

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

July 9, 2018

JC3: Nomination of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

This is to support Mahilani E.K. Hiatt's nomination to be a judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. Ms. Hiatt possesses a wealth of experience in complex civil legal cases. In addition, she has volunteered much of her time in school and community service activities on the Big Island.

Since 2017, she has served as a per diem District Family judge for the Third Circuit. She has demonstrated compassion and fairness. She has no preconceived notions about the cases which come before her and considers all arguments before arriving at decisions. Her judicial demeanor is strong and she is respectful toward all of the litigants in her courtroom.

I believe that, given her roots in the West Hawaii community and her legal abilities, Mahilani will make a good District Family Court judge.

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

Tom Heinrich

From: Kamelamela, Joe <Joe.Kamelamela@hawaiicounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 4:11 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Recommendation to Confirm the Appointment of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt to the Vacant Hilo District Family Court Judge (Third Circuit) Position

Aloha, Dear Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am proud and honored to provide this written testimony in support of the confirmation of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt ("Mahi") to the vacant Hilo District Family Court Judge (Third Circuit) Position.

When I first had a couple of cases against Mahi over 20 years ago, she had demonstrated excellent professional competency and legal ability. Although I disagreed with her, she provided the best legal services for her clients by clearly outlining her reasons, and there was nothing else for me to say or do. Since my initial cases with her, while concentrating most of her work on civil and commercial litigation, she met the highest standards for knowledge and legal ability for claims involving employment discrimination, wrongful termination, medical malpractice, and partnership disputes. Being able to efficiently and effectively work complicated and complex cases over the past decades, there easily would be transferrable skills learned and developed from her broad based legal experience for her to mete out thoughtful and justifiable opinions and decisions as a Family Court District Court Judge.

Throughout her entire legal career, she has maintained outstanding integrity and the highest ethical standards. None of my peers have questioned her integrity and high moral courage.

Knowing the various cases she handled, she has always treated people with the utmost fairness, while never raising her voice nor using unkind words. She respects everyone.

While recently honing her skills at the West Hawaii Mediation Center and Hilo Self-Help Training, she has outstanding compassions and humility in providing access to legal services for those with lesser means and resources. Those skills have been sharpened with much dignity, grace and courtesy.

Before being a lawyer, she has been a proven leader of her peers and learnt to plan ahead as illustrated with her being the Student Body President at William S. Richardson School of Law ("WSRSL"), and a WSRSL Law Review Member while she eventually became the Executive Managing Editor. She has sustained and improved her legal skills as recognized in Hawaii Best Lawyers in the area of Employment and Labor for 2016 and 2017. She has proven to be diligent while making excellent strategic case decisions in *Pacific Radiation Oncology v. the Queen's Medical Center* (representing the intervenors to protect the privacy rights of the non-party patients) and others.

She has been one of our per diem judges, District and Family Court (Third Circuit) since June 26, 2017. Please consider her as being one of our Judge, District Family Court (Hilo). Mahalo nuii loa!

JOSEPH K. KAMELAMELA
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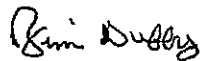
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TO: JCDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation appointment of Mahilani E. K. Hiatt to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. I have had the opportunity to observe Ms. Hiatt in hotly contested arbitration litigation, and can personally attest to her legal ability, integrity, diligence, and compassion. She works well with everyone involved in the legal process, and will be an excellent Family Court Judge and a credit to our Hawaii Judiciary.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Duffy".

Justice Jim Duffy (Ret.)



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

Mahilani E.K. Hiatt
District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit (JC3)

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 Mahilani E.K. Hiatt for the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

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

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

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

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

Documentation submitted by Ms. Hiatt was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Ms. Hiatt 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

Ms. Hiatt's career as a private practitioner has provided her with a variety of experience in general civil practice including real property law, and labor and employment law. Her current service as a Per Diem Judge for the District and Family Courts of the Third Circuit has allowed the Nominee to preside over different court calendars and make judicial decisions.

Equally important, Ms. Hiatt is a resident of the community which she will serve. She is actively involved in the Waimea and Honoka'a communities through her volunteer work at the Waimea Homestead Famers' Market, the Na Hale Hiku Home Owners Association and for the Hawaii Preparatory Academy Boys' Varsity Soccer Team. She is also a member of the Hawaii County Bar Association.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Mahilani E.K. Hiatt to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

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

DAVIS · LEVIN LIVINGSTON

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July 3, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

JC3: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee MAHILANI E.K. HIATT, for a term to expire in 6 years.

SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF MAHILANI E.K. HIATT AS A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

I write in enthusiastic support of the confirmation of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt as a Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. Based on my personal and professional interactions with Ms. Hiatt over the past fifteen years, I believe Ms. Hiatt is a perfect choice to sit as a Family Court Judge, especially in the Third Circuit (where she has been a Per Diem Judge of the District Court and District Family Court for the last year). Indeed, I honestly cannot think of any other attorney in Hawaii who would be better suited for this position.

Ms. Hiatt is an accomplished attorney who has the intellect, experience, knowledge, work ethic, and compassion to be an exceptional Family Court Judge. She has an ideal judicial temperament for this challenging court, where family and community intersect. It is Hawaii's good fortune that Ms. Hiatt's commitment to public service has led her to apply for the position of Family Court Judge. I recommend her for this position without reservation.

Sincerely,

DAVIS LEVIN LIVINGSTON


MICHAEL K. LIVINGSTON

MKL:jfp

David R. Harada-Stone
64-637 Puu Noho Street
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743

July 5, 2018

Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt to District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I would respectfully like to offer some brief comments on the nomination of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt to the District Family Court for the Third Circuit.

I have known Ms. Hiatt for about 27 years, since I was a 1L at William S. Richardson School of Law, where she was one year ahead of me. Even back then I was impressed by her keen intellect, quick wit and consummate professionalism. She has a knack for explaining difficult legal concepts in terms that even a neophyte like I was at the time could understand. But more than that, she has an easy way with people and a temperament marked by empathy, compassion, patience and common sense.

Over the years, my respect for Ms. Hiatt has only grown. I have worked with her on multiple cases (I was an associate with the Law Offices of Jerry Hiatt from 2001-2008) and have learned to trust her insights and appreciate her problem-solving skills. She is a talented and experienced counselor and litigator whose honesty and integrity are beyond reproach. I have also witnessed her dedication as a parent over the past two decades. Her ability to balance her professional and family life has never ceased to impress me, and I am confident her experiences in that realm will serve her well as a Family Court judge.

Frankly, I cannot think of a more qualified or deserving candidate for this judgeship, or one who would bring a greater depth and breadth of experience, and understanding, to her decision making. She would be a credit to the bench and, more importantly, an asset to our community here on the Big Island (where I have lived for the past 32 years).

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,



The Hawaii State Senate
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Interim Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senators Donna Mercado Kim, Committee member
Senator Mike Gabbard, Committee member
Senator Laura T. Thielen, Committee member

DATE OF HEARING: July 9, 2018

TIME OF HEARING: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY ON CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT, JUDICIAL
NOMINEE, MAHILANI E.K. HIATT,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE IN 6 YEARS**

By Rebecca L. Covert,
Partner, Takahashi and Covert

My name is Rebecca Covert and I am an attorney practicing law in Hawaii since 1993.

I met Ms. Hiatt at our first year of law school at William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL). We served on law review together and in some of the same study groups while at WSRSL. I met her family and friends that also gave me insight to her qualities. Since law school we have stayed in touch. I have attended numerous family gatherings, had dinner together, and visited her on the Big Island. We are in contact monthly and consult at times on legal issues.

Over the years I have known Ms. Hiatt I have had the opportunity to read her legal writings (from law school) and observed her skills as a collaborator, and leader and organizer of people. She writes well and clearly and develops the facts and the law in her writings. She has very good people skills as she is compassionate while knowing each person brings their perspective to the

discussion. She demonstrates the qualities referenced in the instructions, i.e., compassion and fairness, diligence, etc.

My opinion is that Ms. Hiatt has exceptional judicial temperament. As noted above, she can take herself out of the situation and consider the positions of the other participants. She has a wonderful disposition that allows her to retain her composure when dealing with situations. She demonstrates decisiveness in her problem solving after becoming informed of the facts and circumstances surrounding the issue. She is curious by nature and will familiarize herself with the facts and the law in each case, conducting research as needed on new or novel issues of the law.

Ms. Hiatt's background, professional skills, character and personal qualities that I have observed from our friendship spanning almost 30 years reflects strongly on her candidacy for judicial office. We have had many conversations that scan numerous topics including current events, politics, and the law. She has high qualities of integrity and courage in her convictions while demonstrating her compassion for those whose lives she touches.

Ms. Hiatt is conscientious and professional in all areas where she has taken on responsibilities and duties. This runs the gamut from representing her clients to serving as team mom on her son's soccer team. She recognizes people as individuals and gets to know each person whose path crosses her path, their name, family, history, etc. and remembers them in the next encounter. She is good at assessing a situation and finding workable solutions, Ms. Hiatt reaches her own opinions based on her inquiry into an issue and reasoning her own conclusions. Ms. Hiatt, in my opinion, demonstrates strengths in all the qualities desired of a judge, compassion and fairness, diligence, etc. I believe she has already shown these skills and attributes since serving as per diem judge in the Third Circuit.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Ms. Hiatt's appointment to the District Family Court Of The Third Circuit

RUSH MOORE LLP

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

Attorneys at Law

Offices Honolulu and Kona

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SHAWN MAILE NAKOA

Resident Partner

Email: snakoa@rmkona.com

July 6, 2018

JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate District 11
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support Letter for Mahilani E. K. Hiatt
District Family Court, Third Circuit Court Judgeship

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

This letter is written in strong support of **Mahilani E. K. Hiatt** for the District Family Court judge of the Third Circuit.

I am the Resident Partner with Rush Moore LLP in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i. I have known Mahilani for approximately eight years. Based on my personal and professional experiences with her, I am able to attest to her strong abilities, qualifications and sound ethics. I know of no financial or health problems that would adversely affect her ability to serve.

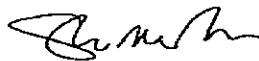
Mahilani's tenure as a *per diem* judge has shown that she is diligent, knowledgeable and fair minded. I have also seen her compassion and thoughtfulness – both qualities needed on the bench.

I strongly recommend Mahilani E.K. Hiatt's confirmation as a District Family Court judge in the Third Circuit. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

RUSH MOORE LLP
A Limited Liability Law Partnership

By



SHAWN MAILE NAKOA

SMN:sjn

Tom Heinrich

From: ALVIN WAKAYAMA <kamliq@prodigy.net>
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 11:39 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Written testimony for Mahilani Hiatt

RE: Mahilani Hiatt

My name is Alvin Wakayama. My family has resided in Waimea on the Big Island for over 3 generations I currently run our family business which has been in existence since 1946.

I have known Mahi and her family for over 20 years. It has always been my opinion that a top-notch jurist should be (1) Clear and Decisive With Compassion (2) Fair upon understanding All of the facts (3) A person with strong integrity and values. I personally know that Mahi possesses All of these qualities.

Hawaii would greatly benefit by having a Kamaaina like Mahi become a judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin T. Wakayama

Tom Heinrich

From: Randy Vitousek <rvitousek@cades.com>
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 12:10 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of Mahilani Hiatt.

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senators Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Laura T. Thielen

May I offer my personal support for Mahilani Hiatt as a District Family Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Ms. Hiatt for several years and have found her to be intelligent, diligent, compassionate, and committed to our community. I think she would continue to be an excellent District Family Judge.

As you no doubt know, my mother, the late Judge Betty Vitousek, was one of the founders of the Family Court system in Hawaii. She knew that child and family legal issues should be handled by a separate court system with specialized Judges. It would give my mother a sense of satisfaction to see Hawaiian women lawyers of the caliber of Ms. Hiatt seeking out and being in consideration for family court judgeships.

Ms. Hiatt is an active member of our community. She will represent the judiciary in a positive way.

May I ask that you give her application positive consideration.

Aloha Randy Vitousek

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Linda Harada-Stone
P. O. Box 6702
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
808-937-5530, hishinuma@aol.com

July 6, 2018

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

via email

Re: Mahilani E.K. Hiatt,
Judicial nomination,
District Family Court, Third Circuit

Dear Chariman Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

This letter is written in support of Ms. Hiatt's nomination for the position of district family court judge in the Third Circuit. Having known Ms. Hiatt for over 20 years, and having practiced as a GAL in the district family court of the Third Circuit for almost 20 years, I wholeheartedly believe that Ms. Hiatt would be an excellent family court judge. She brings experience from years as a litigator, negotiator, parent, manager of her practice, and per diem judge. Her compassion, fortitude, strength of character, diligence, attention to detail, honesty, forthrightness, caring, and genuine interest in people would bring everything that is sorely needed in a family court judge.

Very truly yours,



Linda Harada-Stone

P.O. Box 233
Kamuela, HI 96743
July 6, 2018

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Brian Taniguchi

Senator Karl Rhoads

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Laura Thielen

Dear Honorable Senators:

We are residents of Kamuela, Hawaii and friends of Mahilani Hiatt, a nominee to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit. We urge you to confirm her nomination without reservation.

You undoubtedly have Mahi's credentials before you, so you are aware of her professional experience and expertise in law, litigation, and adjudication. While judges need to be objective, they need to also rule with heart, compassion, and depth of understanding; otherwise their roles can be relegated to anyone with legal knowledge.

We share with you the attributes that augment her qualification for the position. Mahi is people-oriented---caring, personable, and empathetic. She balances these with firmness, open-mindedness, and sensibility, which is why she is regarded as a respected and ethical lawyer and per diem judge. Mahi possesses a keen sense of family dynamics, based on her own upbringing with siblings and extended family members and having helped raise a son and three step-daughters who are now successful career women.

Despite a busy law career, Mahi makes time to engage in community service. Along with a number of peers, she provided pro bono services to the Hilo Self-Help Center. She and her husband Jerry have provided scholarships to recognize students for service, creativity, and initiative. Their son's involvement in soccer spurred her to join the local soccer organization. She had previously lent active support to Special Olympics and Planned Parenthood.

We are confident Mahi will be an asset in government service and will bring trust and integrity to the bench. We hope you will concur. Mahalo for considering this endorsement.

Sincerely,

Roy & Eunice Saito

eunsaito@hawaiiantel.net

808-885-4722/808-388-6645

caedes · schutte

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

July 6, 2018

VIA EMAIL

JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate District 11
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Sachi E. Hiatt
Cades Schutte Building
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4212
Direct Line: (808) 521-9250
Direct Fax: (808) 521-9210
Email: shiatt@caedes.com

Re: In support of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt, District Family Court of the Third Circuit;
Senate Committee on Judiciary's Hearing July 9, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I write to express my support for Mahilani E.K. Hiatt for the vacancy in District Family Court of the Third Circuit. As a member of Mahi's family, I wasn't sure initially if I would be permitted to submit public comments on her nomination. Having confirmed that I can, I am so pleased to be able to add my voice to the discussion.

Mahi has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I can say without reservation that she is one of the warmest, most personable individuals that I have ever met. She has an easy way of connecting with the people around her and has forged strong ties in the Big Island community through natural relationships in both her work and personal life. I knew her on a personal level long before I became aware of what it takes to be an excellent attorney - but having since entered the practice of law myself, I can see the sheer amount of willpower, drive and pursuit of knowledge that it takes to be a truly effective advocate. To be frank, Mahi has all of that in spades.

On a professional level, Mahi has been practicing law for nearly 25 years and has extensive experience in litigation, alternative dispute resolution and labor/employment issues. She has served as a Foreclosure Commissioner since 2014 and in the last three years has given about 700 hours of her time to pro bono matters. She has a phenomenal work ethic and somehow manages to balance a demanding law practice, significant community involvement and raising a family without breaking a sweat.

Senator Brian Taniguchi
July 6, 2018
Page 2

Since her appointment as a per diem judge in the late summer of 2017, I have personally witnessed her putting in long hours (including nights and weekends) preparing for court days and observing the judicial process in Hilo and South Kohala. This is purely motivated by her drive to understand court protocols and procedures and excel in her role as a per diem judge.

Mahi is thoughtful, thorough, and smart as a whip. I believe that she would be measured, fair and diligent in assessing the matters and individuals before her. She truly enjoys the practice of law and has found her experience as a per diem judge to be complex and rewarding. I know that she would thrive in this position and I sincerely believe that the judiciary would benefit by having her on board.

Thank you for reading – your time and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


Sachi E. Hiatt

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of Judiciary Communication No. 3, Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination of Mahilani E.K. ("Mahi") Hiatt to serve as a Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Hiatt for the past 27+ years. She and I served together for eight years on the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association between her graduation from Law School in 1993 and 2000. During that time Mahi served three terms as the Association's Vice President and one term (1997-98) as its President.

Mahi is a very bright, hard-working, and well grounded. She was an excellent student in Law School and was associated during the early years of her legal career with the prestigious Honolulu law firm now known as Bays Lung Rose Holma. She has now been practicing on the Big Island for nearly 20 years, most recently in partnership with her husband, Jerry Hiatt, while also now serving as a per diem District Court Judge.

During her service on the Law School's Alumni Board, Mahi was diligent, thoughtful, and respectful of all of the varied viewpoints of her fellow Directors. She took the lead on a number of major Association projects and took her volunteer work seriously, despite her heavy workload. I believe Mahi has the temperament, empathy, and legal knowledge to be an outstanding trial court judge.

Sincerely, James S. ("Jim") Williston

**Testimony in support of the confirmation of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt,
District Family Court of the Third Circuit (JC 3); Senate Committee
on Judiciary's Hearing July 9 at 10:30 a.m.**

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

I write in strong support of the qualifications and character of Mahilani E.K. Hiatt, one of the nominees for the position of District Family Court Judge, Third Circuit.

I have known Mrs. Hiatt since 1994, when we were both students at the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. I worked with Mrs. Hiatt on numerous cases when we were both associates at the law firm then known as Bays Deaver et al., and then subsequently on many cases after she moved to the Big Island to become a partner with the firm of Hiatt & Hiatt, and I was a partner with my law firm here in Honolulu. I have also worked with Mrs. Hiatt on pro bono matters and community activities, and attended continuing education and Federal Bar Association functions with her.

Mrs. Hiatt is a person of uncommon intelligence, wit, grace, respect, and common sense. She is one of the few lawyers I know about whom I have never heard another lawyer say a bad word. In every case or situation I have been involved with her, she always has done her homework, as to the law and the facts of the case. She knows how to talk to people, to get them feeling comfortable and to open up as to what they want to say. I have never seen Mrs. Hiatt "talk down" to anyone, regardless of status or position. She is extraordinarily patient, and courteous, even with people or other lawyers who give her a hard time. From the choices I have seen her make, in legal cases and in life, she has consistently shown good judgment. She is not afraid to admit when she doesn't know everything about a situation or legal implication in a case, and asks questions until she fully understands the paths and consequences. Simply put, Mrs. Hiatt is a good lawyer and a good person.

While my practice emphasizes commercial litigation, I periodically have to appear in Family Court, when disputes over money or property spill over into family fights. I see, and sympathize with, the challenges our Family Court judges face every day. In my view, Family Court judges have the most difficult job in our Judiciary. It takes a very special person to be a good Family Court Judge. Based on all the qualities I described above—particularly her diligence, preparation, kindness, and common sense—I

believe Mrs. Hiatt is such a person. Moreover, her longtime work and interaction with families in the Kamuela community will give her a particular appreciation for the situations those families face. I believe Mrs. Hiatt would be a great asset to our Judiciary, and the people it serves in the Third Circuit.

Very truly yours,

Bruce D. Voss
Partner, Bays Lung Rose Holma

Tom Heinrich

From: Ronald Ibarra <jri6501@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 9:24 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of Mahilani E.K.Hiatt as District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Dear Senator Taniguchi and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Ms. Hiatt has the professional and personal qualifications to sit as a District Family Court Judge in South Kohala. She has excellent judicial temperament, and maintains her demeanor even under the most difficult situations. She is respectful of others and listens before making decisions. Ms. Hiatt is not afraid to make tough decisions based on the evidence and the law. She works hard and is always prepared as a lawyer and as a per diem judge.

Additionally, Ms. Hiatt has resided in South Kohala for many years. She is well respected in the community. She knows the issues and will apply the law accordingly.

I have known Ms. Hiatt professionally for many years. I have also heard only great things about her as a per diem judge and as a person. I am familiar with the requirements of being a judge and if confirmed I believe Ms. Hiatt will do well as a judge.

I strongly support her confirmation and respectfully ask this committee to forward a favorable recommendation to the senate. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Ronald Ibarra

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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 Third Circuit, Judicial Nominee, Mahilani E. K. Hiatt, 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 Mahilani E. Hiatt to the position of District Family Judge of the District Court of the Third 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 Ms. Hiatt for nearly thirty years. We met because we are in the same graduating class at the Richardson Law School at UH Manoa, and we became quick and lifelong friends. From the outset, Mahi has consistently impressed me with her intelligence and breadth of experience, all tempered and regulated by one of the biggest hearts on the planet. We served on both the staff and editorial board of the UH Law Review together, were in the same study group, and I have had extensive personal experience with Mahi's formidable legal, professional, social, and interpersonal abilities and talents. As we moved into our careers as attorneys, we have stayed in touch both personally and professionally, and I have always known Mahi to be nothing but a consummate professional who represents her clients with vigor and principle but always with the utmost civility. She 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.

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

Ms. Hiatt's personality and deportment are ideally suited for judicial office, where she stands as the interface between our judicial system and the public. One of her strongest qualities as both an attorney and a person has always been the fairness with which she treats everyone with whom she interacts; I have always known her to be inclusive and welcoming, and to treat everyone with a genuine, heartfelt respect.

Ms. Hiatt is also dedicated to public service and education, as the wide scope of her civic and educational activities attest. I have also known her to be a devoted and loyal wife and mother who is dedicated to her family, yet who expertly balances her work and home life without detriment to either.

I wholeheartedly believe that Ms. Hiatt possesses all of the necessary skills and characteristics to be an outstanding District Family Judge, that she will be an excellent member of our esteemed Judiciary, and I confidently recommend her appointment without reservation. She is one of the finest people I know.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my support of the appointment of Mahilani E. Hiatt as a District Family Court Judge of the Third 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

Tom Heinrich

From: Maurice Miranda <mmiranda@atlasinsurance.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 7:14 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: JDCTestimony
Subject: Mahilani Hiatt judiciary confirmation

To the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I'm an insurance agent in Honokaa, Hawaii and a long time community volunteer and board member for various non-profits. Mahi has been an ardent supporter of the community as long as I've known her. I'm amazed at how she manages her profession, family and volunteer work. Mahi is the person you turn to when you need something done.

She is and always will be a local girl with strong island roots. She cares deeply about her community as evidenced by the way she lives her life.

I strongly recommend confirmation of her nomination. Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Maurice Miranda
Vice President
National Board of Directors
American Youth Soccer Organization

The information in this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee. If you have received this communication in error, please contact the sender immediately, return the original message to the sender, and delete the material from your computer. Thank you. [AIA]

Tom Heinrich

From: joeyc@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 10:02 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Subject: Letter of Support for Mahilani Hiatt

My name is Joletta Lindsey Cordeiro. I am part Hawaiian and a lifelong resident of Waimea on the Big Island. My husband is Edward Cordeiro. He was born in Honolulu and moved to Kea'au when he was in middle school. We have lived together in Waimea with our family since 1979. We submit this testimony in support of the confirmation of Mahilani Hiatt as District Family Court Judge, Third Circuit.

My husband and I have both had separate careers but, for the last 26 years, we have also farmed our land in Waimea, growing lettuce, kale and other fresh produce for sale. In 1993, we joined the Waimea Homestead Farmers Market and have been proud members of the weekly market since that time, and, since 2009, I have also served on the Board.

I first met Mahi in 2000 when she became employed at HELCO, where I also worked. She was bright and personable and I liked her immediately. Around the same time, Mahi began coming to the Market. She always stopped to chat at our table and, whenever she noticed that someone needed assistance or something needed to be done, she would jump right in with a helping hand. It wasn't long before Mahi was coming to the Market on a regular basis, helping to set up and break down our tent, servicing customers (she became one of our best sales person) and even running our booth on her own when we could not be at the Market for some reason. Throughout the years, Mahi has also readily provided our family, as well as other vendor families at the Market, with free legal assistance and advice.

We have watched Mahi grow in our community and feel blessed to have her here. She connects with people from all backgrounds and treats everyone with the same respect. We have observed her to be extremely hard working, organized, kind, intelligent, fair and practical. We truly believe that Mahi would be an excellent Family Court judge and we respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the Senate to confirm her nomination.

We would be happy to answer any questions that you might have about this testimony.

Sincerely,

Joletta and Edward Cordeiro

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July 8, 2018

Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via E-mail Attachment
To: JDCTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

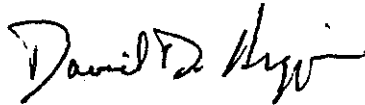
Re: Mahilani E. K. Hiatt, candidate for appointment to District Family Court of the Third Circuit

Dear members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary:

I am writing in support of Mahi Hiatt's nomination for appointment to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

From approximately 2006 to 2018, I maintained an active law practice on the Big Island as an Of Counsel attorney with Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, retiring at the end of 2017 but maintaining an active license in order to do limited pro bono work. In the course of my active practice, I had several opportunities to work with Mahi on civil matters. I found her highly skilled, highly professional, always courteous, and always conscientious and compassionate. She will, I am confident, make an outstanding full-time District Family Court judge.

Very truly yours,



David D. Higgins