

**Response of Derrick Kahala Watson
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii
to the Written Questions of Senator Amy Klobuchar**

- 1. If you had to describe it, how would you characterize your judicial philosophy?
How do you see the role of the judge in our constitutional system?**

Response: My judicial philosophy is characterized by the timely and fair resolution of all cases, accomplished after deliberate consideration of the relevant authorities and precedent. It also calls for patience and respect for all counsel and litigants, whether or not represented. A federal judge in our system of government must similarly respect the decisions of the executive and legislative branches and acknowledge the judiciary's limited role in reviewing those decisions.

- 2. What assurances can you give that litigants coming into your courtroom will be treated fairly regardless of their political beliefs or whether they are rich or poor, defendant or plaintiff?**

Response: Throughout my twenty-two year career as an Assistant United States Attorney and private practice attorney, I have always advanced the interests of clients based on the facts and applicable law. Clients' political beliefs have never been a factor or even been known to me, and I have represented plaintiffs and defendants alike. While in private practice, I devoted significant time to the representation of pro bono clients who would not have otherwise been able to afford the services of my law firm. If confirmed, I intend to continue to apply such principles of fairness and equity to all those who appear before me.

- 3. In your opinion, how strongly should judges bind themselves to the doctrine of stare decisis? How does the commitment to stare decisis vary depending on the court?**

Response: The public at large is entitled to predictability, fairness and reliability from its federal courts. The principle of stare decisis is critical to meeting these expectations and should be applied wherever possible by every federal district court.