

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2**

Honolulu, Hawaii

NOV 12 2019

RE: JUD. COM. 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 Judiciary Communication No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1                      REBECCA A. COPELAND,  
for a term to expire in 6 years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Rebecca A. Copeland for service on the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Rebecca A. Copeland from the Hawai'i Women Lawyers and twenty-five individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Rebecca A. Copeland 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 District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Rebecca A. Copeland received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Southwest Texas State University and later obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law. She currently serves as a Per Diem Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit and is a solo practitioner with a concentration in appellate litigation. Ms. Copeland's prior legal experience includes teaching as an adjunct law professor at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law, and Texas A&M University San Antonio System Center; and serving as a Deputy Solicitor General in the Appellate Division of the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General.

Ms. Copeland has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career, including serving as Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Supreme Court's Committee on Equality and Access to Courts, and member of the Hawai'i Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, Hawaii Justice Foundation, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Japanese American Citizens League: Honolulu Chapter, and Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation.

Testimony submitted in support of Rebecca A. Copeland's appointment commend her writing skills and oral advocacy. She has repeatedly demonstrated that she is knowledgeable, hard-working, empathetic, fair and balanced, and dedicated to doing justice, and as such, she is well respected in the legal community. Numerous testifiers also praised her work ethic, professionalism, advocacy, and commitment to the betterment of the legal profession.

Your Committee finds that based on the testimony submitted on her behalf and responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, Rebecca A. Copeland has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to serve as a Judge of the District Family Court of the First 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,



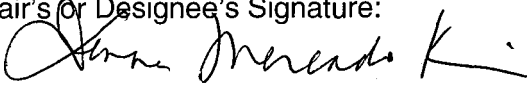
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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**  
**Consent**

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* <b>JC 1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>11/12/2019</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent 2347 <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Consent 2349</span>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				/
GABBARD, Mike				/
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
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