Y. Amemiya
(808)226-7055
45- 650 Kapunahala Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744



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

Vladimir P. Devens
Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court (GM2)

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

FROM: Rhonda Griswold
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Friday, November 17, 2023, at 10:00 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 Vladimir P. Devens for the position of Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

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

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lyn Flanigan

- Meeting of the President, the Interim 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.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Interim Executive Director met with Mr. Devens on November 13, 2023, to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On November 14th, Mr. Devens was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Devens 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. Devens 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 Board of Directors of the HSBA met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, to interview Mr. Devens. We recognize that since Mr. Devens has been a member of the Board and active in numerous HSBA activities, committees, and task forces, this process requires our careful attention to any conflict of interest. Mr. Devens was not at the meeting or involved in the Board's simultaneous review of Chief Judge Ginoza for an Associate Justice position. As is our process, members of the Board were polled as to any conflict of interest. Two members who had written letters of support for Mr. Devens were recused from decision-making.

After extensive dialogue and questioning with Mr. Devens, the Board found that he is **qualified** in each of the categories of the HSBA criteria to be an Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Devens, after graduating from the University of California Berkeley Law School (then known as Boalt Hall), returned to Hawaii and has spent his entire legal career in Hawaii. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Devens spent 6 years with the Honolulu Police Department, and continues to provide legal training and expertise for the HPD. After entering private practice, Mr. Devens has earned a reputation as a highly skilled litigator. He has taken on (and won) complex cases resulting in precedent case law. In addition to his extensive courtroom experience, Mr. Devens has served in multiple quasi-judicial roles, as Chair of the State Land Use Commission, as a member of the Board of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, and as a Hearings Officer with that office. He has also participated in numerous mediations with Dispute Prevention Resolution, where he has either represented parties or served as the "third" (impartial) panel member.

Mr. Devens has devoted extensive time to public and private community service, teaching in multiple HSBA, Judiciary and WSRSL programs, participating in mock trial and advocacy programs,

and coaching in various youth activities. Although the appointment of a lawyer from private practice directly to the Supreme Court may appear unusual, it has happened many times in the past and has resulted in several esteemed jurists, including Chief Justice William S. Richardson, and most recently Associate Justice James Duffy.

It is not possible to list the breadth, variety, and depth of Mr. Devens' experience – all of which will add to the experience and diversity of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments to your committee during your deliberations and decision making.