

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 16 2025

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 726,
737

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 726 and 737, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

DEFENDER COUNCIL

G.M. No. 726 ANDREW KENNEDY,
for a term to expire 06-30-2029; and

G.M. No. 737 SETSUKO GORMLEY,
for a term to expire 06-30-2027,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by Andrew Kennedy and Setsuko Gormley for service on the Defender Council.

ANDREW KENNEDY

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Andrew Kennedy from the Office of the Public Defender and seven individuals.

Based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of him and his qualifications, your Committee finds that Mr. Kennedy's experience and background as a criminal defense attorney qualify him for appointment to the Defender Council. Your Committee notes that Mr. Kennedy earned his



Bachelor's degree from Villanova University and his Juris Doctor from the Suffolk University School of Law. Your Committee further notes that Mr. Kennedy has been licensed to practice law since 2003 and is licensed to practice in several jurisdictions, including Hawai'i, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York. Mr. Kennedy is currently a partner at Schlueter, Kwiat, & Kennedy LLLP, where he is responsible for representing clients in federal and state criminal matters. Before working at Schlueter, Kwiat, & Kennedy LLLP, Mr. Kennedy was a Deputy Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender, where he litigated criminal matters ranging from narcotics offenses to crimes against persons or property rights, and conducted numerous felony trials in circuit court in the State. Mr. Kennedy is also an active member of other professional organizations. He is currently a member of the Hawai'i State Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, and previously served as a Federal Delegate for the United States District Court from 2022 to 2024, and Vice President and President of the West Hawai'i Bar Association. Your Committee therefore recommends that Andrew Kennedy be appointed to the Defender Council based on his background, knowledge, and extensive experience as a criminal defense attorney.

SETSUKO GORMLEY

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the reappointment of Setsuko Gormley from the Office of the Public Defender and six individuals.

Based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of her and her qualifications, your Committee finds that Ms. Gormley's experience, knowledge, and proven leadership on the Defender Council qualify her for reappointment to the Defender Council. Your Committee notes that Ms. Gormley earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and East Asian Languages and Culture from the University of Southern California and her Juris Doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. Your Committee further notes that Ms. Gormley has been licensed to practice law since 2007 and is licensed in California, Hawai'i, and Nevada. Ms. Gormley currently works as a solo practitioner, where she primarily focuses on criminal defense, family law, and immigration. Before starting her solo practice, Ms. Gormley worked as a Legislative Attorney for the Office of Council Services for Maui County and a Deputy Public



Defender for the Office of the Public Defender, where she represented clients in state appellate court proceedings, drafted appellate briefs, and represented defendants in state district and circuit courts. Your Committee also notes that Ms. Gormley is an active member in several professional organizations. She has served as Treasurer for the American Immigration Lawyers Association since 2015 and currently serves on the Defender Council, where she lends her experience as a defense attorney and former Deputy Public Defender. Your Committee therefore recommends that Setsuko Gormley be reappointed to the Defender Council based on her experience, knowledge, and proven leadership on the Defender Council.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* <i>GM 726</i>	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: <i>4/11/25</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	<i>5</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designer's Signature:				
<i>Mike Gabbard</i>				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes

