

STAND. COM. REP. NO. |

Honolulu, Hawaii

SEP 13 2016

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Third 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 (ISLAND OF HAWAII)

J.C. No. 1 DAKOTA K.M. FRENZ,
 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 Dakota K.M. Frenz 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. Frenz was submitted by Retired Judge Ben H. Gaddis, District Family Court of the Third Circuit; Retired Judge Barbara T. Takase, District Court of the Third Circuit; Retired Judge Anthony K. Bartholomew, District Family Court of the Third Circuit; Retired Judge Lloyd X. Van De Car, District Court of the Third Circuit, and forty-eight individuals. Testimony in opposition to the appointment of Ms. Frenz was submitted by one individual. Comments regarding the appointee were submitted by the Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors.

Ms. Frenz obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During her undergraduate studies, she was named to the Dean's List and received a Student Employee of the Year Merit Scholarship.



Subsequently, she earned her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Whittier Law School, where she served on the Moot Court Honors Board and received the Whittier Public Interest Law Foundation Scholarship for two consecutive years. During her graduate studies, she served as a Law Clerk for the Sexual Assault Unit of the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

As of August 2016, Ms. Frenz was a sole proprietor of her own private law practice specializing in criminal law, family law cases involving temporary restraining orders, arbitration, and collections. Prior to opening her own law practice, she was a Partner at Laubach & Frenz, Attorneys at Law, LLLC, where she focused her legal practice in the same areas of law. 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.

Ms. Frenz 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 a member on the Board of Directors of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii County Bar Association, an arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, a member of the County of Hawaii Bench Bar Committee and Hawaii State Bench Bar Committee, and a volunteer at a self-help center in Hilo. She previously volunteered her time as a debate judge in debate competitions at Waiakea High School.

Testimony in support of Ms. Frenz's appointment, which is to the position formerly held by Retired Judge Lloyd X. Van De Car, indicate that her practice of law as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the government sector and defense attorney in the private sector makes her a well-rounded practitioner with substantial trial experience. As a resident who was born and raised on the Island of Hawaii, she possesses the compassion, empathy, and awareness of the regional and social issues that give rise to the cases before the courts. She has the reputation for being a person of integrity who treats everyone equally and fairly, listens to and recognizes both sides of an issue, and relates to and is respectful toward everyone. These are 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: 9/13/16		
<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	6			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