

STAND. COM. REP. NO. |

Honolulu, Hawaii

JUN 23 2016

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
First Special Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred Judiciary Communication No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1 M. KANANI LAUBACH,
 for a term to expire in six years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the resume and statements submitted by the appointee and finds M. Kanani Laubach to possess the requisite qualifications to be appointed to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Testimony in support of the appointment of Ms. Laubach was submitted by Retired Judge Michael Town, Circuit Court of the First Circuit; and ninety-six individuals. Comments regarding the appointee were submitted by the Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors.

Ms. Laubach graduated with distinction and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Subsequently, she received her Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology with a concentration in Human Services from Chaminade University and later earned her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Ms. Laubach is a Partner at Laubach & Frenz, AAL, LLC in Hilo, where she focuses her legal practice on criminal cases heard in District, Family, and Circuit Courts and family law cases involving temporary restraining orders. Prior to entering private practice, she served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, where she handled various stages of criminal cases in District, Family, and Circuit Courts. She also served as a member of the Violent Crime Unit where she was assigned violent crime cases involving criminal matters ranging from child sex assault to homicide. She also previously served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, where she was assigned to domestic violence misdemeanor cases, cases involving misdemeanor jury demand, and felony trial cases.

Ms. Laubach is licensed to practice law in Hawaii and has extensive service in the legal and local community of the County of Hawaii. She currently serves as an arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, a volunteer at a self-help center in Hilo, an organizer for the East Hawaii Defense Bar, and a Director on the Waiakea High School Foundation Board. She previously served as a Recording Secretary and currently serves as the Vice President of the Hawaii County Bar Association. She has performed presentations for the Junior Judges Program in public schools and assisted in coordinating and serving as a judge in the Hawaii County Mock Trial Competitions.

Testimony in support of Ms. Laubach's appointment indicate that her practice of law in the government and private sectors makes her a well-rounded practitioner with substantial trial experience. Her psychology background will be an asset for the District Family Court when assisting individuals and families who are in crisis and conflict. She has the reputation for being a person of integrity who treats everyone equally and fairly and has the ability to relate to and is respectful toward everyone - attributes that are especially important at the District Court level, where the public is most likely to come into contact with the court system.

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-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Comm. No.:* JC 1	Committee Referral: JDL	Date: 06/23/16		
<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)	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	7			
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