

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

July 9, 2018

JC2: Nomination of Kenneth J. Shimosono to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

It is a privilege for me to support Kenneth J. Shimosono's nomination to be a judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit. Ken is a former Deputy Public Defender who has distinguished himself as a trial attorney in both the public and private sectors. Since leaving the Public Defenders Office in 2005, he has run a successful private law practice with the firm of Takemoto & Shimosono.

As a former law clerk to Associate Justice Paula Nakayama of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Ken has demonstrated his academic prowess as well as his skills as a trial lawyer. He is a compassionate individual who has never forgotten the humble upbringing from which he came. He is a hard worker and a tireless advocate for justice on behalf of every person he has represented. He is always well-prepared and extensively researches every legal argument before it is presented in court.

Ken has most recently been serving as a per diem judge in the Family Court and has, by all accounts, conducted himself efficiently and honorably. In Ken Shimosono, the judiciary will be receiving a very fine lawyer and an outstanding person. I am honored to fully support his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

Tom Heinrich

From: David Lo <dwlo13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 6:52 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Support for Senate Confirmation of Kenneth Shimozono - JC2

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi:

This is Judge David W. Lo, retired, submitting my unconditional support for your committee and Senate body to confirm Kenneth Shimozono's nomination by the Chief Justice for Family District Court Judge.

Having served as a District Judge for nearly twenty years, as well as training many newly appointed judges, I developed a sense as to which judges would learn and mature into seasoned jurists. Mr. Shimozono certainly falls into this category, having the legal experience, attitude and temperament to be an excellent jurist to serve the State of Hawaii for many years to come.

As an attorney, Mr. Shimozono appeared before me countless times until my retirement at the end of 2016. He has earned my utmost respect in serving his clients to the fullest, prepared in his arguments to the court, and respectful to both the court and staff. Moreover, he is the type of individual who is a team player, be compatible with his colleagues, as well as courteous to both staff and public.

The Chief Justice has made an excellent selection, and without hesitation I urge this honorable body to confirm such nomination forthwith. Mr. Shimozono is ready to serve!

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and if there are any questions or concerns, please to not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo,

David W. Lo



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

Kenneth J. Shimozone
District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit (JC2)

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Howard K.K. Luke
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 224
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Kenneth J. Shimozone for the position of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

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

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Hawaii's Lawyers Serving Hawaii's People

- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Shimozono on June 27, 2018 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On June 28th, Mr. Shimozono was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

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

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

Mr. Shimozono's career as a criminal defense attorney first with the Office of Public Defender and currently with the firm he co-founded has provided the Nominee with valuable trial and courtroom experience. The Nominee's excellence in legal research, writing skills, and overall student achievement in law school led to his clerkship with Supreme Court Associate Justice Paula Nakayama. His service as a Per Diem Judge for the First Circuit District Family Court has allowed the Nominee to preside over varied Family Court calendars and make judicial decisions.

Mr. Shimozono was raised in a single parent household after his mother's death, and attended public schools until he attended high school, received financial assistance, and graduated from St. Louis High School. The Nominee's background and life experiences will hopefully serve as an inspiration to aspiring young men and women.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Mr. Kenneth J. Shimozono to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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

JEFFREY A. HAWK, AAL

P.O. BOX 303
VOLCANO, HAWAII 96785

TELEPHONE: (808) 256-1736

E-MAIL: JEFFHAWK@HAWAII.RR.COM

July 3, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC2 – Strong support for Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozono to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to give my highest recommendation for confirmation of Kenneth Shimozono to the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known him since 1998 when I started working for the Office of the Public Defender. Since that time, I have worked with him as a private attorney and with him as per diem Family Court Judge.

I believe that Ken has a high degree of legal ability. At the Office of the Public Defender, he had numerous trials and knows how complicated the cases can be. In working with him, I could see that he was an exemplary attorney. I believe he has sound legal judgment, is fair to all sides of an issue and comports himself in a manner befitting a Judge of the District Court.

Ken is known for his humility. He is a genuinely kind and thoughtful person who believes that we are all equal under the law. We would be lucky to have him as a Judge. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office, 808-256-1736.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ JEFFREY A. HAWK

Jeffrey A. Hawk
Attorney at Law



THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD H.S. SING

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July 3, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC2 – Judicial Nomination of Kenneth Shimozono
07/09/2018 at 10:30am

Dear Chair Taniguchi,

This letter is written in unconditional support of the nomination of Kenneth Shimozono to the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

I am a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense who has appeared in the District, Family, Circuit, and Federal Courts on a regular basis over the past 20 years. I am familiar with the histories, procedures, and personalities of the Courts of the First Circuit.

Mr. Shimozono is one of the brightest, quickest, and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. He has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical “in the trenches” experience as a public defender and as private counsel. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Kenneth Shimozono.

Outside of his professional life, Mr. Shimozono is a caring and devoted parent, who treats others with respect and fairness. He is levelheaded and compassionate. Mr. Shimozono possesses the best of the traits that we hope for ourselves. I trust him as a friend and colleague, and believe that our community needs and deserves Mr. Shimozono on the bench.

The opportunity to have such a qualified individual on the bench should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ Richard H.S. Sing

Richard Sing

July 3, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, for a term to expire in 6 years

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to support Mr. Kenneth (Ken) Shimozone's nomination to the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have been a prosecutor for twenty three years, and have had numerous cases with Ken over the years. We started practicing law around the same time on opposite sides of the courtroom.

Ken is a very good lawyer and litigator. He is well-versed in criminal and family law, the rules of evidence, court rules and case law. He is comfortable in court, and was always courteous to his clients, victims, witnesses and opposing counsel. There is no doubt he has the legal knowledge and ability to preside in all district court courtrooms.

Ken also has the integrity, diligence and temperament to be a judge. He is well respected and always professional. Ken is also committed to our community. He will be able to relate and assist our diverse population, especially in areas related to drug addiction and mental illness. If given this position, Ken would be able to hit the ground running.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tana Kekina-Cabaniero

THE LAW OFFICE OF

WALTER J. RODBY

733 BISHOP STREET, MAKAI TOWER, SUITE 2302

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July 3, 2018

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol,
Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC2 – Judicial Nomination of Kenneth Shimozone 07/09/2018 at 10:30am

Dear Senators:

My name is Walter J. Rodby and I write this letter to express my complete support of Kenneth Shimozone for the confirmation to the bench of the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I first met Mr. Shimozone at the where we were trial attorneys.

Through the years, I have come to admire Mr. Shimozone for his candor, honesty, intelligence and her integrity.

I say this because I have known Mr. Shimozone not only as a colleague, in the trenches, when we were both public defenders, but also later, after we both left the public defender's office and moved on to private practice.

Mr. Shimozone has always treated others with the utmost respect, fairness and impartiality. He would make a fine addition to the District Family bench. Thank you for considering my comments.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Walter J. Rodby

Tom Heinrich

From: Bryant Zane <bruddahbeez@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 6:27 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC2, Testimony in Support of Confirmation of the Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC2, Testimony in Support of Confirmation of the Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Hearing: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha, my name is Bryant Zane. I am an attorney in Honolulu and have been licensed in Hawai'i since 1996. I have been a Deputy Public Defender at the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i for 15 out of the last 16 years. Prior to that I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i for 4 1/2 years. I started my legal career as Law Clerk/Bailiff to the Honorable Riki May Amano, Judge (retired).

I have known Mr. Shimozone since I started working at the Office of the Public Defender

in January of 2002. I worked with him for approximately 3 years. We became friends during this time and continue to be friends today. I have been well aware of his legal career over this period of time as well. From this experience, I make these comments and respectfully ask the Senate to confirm Kenneth J. Shimozone, judicial nominee, to the District Family Court of the First Circuit

Mr. Shimozone is a stalwart criminal defense attorney in Honolulu and has been for several years. At the Office of the Public Defender, he attained the rank of senior trial attorney defending those with the most serious charges and/or in the most dire legal situations. He has always been approachable and willing to lend advice to any attorney seeking it, especially the fledgling Deputy Public Defenders such as myself at the time. His legal knowledge and ability are clearly evidenced by his calm, confident, no-fear approach to any case he was assigned or took on.

Mr. Shimozono has run a reputable, private law practice. I have never heard of any complaints of unfairness, neglect, or underhandedness. This practice of law speaks positively of his integrity and diligence.

Mr. Shimozono has recently served a per diem judge in Family Court. In this relative short time, he has proven himself as a judge. He has the right temperament. He is a good listener. He is reserved but not robotic. He is not afraid to highlight points of emphasis. Mr. Shimozono can do the job effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Shimozono has served the legal profession honorably. Aside from being a per diem judge, he has been Grand Jury Counsel to the O'ahu Grand Jury and has served as a bar examiner which is no easy task. He has served his community and family coaching his children's organized sports teams. Mr. Shimozono is an outdoor enthusiast who especially enjoys surfing and soccer. Such a well-rounded, committed family man would be welcomed addition to the bench.

Please confirm Kenneth J. Shimozono.

‘O wau iho nō me ke aloha,

Bryant Zane.

July 4, 2018

Via Online Submission

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC2-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, for a term to expire in 6 years

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, to the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Shimozone professionally and personally for approximately 16 years. Mr. Shimozone is a well-prepared, smart, respectful and strong advocate for his clients.

I have practiced law in Hawaii since 2002. Over the course of my career, I have witnessed many litigators advocate for their clients. In my experience, Mr. Shimozone has always been well-prepared in the law and facts of his case, argued his case very well, and was respectful of witnesses, opposing counsel, court staff and judges. Mr. Shimozone has experienced much success in his career, and true to his nature, he has remained humble and kind.

I have also had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Shimozone and his family for the past 16 years. I have known him to be a very respectful, kind and caring father, husband and son. As well, he is a loyal and genuine friend.

I believe Mr. Shimozone possesses the qualities, professionally and personally, that would serve the Judiciary and the State of Hawaii very well. Thank you for your consideration of my support for Mr. Shimozone who I believe is truly deserving of this judicial nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane K. Agor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Diane K. Agor

Tom Heinrich

From: Ishibashid <ishibashid@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:18 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Ken Shimazono and Kristine Yoo

Honorable Brian Taniguchi,

I write in support for Ken Shimazono in your consideration of his appointment for the Family Court of the First Circuit court.

I have known Mr. Shimazono for the entirety of his law career, from when he began as a Deputy Public Defender to his private practice of law and have nothing but admiration for the manner in which he has conducted himself, especially, with clients that I have referred to him for assistance. They have reported what I know, he is respectful and works diligently to resolve problems to the satisfaction of the client. I have seen him in practice before the Circuit Courts and he has always been prepared in his cases.

I know his wife Jaime Nakano and their child. They have both contributed admirably in the development of their family and our community.

I fully support the appointment of Ken Shimazono for the judge-ship of the Family Court of the First Circuit.

Regarding Kristine Yoo, I have known Ms. Yoo since she began working as a deputy prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu. I have had a number of cases with her as the prosecutor and myself as the defense attorney and she has always been honest, fair and hard working to accomplish her responsibilities. She has never done anything to undermine the justice she sought and I have always respected her abilities. She will be a positive addition to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I fully support the appointment of Kristine Yoo as a judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,
Dana Ishibashi
Attorney at Law

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 1:58 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: ekw@kawashimawaters.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC2 on Jul 9, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC2

Submitted on: 7/5/2018

Testimony for on Jul 9, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emily Kawashima Waters	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Shimozone will make an exceptional judge and the bench will be fortunate to have him.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Tom Heinrich

From: Clayton K Zane <Clayton.K.Zane@courts.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 5:35 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC2 - Judicial Nominee Kenneth J. Shimozono, District Family Court of the 1st Circuit.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capito, Conf. Rm. 224
3415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozono, for a term to expire 6 yrs.

My name is Clayton Zane, and I respectfully request that you strongly consider confirmation of Judicial Nominee Kenneth J. Shimozono to a six year term as a District Family Court Judge for the First Circuit. I have known Ken for a number of years from the time when he was a deputy public defender. However, I have experienced his legal skills and acumen when he has represented his clients in "DUI" hearings in front of me (I am a Hearings Officer with the Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office, State of Hawaii, Judiciary). Ken has always been ethical, forthright, and advocated strongly for his clients. We've also had many conversations about the law and life in general. He is thoughtful and has the legal and life experiences that a judge should possess. My experiences with Ken leads me to believe that he will be an asset to the Court system and to the people of the State of Hawaii.

Tom Heinrich

From: Eric Iwamoto <eniwamoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 8:49 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, for a term to expire in 6 years

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhodes, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Distinguished Committee Members,

I am writing you today, to highly recommend the confirmation of Kenneth J. Shimozone to the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit (Island of Oahu). I have known Ken for close to 40 years. First, in the late 1970's, as childhood rivals in the newly developed Hawaii Youth Soccer League, followed by becoming classmates with him at St. Louis High School from 1982-1985. We then continued to stay close throughout our college years, and beyond, leading all the way up to present day. We have forged a lifelong friendship, and someone whom I consider to be, my best friend.

There are numerous attributes that Kenneth has, which I believe, make him well suited to be an excellent Circuit Court Judge. Hard Work....From starting to work at the early age of 9 at the Pill Box Pharmacy in Kaimuki, Ken has basically supported himself and independently worked hard to achieve his current professional successes. Like many, he worked through college and law school. But what I consider more impressive and admirable, is the fact that he basically put himself through undergraduate school and law school. Starting at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, to a brief stint at Portland State University, to undergraduate school at Oregon State University, and finally to Willamette Law school, Ken financed his entire schooling, himself. Perseverance.... Having lost his mother, which whom he was close to, while still in high school, Ken was able to push forward and not give up pursuing his ambitions. Instead of feeling sorry for himself or hanging his head, he took over his moms role in many ways, by helping raise his younger brother, and aiding his father who was always working 2 jobs. Proof, in my opinion, that he has faced, and can overcome, adversity. Experience.....Since being admitted to the Hawaii State Bar in 1994, Ken has extensive experience in the Hawaii State Judicial system. Beginning with clerking for Supreme Court Justice Nakayama, Ken has had a wide variety of experiences in the courts. Being a Deputy Public Defender for many years, he was able to gain great insight as to the workings from a defense point of view, gain tremendous trial experience, and understand the sometimes complex workings of the judicial system. And being a partner in the firm of Takemoto and Shimozone, LLC., with Myron Takemoto (a former prosecutor), he has broadened and expanded his knowledge of Hawaii State Criminal and Civil law. And now, with his position of Per Diem Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Ken has started to gain experience from the judicial perspective. Community Service....in addition to working a busy schedule, he is able to volunteer much of his free time to helping coach youth sports. Along with being the head coach of his daughter's soccer team, he also helps out as an assistant coach for his son's soccer and baseball team, occupying almost every weekend. Family man....Aside from being a great husband to his wife Jaime, dedicated father to his children Kaila and Tyler, he was an amazing son to his late father, James. From the time Ken's mom passed away, he took care of, and treated his father, better than anyone I have ever known. A testament to Ken's character. In addition to these characteristics, Ken also possesses many traits that would make him a good judge. Those include being empathetic, fair, and a good listener. I believe Ken will be able to fairly weigh all sides of an issue, or issues, that are brought before him.

Kenneth has been a great friend, shown me how to be a better friend, and has guided me to be a better person. I believe that Kenneth J. Shimozone would be a valuable addition to the Hawaii State Judiciary. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Iwamoto

eniwamoto@gmail.com
(808) 721-7364

TAKEMOTO & SHIMOZONO

Attorneys at Law

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July 8, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC2 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the District Family Court of First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, KENNETH J. SHIMOZONO, for a Term to Expire in 6 Years

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Rhoads, Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am hereby submitting this testimony in support of the confirmation of Kenneth J. Shimozono, Esq., for the District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Shimozono for over twenty-four (24) years. Mr. Shimozono and I first met at the preparation course for the Hawaii state bar examination in the summer of 1994. Mr. Shimozono and I formed a close bond while enduring the rigors, stress and pressure of studying for the bar examination together.

After passing the Hawaii state bar examination in 1994, Mr. Shimozono and I initially took separate paths in our legal career. Initially, I was employed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu from October 10, 1994 to November 30, 2004. Mr. Shimozono was first employed as a law clerk for the Honorable Justice Paula A. Nakayama of the Hawaii Supreme Court from September 1994 to August 1995. Mr. Shimozono gained invaluable experience as a law clerk for a Hawaii Supreme Court Justice, conducting legal research and drafting legal opinions for the Supreme Court of Hawaii.

From September 1995 to February 2005, Mr. Shimozono served as a Deputy Public Defender for the State of Hawaii Office of the Public Defender. Mr. Shimozono initially worked in the Kona Office of the Public Defender before transferring to the Honolulu Office of the Public Defender. As a Deputy Public Defender for nearly ten (10) years, Mr. Shimozono handled thousands of cases which included dozens of bench and jury trials involving traffic, petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor and felony cases in District Court, Family Court and Circuit Court. Mr. Shimozono had a reputation of being an effective, aggressive and ethical advocate on behalf of his clients. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as opposing counsel to Mr. Shimozono while I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City & County of Honolulu.

In February 2005, our legal paths converged when Mr. Shimozono and I formed the law firm of Takemoto & Shimozono, LLC. Our law firm has handled all types of criminal defense cases (traffic, DUI, petty misdemeanor, misdemeanor, felony) as well as certain civil cases (TRO, personal injury, civil rights). Working with Mr. Shimozono for nearly twelve (12) and one-half (1/2) years, I have personally witnessed his hard work, intelligence, loyalty and dedication. We consult with each other on day to day basis about issues that include legal strategy, trial preparation, preparation of motions and analyzing legal precedent from the appellate courts. Mr. Shimozono and I have tried cases together as co-counsel, including several high publicity cases. I have never witnessed any unprofessional behavior toward any judge, opposing counsel, witness, court personnel or any other party to a case.

Mr. Shimozono has served as a per diem judge in the Family Court of the First Circuit since October 2, 2017. Some attorneys who have appeared before Mr. Shimozono, as a per diem Family Court Judge, have informed me that he was prepared, fair-minded, respectful and possessed a good demeanor on the bench. Mr. Shimozono's experience as a per diem judge has enhanced his desire to serve the community and the judiciary on a full-time basis as a Judge in the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Mr. Shimozono has made significant contributions to the legal community in numerous capacities. Mr. Shimozono served as a Director (West Hawaii) in the Young Lawyers Division (September 1995 – August 1996), provided pro-bono legal advice at legal clinics on the island of Hawaii (1995 – 1996), was a Mock Trial Judge for the Prosecution /Defense Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law (1998 – 2005), served as Grand Jury Counsel for the Oahu Grand Jury (March 2011 – 2018) and he is a member of the Hawaii Board of Examiners of the Hawaii Supreme Court (March 2016 – present).

Additionally, Mr. Shimozono has given back to the youth of our community by serving as a volunteer coach in various soccer and baseball organizations since 2012 to the present.

Mr. Shimozono's educational, legal, professional and volunteer experience makes him an excellent candidate for the position as a District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am of the firm belief that Mr. Shimozono would serve the judiciary with the

utmost integrity, dignity, honor and compassion. Accordingly, I firmly believe that Mr. Kenneth Shimozono should be confirmed as a Judge in the District Family Court of the First Circuit. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Myron H. Takemoto
Myron H. Takemoto, Esq.

Tom Heinrich

From: Linda Iwamoto <ljmiwamoto@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 9:39 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC2-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozono

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

From: Linda M. Iwamoto, retired educator

Re: JC2-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozono. Confirmation Hearing Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:30 am in conference room 224 State Capitol.

I am pleased to submit public testimony in support of Kenneth J. Shimozono's nomination for appointment to the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Kenneth exemplifies the integrity that we should expect from a member of the judiciary. I have known Kenneth for over 30 years, since he was a young man at St. Louis School and have seen him grow and mature into an exemplary parent and respected attorney. At an early age, Kenneth assumed family responsibilities and then went on to work his way through U.H., Portland State, Oregon State, and Willamette Law School. I have always admired his hard work and determination and, particularly, the sincere interest he takes in others and the understanding he displays. These qualities will serve him and the state of Hawai'i well.

I am hopeful that Kenneth will be confirmed as a Family Court judge and be given the opportunity to apply his considerable skills to serving the citizens of Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Heinrich

From: pillbox1@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 10:27 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Kenneth Shimozone judiciary confirmation

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary members, my name is Stuart McElhaney and I own and operate The Pillbox Pharmacy in Kaimuki. My father James Lee McElhaney opened the Pillbox Pharmacy in 1974 after arriving in the islands from Chicago in 1968. He employed many young men and women with their first jobs over the years and Kenny was one of his favorites. He worked for us from work permit days until leaving for college. My father heavily stressed communication skills and felt it his obligation to not just employ people, but to encourage them to higher education and to guide them in important decision making. Kenny has shown me over the years that my father's efforts have helped to produce a fine young man with a wonderful family. His children's respectful nature and confidence would have made my father extremely proud. I think Kenny would make a phenomenal judge as he is not just competent, but a very caring person as well. Thank you and Aloha, Stuart McElhaney

Tom Heinrich

From: Ronald Iwamoto <riwamoto@chaminade.edu>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 5:32 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: RE: JC2-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozono, for a term to expire in 6 years, Confirmation Hearing, Monday, July 9, 2018, at 10:30am, in Conference Room 224

July 7, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary for Confirmation Hearing, Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:30 am, in Conference Room 224 at the State Capitol, Measure JC2,

This is a letter of recommendation attesting to the character of Mr. Kenneth J. Shimozono, Esq., a candidate for the judicial vacancy of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Kenneth since his high school days in the 1980s as he was a classmate of my son at St. Louis School, Honolulu, Hawaii. Kenneth and my son were teammates on the high school varsity soccer team and are presently still good friends and teammates on a makule league team.

Ken lost his mother while in high school, yet still had the motivation to overcome this family tragedy to attend higher education at Oregon State University and successfully complete law school at Willamette University School of Law. While attending higher education and law schools, Ken took care of his father and his young nephew often bringing both to beach activities and a beach house that was made available to my family. He was courteous and respectful to his late father and served as a role model for his nephew, then in elementary school.

Following his graduation from law school, Ken was able to pass the Hawaii State Bar in 1994 and practiced for a number of years as a public defender. Hence, he has the law experience to understand the situation of those seeking legal representation, those desiring a fair trial and lawyer, but not able to hire a lawyer. In his practice as a public defender, he was able to experience the diversity of legal situations and human behavior of those facing both civil and criminal problems. He has used this experience to form a legal partnership in the law firm of Takemoto and Shimozono, LLC. As a defense attorney, he has experience in representing clients and has also served as a per diem judge in the First Circuit. Hence, he has experience on both sides of the bench.

Ken is married to a public defender, Jamie Nakano Shimozono, and his family includes not only his wife, but also two young children. Both Ken and his wife Jamie support their children in their school, Waikiki Elementary School, and in their extracurricular activities. Ken serves as a coach for his daughter, Kyla's club soccer team in Football Club Hawaii, a team organization, in the Hawaii Youth Soccer Association Organization. This means many volunteer hours in community service with practices during the week and games on weekends at Waipio Soccer Complex. Thus, he understands family life and being a responsible member of his community!

Ken would be firm and fair as a District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I highly support his candidacy!

Sincerely,
Ronald M. Iwamoto

Honolulu Resident and Emeritus Professor of Biology Chaminade University of Honolulu

Tom Heinrich

From: Melissa Takeda <mtake12@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 9:10 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Senate Confirmation Hearing for Kenneth J. Shimozono - District Family Court of the First Circuit, JC2, Room 224

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure for me to write a testimonial on behalf of Kenneth Shimozono. I have known Ken on a personal level for twenty years. He is a devoted husband and father. Ken is extremely responsible and no matter how busy he is, he makes himself available for everyone in his life. I see Ken as an individual who consistently demonstrates integrity and honesty. Throughout the years, I have often sought Ken's advice on various issues and he has always provided me with sound, logical recommendations. I strongly feel that Ken would serve the community well with his legal experience, calm demeanor, and ability to analyze situations fairly.

Warmest regards,

Melissa Takeda



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July 8, 2018

To:

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Hawaii State Capitol,
Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, for a term to expire in 6 years

It is my honor to write this letter of support for the appointment of Ken Shimozone as District Family Court Judge. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Shimozone for over 30 years, and I can personally attest to his strength of character, his compassion, and his integrity.

Ken Shimozone is a man of his word. If he says he is going to do something, you can depend on him to follow through. There have been numerous occasions when he has been there for me and my family, to offer legal advice, advocate for a family member, or to assist with setting up for a party. Whatever is needed he selflessly offers his time and support.

Ken Shimozone is one of the most compassionate people that I know. He is the type of person who makes sure everyone in the room feels comfortable by sparking up conversations and finding common ground. He has the gift of lifting the spirits of those around him and making people feel good about themselves, because he always takes an interest in what is going on in their life. Before his father passed away, Ken Shimozone always brought his father to gatherings and outings. At the gatherings, he constantly tended to his father, bringing him food and beverages and checking on how he was doing. Mr. Shimozone is a kind, big-hearted person and consequently, everyone enjoys being around his loving spirit.

You can always count on Mr. Shimozone to do what is right and ethical. Even in his youth he displayed a strong conscience and made good choices though some of his friends would try to persuade him to go down a different path. He always keeps in mind what is morally and ethically right when making decisions. He is a devoted husband and a loving father to his beautiful children. He will ensure that families appearing in court will receive fair and just treatment. He has a gentle, caring and calm disposition so he is always able to deal with situations in rational and objective manner

Ken Shimozone is ideal to serve as a district family court judge. He is a man of honor, who can be entrusted with the responsibilities of which this position entails. He will be a judge who serves justly and with heart. Please consider Ken Shimozone for this appointment.

Sincerely,

Jill M. LaBoy

Scott LaBoy
47-419 Ahuimanu Place #H
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Telephone: 808-781-7957
Email: huilokahiacademy@gmail.com

July 7, 2018

Re: Testimony for the Judicial Nomination of Kenneth J. Shimozone for the District Family Court of the First Circuit

To: The members of the Hawaii State Senate,

My name is Scott LaBoy and at this time I would like to humbly thank you for giving me the opportunity to write this letter on behalf of Kenneth J. Shimozone. I am presently an educator and counselor at Aikahi Elementary School, and proud to say that I have been in education for over 10 years. My passion and goal has always been to teach and instill character traits in my students that will make them successful contributors in our community. I have also been in the travel industry for over 20 years as a flight attendant for 3 different airlines. At each airline these particular traits were engrained and emphasized to us as necessities in being great travel ambassadors for our airlines. These traits that were engrained and I still teach to my students today are 1) Leadership, 2) Hard work and 3) Teamwork. I have known "Ken" for over 30 years, as we were college roommates who grew to become close friends over the years, and I can truly say that for as long as I have known "Ken" he has always and still does possess these traits.

Leadership- "Ken" has been in many leadership roles throughout his career with the most recent being as a partner in his law firm. However, what makes "Ken" stand out as a leader is his ability to communicate and respect the beliefs of others. Though he may seem steadfast in his belief system and may not initially agree with another person's perspective "Ken" is always willing to listen and keep an open mind to what is being said.

Hard work- Passion for working hard has always been an integral part of "Ken's" life. This gift was given to him by his father, who as a single parent held 3 jobs to make sure that his 3 sons were taken care of financially. What makes "Ken" even more special though is his ability to be passionate and hard working in all facets of his life including being a great father to his 2 children.

Teamwork- As a graduate of St. Louis School, Ken would seldom speak of the "Brotherhood" and emphasis on the team concept that was taught to him while at St. Louis. This mindset of team and loyalty is still an important part of "Ken's" life and is evident daily when he can be seen putting aside his agenda to make sure that the team's needs are taken care of first.

These traits are so important to the success of any individual but even more important to someone in the Judicial system. The ability to work hard to lead a group of people towards a fair outcome is what I believe the Judicial system strives to accomplish. This is why Kenneth J. Shimozone is a perfect fit and the reason why I

strongly support his Judicial nomination for the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,
Scott LaBoy

July 8, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 2, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF KENNETH J. SHIMOZONO

HEARING: Monday, July 9, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Nam H. Phan and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Kenneth J. Shimozono's confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Ken when I was a law clerk to Justice Michael D. Wilson during his time in the Circuit Court from 2007 – 2008. Although I did not have an opportunity to have any jury trials with Ken during my clerkship, I did appreciate his professionalism. He was always on-time to pre-trial conferences and status meetings, came prepared to discuss his cases, and was articulate in advocating his position. What I found especially effective was his demeanor; in my opinion, he understood what it meant to balance the need for being a zealous advocate for your client while being able to work with all parties to come to a satisfactory conclusion.

This professionalism has carried on as opposing counsel on many cases during my time as a prosecutor from 2008 – 2010, in my dealings with Ken in the private sector, and in our current affiliation serving together on the Board of Bar Examiners.

I look forward to his continued success and it is without any hesitation that I support Ken's confirmation to the District Court. If you have any questions and/or concerns in this matter, please feel free to contact me via mobile at (808) 389-8156 or email at nam.phan@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Nam H. Phan, Esq.

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Brian T. Toma
Gregory Y. P. Tom
Deborah A. Johnson

July 7, 2018

VIA EMAIL: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairperson
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chairperson
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: JC2 – Testimony in SUPPORT of the Confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Kenneth J. Shimozone, for a Term to Expire in 6 years.

Dear Senators Taniguchi, Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of the appointment of Kenneth J. Shimozone to the position of District Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I am a partner in the law firm of Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina and Fairbanks, and I have been licensed to practice law since 1993.

I have known Mr. Shimozone for almost twenty-five years. We met while clerking together at the Supreme Court of Hawai'i. Mr. Shimozone was law clerk to Justice Paula Nakayama and I worked for Chief Justice Ronald Moon. From the outset, he has consistently impressed me with his intelligence and breadth of experience, all tempered by a steadfast practicality. As we moved into our careers as attorneys, we have stayed in touch both personally and professionally, referring cases to one another. I have always known Mr. Shimozone to be nothing but a consummate professional who represents his clients with vigor and principle but always with the utmost civility. He is one of the few outstanding individuals whom I trust implicitly and in whom I place the confidence to assist, counsel, and represent the people I hold most dear.

Mr. Shimozone's personality and deportment are ideally suited for judicial office, where he stands as the interface between our judicial system and the public. One of his strongest qualities as both an attorney and a person has always been the fairness with which he treats

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Page 2 of 2

everyone with whom he interacts; I have always known him to be inclusive and welcoming, and to treat everyone with a genuine, heartfelt respect.

Mr. Shimozono is also dedicated to public service and education, as the wide scope of his civic and educational activities attest. I have also known him to be a devoted and loyal family man who is dedicated to his wife and two young children, yet who expertly balances his work and home life without detriment to either.

I wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Shimozono possesses all of the necessary skills and characteristics to be an outstanding District Judge, that he will be an excellent member of our esteemed Judiciary, and I confidently recommend his appointment without reservation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my support of the appointment of Kenneth J. Shimozono as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Geoffrey K. S. Komeya

Geoffrey K. S. Komeya

GKSK:ant

Tracy S. Fukui
530 S. King St., Rm. 110
Honolulu, HI 96813
tracy@tfukui-law.com

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Via Email: JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

July 7, 2018

RE: JC2 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, **Kenneth J. Shimozono**, for a term to expire in 6 years

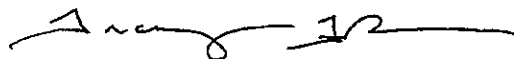
Dear Senator Taniguchi & Judiciary Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of Kenneth Shimozono ("Ken") for appointment to District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Ken personally and professionally for over fifteen years. I first met Ken when I was young public defender. As a more senior public defender, Ken often provided me valuable insight and guidance, and even second chaired my first jury trial as a public defender. I was extremely fortunate to have Ken as a mentor. He was always generous with his time and his extensive knowledge and experience helped me and other young attorneys develop into better trial attorneys. Although we both moved on from our roles as public defenders, the knowledge and experience I gained from working with Ken continues to guide me in my practice of law.

I also know Ken personally, as a friend and as a soccer coach to my daughter. I am extremely grateful to know Ken in these capacities as well. As a friend he is loyal and thoughtful. As a coach, he is inspiring and giving. Whether as a mentor, friend, or coach, Ken always strives to help others.

Having known Ken for many years in the above-referenced capacities, I strongly support his nomination to District Court Judge. He is knowledgeable in both substantive and procedural law. More importantly, he is fair, respectful, and always strives to do what is right. I know he will excel and embrace his role as judge. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very Truly Yours,



Tracy S. Fukui, Esq.

Tom Heinrich

From: Melina Sanchez <mdlhawaii@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 11:58 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: JC2 - Letter in Strong Support of Kenneth J. Shimozono

July 8, 2018

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC2-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, KENNETH J. SHIMOZONO, for a term to expire in 6 years

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

I am writing in strong support of Kenneth J. Shimozono's nomination as a District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit Court.

As a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the State of Hawaii, I litigated cases where Ken, in his capacity as a Deputy Public Defender, served as opposing counsel. Ken was a strong advocate for his clients and was always reasonable in discharging his duties as a public defender. Most importantly, Ken always treated opposing counsel with civility and respect so I am confident he possesses the judicial temperament necessary for the position.

I wholeheartedly support Ken's confirmation and I am confident he will make an excellent judge. I thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments.

Sincerely,

Melina D. Sanchez