

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Duarte v. Kimura

No. SCPW-25-0000483, Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i (February 18, 2026)

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Hawai‘i denied petitioners' petition for a writ of mandamus because they did not demonstrate a clear and indisputable right to relief. The court also referred the matter to the Hawai‘i Attorney General for investigation into the unauthorized practice of law based on the petition's preparation statement.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sabrina S. McKenna, Acting Chief Justice; Todd W. Eddins, Justice; Lisa M. Ginoza, Justice; Vladimir P. Devens, Justice; Rowena A. Somerville, Circuit Judge, assigned by reason of vacancy
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	February 18, 2026
DOCKET	SCPW-25-0000483
DISPOSITION	writ_denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding on a petition for a writ of mandamus.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Mandamus relief requires a clear and indisputable right to relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Yvonne K. Duarte, Roland P. Ledward, Jr. v. The Honorable Jordon J. Kimura, Mark Sausen, Louise Sausen

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate procedure
- Civil procedure
- Remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether petitioners demonstrated a clear and indisputable right to relief warranting issuance of a writ of mandamus.
2. Whether the petition should be referred to the Hawai‘i Attorney General for investigation into the unauthorized practice of law.

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioners did not demonstrate a clear and indisputable right to relief, so the petition for a writ of mandamus was denied.
2. The matter was referred to the Attorney General of the State of Hawai‘i for investigation into unauthorized practice of law.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Petitioners have not demonstrated a clear and indisputable right to relief.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The petition for a writ of mandamus arose from proceedings involving Judge Jordon J. Kimura of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit and Mark and Louise Sausen. The petition included, at the bottom of each page, the statement: “Prepared by: Premiere Paralegal Services-HAWAI‘I.”

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioners filed a petition for a writ of mandamus on June 30, 2025, seeking relief from the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i. The court denied the petition and referred the matter to the Hawai‘i Attorney General for investigation into the unauthorized practice of law.

DISPOSITION

writ_denied

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand was ordered. The case was referred to the Attorney General of the State of Hawai‘i for investigation into unauthorized practice of law.

CASES CITED

- Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP v. Kim, 153 Hawai‘i 307, 319, 537 P.3d 1154, 1166 (2023)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Electronically Filed Supreme Court SCPW-XX-XXXXXXX 18-FEB-2026 07:53 AM Dkt. 6
ODDP SCPW-XX-XXXXXXX IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

YVONNE K.
DUARTE; ROLAND P. LEDWARD, JR., Petitioners, vs. THE HONORABLE JORDON J.
KIMURA, Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i, Respondent Judge, and
MARK SAUSEN; LOUISE SAUSEN, Respondents.
ORIGINAL

PROCEEDING (CASE NO. 1CCV-XX-XXXXXXX) ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR
WRIT OF MANDAMUS (By: McKenna, Acting C.J., Eddins, Ginoza, and Devens, JJ., and
Circuit Judge Somerville, assigned by reason of vacancy) Upon consideration of the petition for
writ of mandamus, filed June 30, 2025, and the record, Petitioners have not demonstrated a clear
and indisputable right to relief.

See *Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP v. Kim*, 153 Hawai‘i 307, 319, 537 P.3d 1154, 1166
(2023). It is ordered that the petition is denied. It is further ordered that this case is referred to the
Attorney General of the State of Hawai‘i for investigation into Unauthorized Practice of Law. See
Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 605-14 (2016).

The bottom of each page of the petition for writ of mandamus includes the statement: “Prepared
by: Premiere Paralegal Services-HAWAI‘I.” DATED: Honolulu, Hawai‘i, February 18, 2026. /s/
Sabrina S. McKenna /s/ Todd W. Eddins /s/ Lisa M. Ginoza /s/ Vladimir P. Devens /s/ Rowena A.
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