

September 26, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

The undersigned law enforcement officer submits this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Micah Smith to the United States District Court in Hawai'i. I worked closely with Micah Smith when he was an Assistant United States Attorney investigating and prosecuting individuals who violated federal firearms, gambling, and drug-trafficking laws. I believe the complexity of his work as a prosecutor, his commitment to his work, and his character will make him an outstanding federal judge.

I have worked numerous large-scale investigations involving criminal organizations over my career which involved collaborations with law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys within Hawai'i, continental United States, and international. I was involved in one particular case where the complexity was a unique obstacle facing the investigators. Micah flew to the island of Maui to meet with investigators to discuss the obstacles and strategize. He drove around with investigators, where we showed him the unique challenges of the case and different affected areas within the island of Maui. Micah was instrumental in discussions with different investigative techniques, and how we could successfully run this complex investigation as he had extensive knowledge and experience. He was involved in every step of this case: assisting with writing search warrants, wiretap applications, and carefully planning a prosecution strategy. Micah was diligent and meticulous to each aspect of the case.

Micah showed perseverance and dedication throughout our cases. On many occasions, communications between investigators and Micah would take place late in the night, weekends and holidays. He was highly organized and his adherence to deadlines made investigations function seamlessly. I believe he will do the same for matters assigned to him as a federal judge.

On August 8, 2023, the island of Maui experienced unprecedented disaster when a fire engulfed different parts of the island of Maui and devastated the town of Lahaina. Micah was one of the first individuals to contact me to discuss how the community was doing. He wanted to know how he could help and discussed the challenges facing the community. Micah has shown unwavering commitment and dedication to his community, family and his career. I support his nomination to be a federal judge in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Lucas Hetzler

Police Officer, Maui Police Department

Task Force Officer, Federal Bureau of Investigation