



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 28, 2017
Rm. 016, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: William Hoshijo, Executive Director
Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: G.M. No. 558

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

G.M. No. 558 submits the nomination of Joan Lewis to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, for Senate consideration and confirmation.

The statutory qualifications for HCRC Commissioners are laid out in HRS § 368-2(a): “The members appointed to the commission shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the civil rights of all individuals.”

HCRC staff are appreciative of the willingness of Joan Lewis to serve as an HCRC Commissioner. Ms. Lewis brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Commission, and an impressive record of demonstrated commitment to civil rights for Hawai‘i’s people. Her background in education and labor will add valuable perspective to the work of the Commission. Since her appointment, she has been conscientious and engaged while serving pending confirmation.