

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1

Honolulu, Hawaii

NOV 12 2019

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Second Special Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 1 KELSEY KAWANO,
 for a term to expire in 10 years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Kelsey Kawano for service as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Kelsey Kawano from one individual. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Kelsey Kawano from the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors (HSBA Board) uses a rating system that considers several criteria to assist the HSBA Board in making a recommendation to your Committee on whether the appointee is "qualified" or "not qualified". Specifically, the criteria the HSBA Board employs are the same criteria found in the American Bar Association's Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Those guidelines include the following criteria, which are not exclusive: integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability,



professional experience, temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been appointed. Upon review of the established criteria, the HSBA Board found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

Kelsey Kawano received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and later obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Washington School of Law. He has served as a judge for thirteen years and currently serves as the Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit, where he presides over all District Court criminal, civil, Environmental Court, and Mental Health Court calendars. He has also served as Judge Pro Tempore of the Circuit Court, where he presided over criminal, civil, foreclosure, probate, and family court calendars. Prior to serving as a judge, Mr. Kawano spent twenty-four years in private practice.

Kelsey Kawano has been active in the legal community throughout his career. He has served as the President of the Maui County Bar Association and Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association. He has also served as the Director of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; Community Clinic of Maui; and USA Swimming, Inc. Mr. Kawano has also served as a volunteer guardian ad litem in Family Court.

Testimony submitted in support of Kelsey Kawano's appointment commends his diligence and fairness, as well as his personable, thoughtful, and caring disposition. Additionally, the testimony describes his reputation for the ability to remain calm and clear-minded under trying circumstances. These attributes are essential in the position for which he was nominated.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf and responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, Kelsey Kawano has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and requisite competencies to be a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary 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,

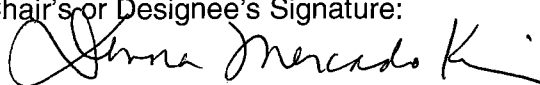


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* GM 1	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 11/12/2019		
<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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				/
GABBARD, Mike				/
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes