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The Honorable Todd Apo  
Members of the Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Chairman Apo and Members of the City Council:

I would like to make it clear I am speaking as an individual and not a police officer or a representative of the Honolulu Police Department.

I have been a police officer in Honolulu for over twenty-seven years and am currently assigned as a detective in the Homicide detail. Since 2001 I have worked closely with Dr. De Alwis and her staff in death investigations. Dr. De Alwis has partnered with our administration and detectives to create an atmosphere which best service the citizens of the City and County of Honolulu.

As an example During post mortem examinations involving suspicious deaths, our homicide investigators are present and Dr. De Alwis makes it a point to include us in her observations and provides on-site explanation. She also makes herself available to the homicide investigators for consultation on a twenty-four hour basis, which has been critical to our success, and an important aspect as to why Honolulu has one of the nation's highest percentages of solved murder cases.

Dr. De Alwis is regularly called upon to provide training not only to local, state and federal law enforcement, but has been invited to lecture before her peers in international forums. Dr. De Alwis has been a critical part of death investigations and the prosecution of offenders within the State of Hawaii. When she testifies in court, her commitment to excellence and her unquestioned integrity is immediately obvious. She also has the ability to communicate her findings in terms a layperson can understand which is extremely valuable. Dr. De Alwis also has led her office and staff to take a proactive approach to death investigation, where through education deaths may be prevented.

It is an honor for me to be able to voice my support of Dr. Kanthi De Alwis and hope the Honolulu City Council will confirm her appointment as the Chief Medical Examiner in the City and County of Honolulu.

Respectfully,



Ted Coons