

KENDRA K. KAWAI

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHOOL OF LAW
Juris Doctorate, 2002

University of California - San Diego
B.A. Political Science, 1998

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SHRM) HAWAII CHAPTER, EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
State Director, State Conference (2025-present); Member of Programs Committee (2008-2014; 2018-2024); Co-Chair of Programs Committee (2011- 2012)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII
Member of Board of Directors (2018-2023)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII FOUNDATION
Member of Board of Directors (2025-present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TORKILDSON KATZ, HONOLULU, HAWAII, 2015 - PRESENT

SENIOR COUNSEL/DIRECTOR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION

Defended employers in all aspects of labor and employment law matters before state and federal courts and administrative agencies. Drafted and reviewed employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, and settlement documents. Advised clients as to wage and hour, family leave law, and disability issues, participated in interest arbitration proceedings that resulted in successful outcomes for government agencies and in labor arbitrations. Conducted independent fact-finding investigations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Served as co-counsel in interest arbitrations representing various government employers and obtained favorable results on behalf of management.
- Successfully served as first-chair counsel in obtaining a defense decision in an age discrimination case at arbitration on behalf of employer (December 2018).
- Assisted with the update and publication of the Chamber Desk Manual, created list of presentation topics, and organized the firm's participation at the Annual Employment Law Seminar hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii for multiple years.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL, CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU, HONOLULU, HAWAII, 2014-2015

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL, COUNSELING & DRAFTING DIVISION, PERSONNEL SECTION

Advised City departments on labor and employment law matters. Managed workers' compensation appeals before the State of Hawaii Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Drafted legal advisory memoranda on various issues. Reviewed contractual agreements for City departments.

TORKILDSON, KATZ, MOORE, HETHERINGTON & HARRIS, HONOLULU, HAWAII, 2007-2014

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY/SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION

Defended employers in all aspects of labor and employment law matters before state and federal courts and administrative agencies. Drafted and reviewed employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, and settlement documents. Advised clients as to wage and hour, family leave law, and disability issues and reviewed and updated employee handbooks.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Served as co-counsel in obtaining summary judgment in a race and sex discrimination case in federal court on behalf of an employer, prevailed on appeal to the Ninth Circuit in 2009 and successfully defeated plaintiff's application for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court in 2010.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL, CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU, HONOLULU, HAWAII, 2004-2007
DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL, LITIGATION DIVISION**

Litigated several jury trials in state and federal court as either first or second chair. Cases included: civil rights violations, employer retaliation, breach of contract and tort. Managed a caseload of approximately 20 cases.

**HONORABLE COLLEEN HIRAI (RET.), CHIEF JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII 2002-2004
LAW CLERK**

Drafted bench memos, conducted research, and managed weekly hearings.

ARBITRATION FEE:

Hourly Rate: \$350 per hour plus GET (with execution of firm engagement letter for services)

Travel Costs: Travel and lodging expenses reimbursement (if in-person hearings are required)

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