

Johann Smith
150 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
January 23, 2019

Hon. Mike Molina
Council Member
Kalana O Maui Building
200 South High Street
Eighth Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Hon. Mike Molina:

I am writing to support the retention of John D. Kim ("JD") as the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui. I am proud to say that I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui since 2010. Since he was first appointed to this position, he has been a mentor to me. Even though his work keeps him extraordinarily busy, I can always walk into his office with a question or to get his opinion. I've worked in other offices where the boss did not work so closely with the line deputies and JD's method is far superior. He will take the time to give advice, talk out legal issues, and point out the strengths and holes in the case. He won't always give the easy answer, but he always sets me in the right direction so that I really learn the issues. Like every sound legal argument, his advice is always firmly rooted in the protections and guarantees of the Federal and State Constitutions. He loves to bring it back to the Constitution.

Practically speaking, no one can keep tabs on every decision in every case, so JD relies on mutual trust and well established expectations and I believe it has served him well. In my job it's important to listen to your conscience and sense of justice, and I feel that JD has created an environment that encourages that. He is quick to remind all of us that our job is not simply to secure convictions, but to do justice. He has compassion for victims yet he knows that those accused or convicted of crimes also deserve to be treated justly and fairly.


However, JD is more than just a boss who expects us to work hard and holds us to high standards, he is man with a real connection and sensitivity to the community. He is well liked and well respected by the attorneys in the office and around town. People in the community seem to like him a lot too. He treats people with respect, so he gets respect. He meets people on their terms which is important because as a prosecutor you deal with all sorts of people. He puts people at ease but he isn't a pushover. He listens to his attorneys' needs and works to get our office the tools and services we need to do our jobs the best we can.

It is clear that I like having JD as a boss. He is good for the community and bad for criminals, what more could you ask for in a head Prosecutor?

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johann Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Johann Smith
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney