

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **660**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2017

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 507

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 507, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

FIRST CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

G.M. No. 507 TODD W. EDDINS,
for a term to expire in 10 years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the resume and statements submitted by the appointee and finds Todd W. Eddins to possess the requisite qualifications to be considered for appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Testimony in support of the appointment of Mr. Eddins was submitted by Chief United States District Judge J. Michael Seabright, United States District Court, District of Hawaii; Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Hawaii; Department of the Attorney General; Office of the State Public Defender; Judge Linda C.J. Lee, The Court of Appeals of the State of Washington; Retired Judge Victoria S. Marks, Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit; Retired Judge Eden Hifo, Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit; Ho'omana Pono, LLC; Waiahole Waikane Community Association; and fifty-eight individuals. Comments regarding the appointee were submitted by the Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors.

Mr. Eddins received his Bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary. He subsequently obtained his Doctorate of

Jurisprudence from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he served as the Executive Editor of the University of Hawaii Law Review and was one of the core group of law student leaders who initiated public service as a graduation requirement. The public service graduation requirement was the first in the nation.

Mr. Eddins is currently a sole practitioner of his own private law practice focusing on criminal defense and complex civil litigation. He previously served as a Deputy Public Defender and provided civil litigation work for Galiher DeRobertis Ono. He has tried approximately one hundred jury trials and two hundred bench trials during his extensive legal career and has represented clients in almost every Circuit and District Court in the State and the United States District Court, including many of Hawaii's most high-profile, complex cases. Of particular note, he represented the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association in lease, eviction, and land transfer issues with the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii; represented the defendant in *State v. Tayshea Aiwohi*, which examined the constitutional, statutory, and policy implications of prosecuting mothers for prenatal substance abuse; and served as the plaintiffs' attorney for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers and United States Navy veterans exposed to asbestos.

Mr. Eddins is licensed to practice law in Hawaii and is an active participant in his community. He has participated in the McCully-Moilili Neighborhood Board and Waipahu Neighborhood Board and served as a high school mock trial coach for the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. He has also served as a coach for Kailua youth basketball and youth baseball and participated in the lawyers basketball for more than twenty-five seasons, including on the championship team several times in recent seasons.

Testimony in support of Mr. Eddins' appointment indicates that he is a knowledgeable and skilled trial attorney whose practical knowledge of the rules of evidence will ensure that verdicts will not be overturned for errors and that his keen ability to interact with prospective jurors will translate to efficient and fair jury selections. He possesses the necessary intellect to critically analyze legal issues, arrive at a well-reasoned decision, and clearly explain the basis for his decision.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report,



your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the appointee, has found the appointee to be qualified for the position to which appointed and recommends that the Senate consent to the appointment.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,

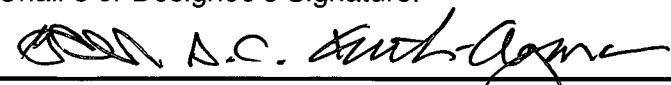


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN,
Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* GM 507	Committee Referral: JDL	Date: 2/23/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent 2347 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Consent 2349				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)	/			
RHOADS, Karl (VC)	/			
GABBARD, Mike	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado				/
THIELEN, Laura H.	/			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes