

JC4



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. NO. 4, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, JUDICIAL NOMINEE MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA.

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

DATE: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Michael Tanigawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Tanigawa for more than thirty years, and I believe he is highly qualified to serve as a judge. He is a skilled attorney, and his extensive experience in private practice and government service has given him a thorough understanding of courtroom procedure and the judicial process. In particular, his experience as a staff attorney for the Intermediate Court of Appeals will be an excellent asset in his service on the bench.

Mr. Tanigawa's reputation is one of integrity, diligence, and high ethical standards. He consistently exercises sound judgment, and he has what I consider to be an excellent judicial temperament. In addition to his other responsibilities, Mr. Tanigawa has demonstrated his dedication to fairness and justice in the community by serving as a volunteer arbitrator with the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, and his commitment to excellence in the legal profession by serving as an adjunct professor in appellate advocacy at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I believe Mr. Tanigawa will be an outstanding addition to the District Court bench, and I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend confirmation.



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

MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA
District Court Judge, First Circuit Court

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
 The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
 The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

Hearing: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 229
 State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Michael K. Tanigawa for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

In evaluating judicial nominees, the HSBA Board utilizes a modified version of the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. These Guidelines include the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service, collegiality and writing ability. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."

As part of its procedures for evaluating and taking positions on judicial and executive appointments, the HSBA Board utilizes a subcommittee of HSBA Board to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members. The subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the complete materials submitted by the nominee and members and conducts an interview of the nominee.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the vote of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Michael K. Tanigawa to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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To: JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Re: JC 4
Hearing Tuesday, August 3, 2010
1:30 pm Conference Room 229

July 28, 2010

Aloha Senators Taniguchi and Takamine,

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It has come to my attention that Michael K. Tanigawa is a Judicial Nominee among those under consideration for confirmation position of District Court of the First Circuit. I am the Executive Director of a small nonprofit organization to which Michael Tanigawa has, on occasion, offered pro bono services. This generosity is reflective of his commitment to community service. He has been thoughtful, responsive, fair and honest in his dealings with our organization. His communication is always clear, concise and timely.

Michael Tanigawa performs at an equally outstanding level in diverse arenas of legal education, mediation and arbitration, legal practice and public service. In addition, I have known Michael Tanigawa and his family for a number of years. I have observed his deep caring and consideration as a family man. Professionally, as well as personally, Michael Tanigawa is balanced and diligent and acts with integrity and compassion.

I do believe his experience and quality of character make Michael Tanigawa an excellent candidate for this position. **I hope you will give him favorable consideration as you deliberate.**

Sincerely,

Nancy Aleck

August 2, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Senator and Chairman
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine
Senator and Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit
Judicial Nominee MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA
Tuesday, August 3, 2010, 1:30 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 229**

Dear Senators Taniguchi and Takamine:

I have known Michael K. Tanigawa for almost ten years through our community non-profit organizations called Pan American MOA Foundation, Inc. and MOA Hawaii, both of which represent the Mokichi Okada Association that promotes the appreciation of art, nature farming, and healthy lifestyle networks in our communities. The flower arrangements in the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices and Iolani Palace; the nature farming projects and after-school art programs at some of our public schools; as well as our annual Children's Painting Exhibition drawing from all our schools and showcased at the Academy of Arts at Linekona Center and the Museum of Art in Japan and around the world are all community based programs sponsored by the Mokichi Okada Association.

While at Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching, AAL ALC, Michael had been a legal advisor to our organizations and had always been patiently professional in taking the time to explain legal decisions and consequences to our lay representatives who truly appreciated his thorough explanation, his experience, background and insight on assisting the groups to make informed decisions. Although he represented many corporate clients, he was always responsive to our small independent groups which illustrated to us an unbiased sense of his value system.

When leaving private practice and joining the State's Intermediate Court of Appeals, Michael was upfront and courteous in informing the organization that his legal capacity had changed and he was no longer able to represent the groups. And while our groups elected to remain with Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching, AAL ALC, Michael remained true to his new position – no more legal advice for our groups and would point us in the right direction to seek necessary advice. Old habits were hard to break for some of our members; however we respected Michael for being truthful and forthright.

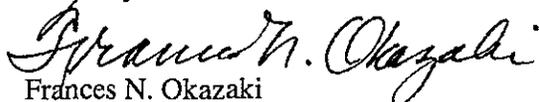
Actually, it's been the last couple of years when I have come to know Michael better through his monthly participation in my MOA Kohrinka Flower Classes which he attends after work. I'm not sure whether it was just to relieve the stress from his work at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, or wanting to confirm Mokichi Okada's philosophy that the application and appreciation of art in one's life helps to positively change attitudes in our community, one person at a time. We are certainly pleased with his attendance, sometimes with his daughter Samantha, his wife Pat, or with his mother. It is wonderful to see another perspective of Michael as a person relating to members of his household – all women who were probably quite surprised at his inviting them to participate in a flower arrangement class with him, and who were probably proud of his personal growth from making very simple arrangements to challenging himself with materials he never used; his accomplishments are remarkable. He connected quietly with each of his family at different levels – his mother who was already an expert, his wife who already had a creative and artistic eye for arrangements, and his daughter who was learning just as he was. The point being, Michael was willing to get out of his comfort zone, challenge his inner growth while finding a common ground that allowed him to relate to each of them.

At the same time we also recognized Michael's willing attitude of listening to different facts, to working within various guidelines and still being able to use his new experiences, while fulfilling the necessary requirements of a new project. The flowers and materials are never the same for each class and each lesson challenges the student to make the best use of the materials at hand and then to create a fulfilling arrangement for others to enjoy.

While this is an objective of our flower arrangement lessons, Michael has often verbalized this objective as similar in life -- the search for beauty in the materials and his desire to create and share the arrangement so others can also enjoy them. To have this same positive attitude in life – of looking for the best in people and circumstances and then designing an outcome that is pleasing and uplifting for everyone is a trait we believe should serve him well in the Judiciary and beyond.

Professionally, we know Michael has the necessary legal experience and therefore this confirmation hearing. It is perhaps somewhat rude to refer to him only as "Michael" in my testimony. However, this is also to acknowledge and support Michael K. Tanigawa as a real person, unpretentious and with an attitude and inner soul that will make for a better if not the best person for confirmation. We truly believe that Michael is a decision maker that has the right heart, attitude and perspective who will look for the best in all people and circumstances, and will make fair, truthful and responsible decisions by drawing on a common ground that benefits everyone.

Sincerely,



Frances N. Okazaki

MOA Hawaii

2525 So. King Street, Suite 309

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

From: Peter Esser [peteresser@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 4:25 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Confirmation of Michael K. Tanigawa; 8/3/10, 1:30PM

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations The Senate

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Michael K. Tanigawa as District Court Judge.

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I write with the greatest enthusiasm in support of the conformation of Michael K. Tanigawa as District Court Judge for the First Circuit of Hawaii. As a lawyer of 27 years experience in Hawaii, including nine years as a per diem district court judge on this same bench, I have the utmost confidence in Mike's integrity, diligence, legal knowledge, experience, and judicial temperament.

I have known Mike since 1985, having worked with him on numerous cases, conducted seminars together, and sat on committees at the Judiciary reviewing court rules. His contributions were always smart, fair, and insightful.

Moreover, I have had the pleasure of his company outside of work, as well as that of his lovely wife Pat McManaman and their two lovely daughters. Mike and his family are the salt of the Earth, and he would make a fine district court judge.

My only complaint about the Chief Justice's recent nomination of Mike, is that he waited so long to offer this good and hard-working man as a candidate for the District Court bench.

Sincerely,

PETER VAN NAME ESSER

Law Offices of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

547 Halekauwila St., Suite 118
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 591-9597

August 3, 2010
Rm. 229, 1:30 p.m.

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government
Operations

Fr: Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

RE: J. C. No. 4, Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the selection of Michael K. Tanigawa as judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I am an attorney in private practice. The focus of my legal work for the past eighteen years, both with the Office of the Public Defender and in private practice, has been appellate litigation.

I have known Michael Tanigawa since 1977 when we were law school classmates. From 1985 through 1988, Michael and I were staff attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender and worked together on many legal cases. From 1996-2001, we both served as adjunct instructors for the Appellate Advocacy course at the Richardson School of Law and collaborated on teaching methods and course curriculum. Michael and I have kept in contact during the past twenty years as friends and colleagues.

I truly believe that Michael possesses all of the qualities to be an outstanding district court judge. His leadership and organizational skills are superb. As a supervisor with the Office of the Public Defender, he was decisive, efficient and constantly explored ways to increase productivity and morale in his division.

Michael's knowledge of the law and analytical skills are exceptional. With his extensive litigation experience in both civil and criminal cases and his ability to quickly identify and resolve legal issues, he is well-suited to handling the volume and rapid pace of the daily calendar in the district court.

Hon. Brian Taniguchi
August 3, 2010
page 2

In addition to his exemplary legal skills, Michael is one of the most thoughtful and compassionate individuals I have ever known. He treats everyone fairly and with respect. Michael has a deep and abiding sense of justice and always strives to do what is morally and ethically sound.

Michael is an extremely hard-working and conscientious professional. He follows through on every task he sets out to do and lives up to the high standards he sets for himself. Michael represents the best that the legal profession has to offer. I have every confidence that Michael would serve the bench with distinction.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter of support. Should you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 591-9597.

WILLIAM D. HOSHIJO
960 Hind Iuka Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821
Email Bhoshijo@aol.com

August 3, 2010
Rm. 229, 1:30 p.m.

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government
Operations

From: William D. Hoshijo

Re: J.C. No. 4, Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa

This testimony is offered in strong support of judicial nominee Michael K. Tanigawa. Mr. Tanigawa is an experienced attorney of impeccable character. He is extremely bright, has a sharp legal mind, and is both quick and deep in his legal analysis. He is hard working and well-respected by his peers. If appointed, he will make a fine judge, much to the benefit of the legal profession and the broader community.

I have served as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) since 1997, but submit this letter of support as an individual rather than in any official capacity. Prior to my tenure at the HCRC, I served for thirteen years as the Executive Director of Na Loio, a nonprofit public interest law organization that provided access to services and representation for the immigrant poor.

I have known Mr. Tanigawa since the early to mid-1980s, more than 25 years now. His thirty years of legal experience will serve him well as a judge. He has years of experience in both civil and criminal law, in addition to his most recent work as a staff attorney for Intermediate Court of Appeals. His excellent research and writing skills are a reflection of his clarity of thought and firm grasp of legal analysis. His background in teaching and interest in mediation and alternative dispute resolution reflect his interest in service and improving the profession and the legal system. He has a remarkable disposition and temperament – humble, engaging, friendly, and with good sense of humor. He will flourish in the role of being a judge in the district court, where there is the most contact between the public and courts. He is deliberate, but will not be indecisive.

Of all my peers, I cannot think of any person who would be better qualified and suited for district court appointment than Michael K. Tanigawa. I recommend him and support his nomination without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

July 29, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and
Government Operations

RE: Testimony in Support of Michael K. Tanigawa,
Judicial Nominee for the District Court of the
First Circuit - JC 4
Hearing: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229

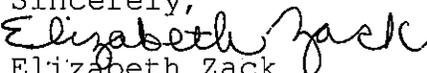
Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being submitted in support of the confirmation of Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa to the District Court of the First Circuit. Based upon the following, I believe he is highly qualified for the position and recommend his confirmation.

I am Mike's supervisor at the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) staff attorney's office. Although I have been acquainted casually with Mike for several years, I did not know him professionally until February 2008 when the ICA hired him as one of five staff attorneys. In his capacity as an ICA staff attorney, Mike is responsible for screening appellate cases, advising the ICA judges on case dispositions, responding to inquiries from practicing attorneys and pro se litigants, and handling other projects.

Mike has an excellent understanding of all aspects of the law, court rules, and policies. He is efficient and well organized. He has shown himself to be a hard worker who is willing to take on all tasks and complete them in a timely fashion. He considers all sides of an issue. He gets along well with the ICA judges and staff. He shows compassion, consideration, and patience when dealing with inquires from the public and demonstrates good judgment.

The district court is truly a people's court where many litigants represent themselves. All of the excellent qualities Mike has displayed while working at the ICA will serve him well as a district court judge. I know he will be hard to replace in our office, but there is no question in my mind that he will be an excellent addition to the bench.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Zack
Day contact number 539-4611



DAPHNE E. BARBEE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

**1188 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1909, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 533-0275**

July 29, 2010

Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair Brian Taniguchi
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Michael Tanigawa for District Court Judge

Dear Honorable Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate
Judiciary Committee:

I am pleased to recommend and support attorney Michael Tanigawa as District Court Judge in the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Mr. Tanigawa used to work at the Public Defenders office with me as my supervisor. He is brilliant and has a love of the law. He is exactly the type of person who I expected to become a Judge. Not only is he brilliant, but he has a big heart and a good sense for true justice. I had the pleasure of having him as an arbitrator on one of my civil cases. Through his hard work and effort at no pay, the case was settled by both parties.

Please confirm Michael Tanigawa as District Court Judge. I am sure he will be one of the best Judges you have ever confirmed.

Sincerely,

Daphne E. Barbee
Attorney at Law

PRICE
OKAMOTO
HIMENO
& LUM

Attorneys at Law
A Law Corporation

Ocean View Center
707 Richards Street, Suite 728
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 538-1113
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Warren Price III
Kenneth T. Okamoto
Sharon R. Himeno
Bettina W. J. Lum
Terence S. Yamamoto
Robert M. Kohn

Counsel

Robert A. Marks
Rick J. Eichor

July 29, 2010

VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi and
Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JGO hearing on August 3, 2010, Agenda Item JC4:
Confirmation hearing for Michael K. Tanigawa

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Michael K. Tanigawa to the office of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Several years ago when Mike was in private practice, he and I were on opposite sides of a hard fought arbitration over a computer software contract. In spite of the substantial amount at stake, the complexity of the case and the significant tension between our clients, my dealings with Mr. Tanigawa were consistently cordial. His legal work - both spoken and written - was first rate throughout. He was a thoughtful and dignified opponent, and an excellent advocate.

I have followed Mike's various efforts to secure a judgeship over the years. While his writing skills make him an excellent candidate for an appellate judgeship, I know he will discharge his duties as a District Judge with calm strength, humility, fairness, and reverence for the law. I encourage the Committee to take favorable action Mr. Tanigawa's nomination.

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi

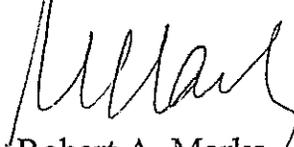
and Members

July 29, 2010

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Very truly yours,

PRICE OKAMOTO HIMENO & LUM



Robert A. Marks



July 30, 2010

VIA EMAIL

JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Judiciary and Government Operations

RE: Testimony in Support of JC 4
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa
August 3, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in support of JC 4 and in favor of Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa.

Michael has the skills, knowledge, experience, demeanor and, most important, the compassion to be a superb judge.

I have been in legal practice as a litigator since 1986 and currently a member and shareholder with the law firm of Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching.

I met Michael when he first joined my firm in 1996. But I previously knew of him from my fellow alumni of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Michael was an adjunct professor at the law school, teaching appellate advocacy. I had heard he was an excellent writer and teacher, that he could be brutal with his red pen in marking student briefs, that he held high expectations for his students, and that his students, in return, strived to meet each expectation.

While he worked with us, Michael was my "go-to" guy for all of my trial and appellate briefs. He was my sounding board for court arguments and presentation. He knew the nuances of the evidentiary rules, and I turned to him when I had questions on admission of trial testimony and exhibits, case management, and handling of clients and other attorneys. I appreciated his ability to understand and analyze complex issues and to identify and offer solutions or approaches in dealing with even the most difficult of clients and other attorneys. Yes, he remained brutal with that red marker, but both former and current attorneys of our firm can attest that we are all better writers and professionals because of him.

On a personal note, after almost two years, Michael is still missed at my firm. We miss his practicality and his lightning wit.



Senate Judiciary and Government Operations
July 30, 2010
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For many individuals, the district court will be their first experience with the judicial system. They deserve a judge like Michael who will treat them and their cases fairly, with dignity and respect.

Please support JC 4.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn E. Hayashi", written over a printed name.

Carolyn E. Hayashi

From: Gail Nakatani [gcnakatani@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2010 7:38 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Confirmation of Michael Tanigawa

To The Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

It is with great pride and honor that I recommend confirmation of Michael Tanigawa to the District Court of the First Circuit. As a friend and colleague for the past thirty years, I know Michael is highly qualified to undertake the responsibilities and challenges of a District Court judge.

Michael is bright, compassionate, skilled, and highly professional. His broad legal experience is particularly suited to a District Court judge who will be expected to consider and deal with a wide range of legal subject matters. He has criminal law experience through his position as a Deputy Public Defender, civil experience as an attorney in private practice, and appellate experience in his most recent position as staff attorney with the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Very few attorneys can claim such knowledge and competency over such a broad spectrum of the law.

In addition, Michael is diligent, dedicated, and extremely hardworking, all qualities necessary for a productive District Court judge. The District Court deals in volumes of cases where litigants seek speedy and fair disposition of their disputes. The ability of a presiding judge to be prepared and to dispose of volumes of cases is essential to the operation of the District Court. I have no doubt that Michael is precisely the kind of focused and diligent individual who will always be willing to do what is necessary to contribute to the success of the District Court operations.

I have been friends with Michael and his family for thirty years and, in my opinion, his greatest quality is his devotion to his family. This quality is the best testament of the kind of District Court judge you can expect Michael to be.

Sincerely,

Gail C. Nakatani

Testimony of Susan L. Arnett
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations

August 3, 2010

RE: NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA TO THE DISTRICT
COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT.

Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I've known Michael as a friend and respected colleague for over twenty years. He was supervising the Motions Section of the Public Defender's Office when I joined the office in 1985. As such, he was a daily resource for all the felony attorneys. He gave advice on the latest caselaw and strategies to use in hearings and at trial. He was respected as one of the most knowledgeable attorneys in our office.

Since leaving the office, he has broadened his experience by working in civil law. He has continued to remain informed of the latest caselaw in both criminal and civil practice. He has a passion for analyzing the application of caselaw and statutory provisions to each factual situation that comes before a court.

It is this passion and his commitment to continual learning that will serve him well on the bench. He has an innate sense of fairness and a real desire to serve. He has been a respected criminal and civil litigator as well as a Supreme Court attorney.

I believe Michael will be a fine jurist. I strongly support his confirmation as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY OF LOWELL CHUN-HOON
RE: NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA,
DISTRICT JUDGE, FIRST CIRCUIT COURT

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, Members of the
Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse the
nomination of Michael K. Tanigawa as a District Judge of
the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Tanigawa for over twenty-eight years,
and we have consulted each other on a variety of legal
questions during this time. We have worked together as co-
counsel on two significant occasions, once involving
recanting false testimony and another situation involving
substance abuse in an employment context. Mr. Tanigawa has
also in the past regularly advised a public interest law
firm whose board I served on for more than two decades, and
he has assisted us in resolving potentially controversial
litigation quickly and constructively.

Mr. Tanigawa has wide ranging civil and criminal law
experience, and a distinguished record of pro bono communi-
ty service. He has served as a Public Defender for seven
years, and has been engaged in two diverse civil practices
for thirteen years that encompassed bankruptcy, interna-
tional business transactions, general civil litigation, and
representation of non-profit organizations. His bankruptcy
work included service as co-chair of the unsecured
creditor's committee in the Liberty House bankruptcy, and
he has done work before the Federal Elections Committee,
Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and the Tax Appeals court.
He is also a trained mediator who volunteers for the

Mediation Center of the Pacific, and has for ten years of service as a Court-Annexed Arbitration Program arbitrator, six years of service as a Medical Claims Conciliation Panel Member, and two years experience as the First Circuit Court's Grand Jury counsel. Most recently, he is serving as a staff attorney for the Intermediate Court of Appeals since 2008.

Mr. Tanigawa's work in general is characterized by diligence, scrupulous research, cogent analysis, and unusual creativity in argument. He writes exceptionally well and has superior substantive knowledge of the law. As witnessed by his teaching appellate advocacy at the Richardson School of Law for some fifteen years and his appointment since 1994 to the Standing Committee to Review the Hawaii Rules of Appellate Procedure, he is regarded as well-versed in appellate litigation.

Mr. Tanigawa listens intelligently, critically, and empathetically. He is patient and has a genuine sense of humor. Though he is serious about his work, he is not overly serious about himself and keeps a proper sense of self-critical distance from his work. He is energetic and hard working in a fashion that is completely unselfish and unpretentious. Some measure of his generosity may be found in his commitment to teaching at the UH Law School and Kapiolani Community College, as well providing pro bono or reduced rate representation to non-profit organizations such as Hawaii Council of Jodo Missions and Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, despite a demanding legal practice.

In general, Mr. Tanigawa approaches life rationally, calmly, and honestly. His behavior inspires confidence in his competence, and he is an easy person to trust. Mr. Tanigawa's personality is such that he would possess excellent judicial temperament if appointed. He is not prone to rash or impulsive action, and he is genuinely respectful of all persons he deals with, irrespective of their station in life or their ability to reward him with favors.

I cannot claim any specific knowledge of Mr. Tanigawa's finances, but in the more than two decades of knowing him, I have also have had absolutely no reason to be believe he is anything but financially responsible. I am aware of no indications of debt or obligations that would adversely affect judicial service, and in fact, I am

directly aware he has been exceedingly generous in caring for the needs of his parents and in-laws.

Likewise, I am not privy to detailed knowledge of Mr. Tanigawa's health status, but I do know in the time I have known him he has never suffered major illness and has been consistently and productively employed.

In short, Mr. Tanigawa is exceptionally well-qualified for the specific appointment to serve as a District Court Judge. He will bring to the bench a keen understanding of both the practical realities of counseling business, non-profit, and criminal clients, as well as the academic perspectives of an adjunct faculty member of the Richardson School of Law. Very few lawyers in Hawaii can bridge and embrace these pragmatic and theoretical perspectives as ably as Mr. Tanigawa. Thus, he would be ideally suited for either a general civil, criminal, or family court appointment in the District Court, and he would administer a high volume calendar with the optimal combination of efficiency, intelligence, and firmness.

WAYSON CHOW

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1188 Bishop Street, Suite 801
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August 2, 2010

VIA FACSIMILE (808) 586-6659

Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Honorable Senator Dwight Y. Takamine
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine & Committee Members:

Re: **Support for District Court Judicial Nominee Michael K. Tanigawa**
Hearing Date : Tuesday, August 3, 2010:
Time: 1:30 p.m.

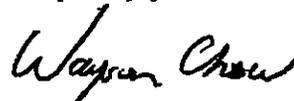
I am writing to strongly support and endorse your consideration and confirmation of judicial nominee **Michael K. Tanigawa**.

For nearly two and a half decades, I have had the honor of both knowing and working with judicial nominee Michael K. Tanigawa, who has consistently excelled and demonstrated his integrity, diligence, and a deeply rooted commitment to justice, equality, fairness and due process of law. As a practicing Hawaii attorney, mediator and arbitrator for the past three decades, Michael Tanigawa has demonstrated impressive professional abilities and knowledge in a wide range of civil, criminal, and commercial litigation matters.

In addition, Michael Tanigawa's recent experience as an Intermediate Court of Appeals Staff Attorney, his serving as an adjunct professor in Appellate Advocacy, at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law for nearly two decades, and his lengthy service on the Hawaii Rules of Appellate Procedure Committee demonstrate his deeply held commitment to professional excellence, and continued progress in the administration of justice.

In summary, I wholeheartedly support, and unequivocally endorse Michael T. Tanigawa, as a highly qualified, exceptional nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,



Wayson Chow

LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
SUITE 2022
841 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOWARD K. K. LUKE
DAVID M. HAYAKAWA

TEL: (808) 545-5000
FAX: (808) 523-9137

July 30, 2010

Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Measure: JC4

Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Michael K. Tanigawa
to the Position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Fellow Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Michael K. Tanigawa to the position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I would very much like to appear before you personally on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, to give you my live statement of support for Mr. Tanigawa, but I am currently in a trial in Circuit Court, and regrettably, I may be unable to be present for Mr. Tanigawa's confirmation hearing. If it is at all possible for me to be physically present at your confirmation hearing, I will be there.

I have written in support of Mr. Tanigawa's applications for the position of District Court Judge, as well as for Circuit and Intermediate Court of Appeals judgeships, beginning in 2002. I believe that Mr. Tanigawa's great intelligence, his superior working knowledge of the rules of evidence, procedure, and case law, and his broad experience as a civil as well as criminal trial and appellate attorney in both private and government practice, make him the preeminent choice among those who are seeking appointment to the District Court. Together with his legal skills and depth of professional experience, Mr. Tanigawa's wisdom and moral character make him the perfect candidate for the bench.

There is another motivation for my strong endorsement of Mr. Tanigawa. I firmly believe that if he is appointed to the bench, the quality of the lawyering in District Court will be greatly enhanced. This will be particularly true among the younger, or less experienced members of our trial bar. They will experience a judge who will task them with being thoroughly prepared in their cases, well-versed in the law and the rules of court, and

Re: Measure: JC4

Page Two

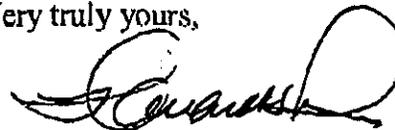
Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Michael K. Tanigawa
to the Position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit

appropriately respectful of the dignity of the court and judicial process. In light of the high volume of cases that flow through the District Court on a daily basis, it will be encouraging to have a presiding judge who is thoroughly conversant in the most recent case law as well as established precedent, who has great common sense and people skills, and, above all, an innate sense of fairness. There is no question in my mind that all those who appear before him will have their day in court.

I will not review Mr. Tanigawa's teaching experience at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law or as an arbitrator or mediator here, or his other contributions to our legal and educational system. However, I will add that I have observed his teaching style and his unique rapport with his students at the law school, particularly in the moot court setting. He is a natural teacher and mentor. His ability to assimilate different points of view and evaluate the relative merits of often complex legal arguments are but another strong indicator of his ability to preside over cases and to reach optimum resolution of legal and factual issues.

In summary, I enthusiastically and wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Michael K. Tanigawa for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I respectfully and humbly request that you consider him eminently qualified to fill that position and confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,



HOWARD K. K. LUKE

Testimony of Carolyn J. Brown
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations

August 3, 2010

RE: NOMINATION OF MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA TO THE DISTRICT
COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT.

Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA to the District Court of the First Circuit.

For almost thirty years I have known Michael as a friend and respected colleague. When I started at the Public Defender's Office, he was younger but very much my mentor. He was in the appellate section and I was in Family Court, but we shared the same office space. Eventually I became the Family Court Supervisor (when Marsha Waldorf became a judge) and Michael became the Supervisor of the motion section. On many occasions, at my request, during murder or sexual assault cases, I called Michael because he knew the case law and could articulate with brilliance. He was respected by the whole office and I miss his counsel even today.

We have remained friends over the years and sometimes he has asked me to speak, in my expertise in juvenile law, to the classes he taught at the Richardson School of Law.

He has worked in civil law and for the Intermediate Court. He continues to be analytical and to remain informed of the latest case law in both criminal and civil practice.

As Michael is with the law, he is passionate in life in general. I can name him as one of my favorite people in the world. I believe he is compassionate and fair and all of this will serve him as a judge.

I strongly support his confirmation as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

**LATE
TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

For Hearing on
Tuesday, August 3, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Regarding JC 4

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA, for a term to expire in six years

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted in strong support of Chief Justice Ronald T. Y. Moon's appointment of Michael K. Tanigawa (Mike) to fill a vacancy at the District Court of the First Circuit. I am confident that Mike will make a superb district court judge. He is bright, has common sense, is compassionate but courageous, is an excellent teacher, is active in the community, and deeply cares about the Judiciary as an institution.

I first got to know Mike when we were co-members of the Hawai'i Appellate Rules Committee. I was impressed with Mike's knowledge of the appellate process and appreciated his concern that the appellate rules not contain traps for the unwary. Mike was always prepared for meetings, made excellent suggestions for revisions to the rules, and was always respectful of the different views that were placed on the discussion table.

A district court judge must be a good teacher since he or she will often be working with rookie deputy prosecutors and public defenders. I have observed Mike's teaching skills first-hand, since I often sat on moot court panels for University of Hawai'i law students in Mike's appellate advocacy classes. Mike was always patient with his students, gave them good feedback on their performances, and was committed to their growth as individuals.

I had the privilege of working with Mike in his position as a staff attorney for the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). He always worked hard, met deadlines, and produced excellent bench memoranda and draft dispositions for cases he was working on. He played a valuable role in the successful transition of the ICA from a pass-down to a pass-through court.

On a more personal basis, Mike is a really nice guy, a joy to have around the office, and a helpful, caring, team player. I know he would bring these attributes to the bench.

The Judiciary will definitely be enhanced as an institution if Mike were confirmed as a judge, and I unhesitatingly commend him to you. Please feel free to call me at 623-6211 or email me at ckwatanabe@hawaii.rr.com if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Watanabe

LATE

2330 Kaola Way, #6
Honolulu, HI 96813
August 3, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
and Government Operations
State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: J.C. NO. 4, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, JUDICIAL NOMINEE
MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA.

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.
Location: State Capitol, Room 229

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting my testimony in strong support of the nomination of Michael Tanigawa to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Mr. Tanigawa in law school and he immediately impressed me with his quick grasp of legal concepts and his mature temperament. Since graduation many years ago, he has proven himself to be an excellent attorney with a broad range of expertise having served in the private sector and also as a volunteer arbitrator in the Judiciary's Court Annexed Arbitration Program and as an adjunct professor at the William S. Richardson Law School. His current position as a staff attorney with the Intermediate Court of Appeals rounds out his experience and adds to his qualities as an attorney who not only practices law, and practices it well, but who also understands the functions and operations of the Judiciary and its place in the greater community.

Through his actions, he consistently displays the attributes which would make him an effective judge, not only does he possess the legal knowledge, integrity and high ethical standards which one expects of judges, but also compassion, grace under pressure, wisdom, and patience. These qualities would be especially valuable in the District Court and its many pro se claimants who are often unfamiliar with court rules and procedures.

I respectfully request the Committee to approve Mr. Tanigawa's nomination to the District Court. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,



Patricia Ohara

From: Chris Bouslog [chris@csbhawaiiilaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 11:43 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Nomination of Michael Tanigawa to the District Court of the First Circuit

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing concerning Michael Tanigawa's nomination to the District Court.

I have known Michael since 1982 when I joined the Office of the Public Defender following law school. He was my first supervisor where I started in the office's appeals division. He later organized and formed a well run, efficient appellate and motions division within the PDs Office which he ran for a number of years.

He insisted on hard work, thorough preparation, incisive thinking and clear writing. He regularly sacrificed considerable time working with the new attorneys in the office; something for which I am profoundly grateful. I worked at the Public Defenders with Mr. Tanigawa for most of the more than six years I was there and was continually impressed with how his door was never closed to any of the attorneys in the office.

Michael left the Public Defender's office about a year before my departure to work with his father where he did business and non-profit entity formation, contracts and appellate work. He later was a Director with Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching where he continued his prior mix of cases. While working full time as a practicing attorney, he also taught appellate advocacy and writing as an Adjunct Professor at the Richardson School of Law for many years. Mr. Tanigawa currently is a staff attorney and researcher for the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

His absolute integrity is balanced by a reserved, naturally polite and diplomatic personality. He is a kind and considerate person who likes people and enjoys the intellectual interactions accompanying the advocacy process. He possesses the critical thinking, logic and hard, conscientious work habits required of a Judge and he is extraordinarily quick on his feet in recognizing issues and their ramifications. He has superb judgment and common sense which are accompanied by a fundamental sense of fairness and compassion for others. He has an inclusive sense of our community with a deep appreciation for its diversity and depth.

Mr. Tanigawa is fair, open minded, deliberative, highly intelligent, tactful, well prepared and after thorough analysis, decisive. He displays a high level of insight and social awareness.

He will be a tremendous asset to the Judiciary, the State and its citizens.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Chris Bouslog, Esq.
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
chris@csbhawaiiilaw.com
(808)550-4995