

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

State v. Bunag

No. SCWC-24-0000539, Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i (February 18, 2026)

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i accepted Alden Bunag’s application for a writ of certiorari in a criminal case appealed from the Intermediate Court of Appeals. The court ordered that no oral argument would be heard unless a party moved for retention of oral argument within ten days under Hawai‘i Rules of Appellate Procedure Rule 34(c).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per curiam; Sabrina S. McKenna, Acting Chief Justice; Todd W. Eddins, Justice; Lisa M. Ginoza, Justice; Vladimir P. Devens, Justice; Michelle L. Drewyer, Circuit Judge, assigned by reason of vacancy
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	February 18, 2026
DOCKET	SCWC-24-0000539
DISPOSITION	cert_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner/Defendant-Appellant Alden Bunag applied for a writ of certiorari from the Intermediate Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court accepted the application and ordered that no oral argument would be heard unless a party moved for retention of oral argument under Hawai‘i Rules of Appellate Procedure Rule 34(c).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published
PARTIES	Alden Bunag v. State of Hawai‘i

TOPICS

- writ of certiorari
- appellate jurisdiction
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1. Whether to accept Alden Bunag's application for a writ of certiorari.
- 2. Whether oral argument would be heard in the certiorari proceeding absent a motion for retention under Hawai‘i Rules of Appellate Procedure Rule 34(c).

HOLDINGS

- 1. The Supreme Court of Hawai‘i accepted Alden Bunag's application for a writ of certiorari.
- 2. No oral argument would be heard unless a party moved within ten days for retention of oral argument pursuant to Hawai‘i Rules of Appellate Procedure Rule 34(c).

KEY QUOTATIONS

- “Petitioner/Defendant-Appellant Alden Bunag’s application for writ of certiorari filed on January 5, 2026, is accepted.”*
- “It is further ordered, that no oral argument will be heard in this case.”*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The order contains no substantive factual findings regarding the underlying criminal case. It concerns only the procedural acceptance of Bunag's application for a writ of certiorari and the decision not to hear oral argument absent a motion under Rule 34(c).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case reached the Supreme Court of Hawai‘i on Bunag's application for a writ of certiorari following proceedings in the Intermediate Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court accepted the application on February 18, 2026, without deciding the merits.

DISPOSITION

cert_granted

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Electronically Filed Supreme Court SCWC-XX-XXXXXXX 18-FEB-2026 07:47 AM Dkt. 5
OGAC SCWC-XX-XXXXXXX IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I
STATE OF HAWAI‘I, Respondent/Plaintiff-Appellee, vs. ALDEN BUNAG, Petitioner/Defendant-
Appellant. CERTIORARI TO THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS (CAAP-XX-
XXXXXXX; CASE NO. 1CPC-XX-XXXXXXX) ORDER ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR
WRIT OF CERTIORARI (By: McKenna, Acting C.J., Eddins, Ginoza, and Devens, JJ., and

Circuit Judge Drewyer, assigned by reason of vacancy) Petitioner/Defendant-Appellant Alden Bunag's application for writ of certiorari filed on January 5, 2026, is accepted.

It is further ordered, that no oral argument will be heard in this case. Any party may, within ten days and pursuant to Rule 34(c) of the Hawai'i Rules of Appellate Procedure, move for retention of oral argument. DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, February 18, 2026. /s/ Sabrina S. McKenna /s/ Todd W. Eddins /s/ Lisa M. Ginoza /s/ Vladimir P. Devens /s/ Michelle L. Drewyer