

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII



January 15, 2009

PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The Honorable Todd Apo, Chair
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Re: Confirmation of Dr. Kanthi De Alwis as Chief Medical Examiner

Dear Chairperson Apo and Council Members:

I have worked with Dr. Kanthi De Alwis for close to 20 years and know her very well as a professional and person. Without hesitation, equivocation, or reservation, I support her confirmation as Chief Medical Examiner. As a professional, she is the best medical examiner I have worked with during my almost 22 years as a deputy prosecutor specializing in homicides. She is very intelligent, articulate, and charismatic. When Dr. De Alwis testifies, she is a star who captivates and entertains the jury with her vivid recreations of crime that are comprehensible to all. She is also eminently fair and not just a witness for the prosecution. She has testified for the defense and is held in high esteem by defense attorneys. Justice is her aim and if that is not yours, she will let you know in no uncertain terms.

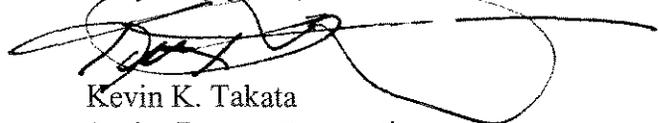
I understand there are those who have criticized her during her tenure as Chief Medical Examiner. Whenever a person is in a leadership position, there are bound to be those that are dissatisfied, as you probably know. Dr. De Alwis has had to make difficult decisions and enact change to better her Department. In doing so, she is only guided by the best intentions and efforts.

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As a person, Dr. De Alwis is warm, compassionate, and talented, with many interests, who I am proud to call a friend. She came to this country from Sri Lanka with very little, seeking a better life for her family, and has done that. She raised 2 fine sons who are well on their way to successful careers in medicine and business.

Our city has been blessed to have Dr. De Alwis as our Chief Medical Examiner. The citizens of Honolulu deserve the best and you can give them that by confirming her nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin K. Takata', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin K. Takata
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

KKT:kkt