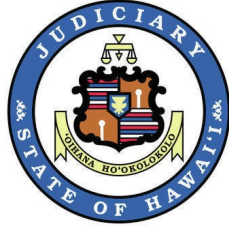


# Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



## Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, Associate Justice Paula A. Nakayama earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Davis, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Hastings College of Law in 1978; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 1979, Justice Nakayama began her legal career as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. In 1982, she joined the prominent litigation law firm of Shim, Tam and Kirimitsu, where she subsequently became a partner; and*

***WHEREAS**, on May 11, 1992, the Hawai‘i State Judiciary became the beneficiary of Justice Nakayama’s wealth of experience and knowledge when she was appointed by Governor John D. Waihe‘e III as Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, presiding in the criminal trial division. On April 22, 1993, she was appointed by Governor Waihe‘e as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai‘i, where she has served with distinction for an unprecedented thirty years. At the time of her appointment, she was only the second woman to sit on the state supreme court since statehood, the first in twenty-six years, and the first woman of color. She was also the eighth woman of color and the second Asian American woman to be appointed to an appellate court of last resort in the nation; and*

***WHEREAS**, during her tenure on the Supreme Court, Justice Nakayama has been extraordinarily productive, authoring more than 200 opinions and 100 dissents and concurrences, all of which were meticulously researched and clearly written. She shaped the court’s jurisprudence spanning many fields by defining the law of Hawai‘i and upholding the independence of Hawai‘i’s courts. She was always respectful in her decisions, even when others held different points of view; and*

***WHEREAS**, Justice Nakayama has made extensive contributions on key Judiciary committees, including as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Children in Family Court and Chair of the Committee to Review the Hawai‘i Rules of Appellate Procedure; and as the Supreme Court’s Liaison to the Judicial Education Committee, the Board of Bar Examiners, and the Certified Shorthand Reporting Board; and*

***WHEREAS**, Justice Nakayama has been described as Hawai‘i’s Lady of Justice, a title befitting of her extraordinary contributions to the rule of law in Hawai‘i, her accomplishments as a trailblazer and role model, and her extraordinary integrity, work ethic, and professionalism; and*

***WHEREAS**, in addition to her many professional contributions, Justice Nakayama has been an unwavering source of friendship, goodwill, and aloha to countless Judiciary employees, attorneys, and other members of our community, and a valued colleague and friend of her fellow justices and judges; and*

***WHEREAS**, although her retirement after thirty-one years of dedicated service to the legal community and the people of Hawai‘i is, indeed, well-deserved, she will be greatly missed. The Judiciary ‘Ohana extends its heartfelt appreciation to Justice Nakayama for the privilege and honor of working with her, and extends best wishes to her, her husband, Chuck, and their family, for continued good health and prosperity.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK E. RECKTENWALD, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim **Friday, April 21, 2023**, to be***

**“JUSTICE PAULA A. NAKAYAMA DAY”  
in the Courts of the State of Hawai‘i**

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of April, 2023.*

*/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald*

**MARK E. RECKTENWALD**  
*Chief Justice, Hawai‘i State Supreme Court*