

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 28 2021

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Third Special Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 2, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 2 KEVIN T. MORIKONE,
 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 Kevin T. Morikone to serve as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Kevin T. Morikone from Mediated Solutions of Hawaii LLC, Honorable Bambi Hifo-retired, and forty-eight individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Kevin T. Morikone from the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit based on established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial appointments generally using the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Specifically, the Board uses the following criteria in its deliberations: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience,



judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to perform the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been appointed. The Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified".

Judge Morikone received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He later received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he graduated cum laude. During law school, Judge Morikone worked as a legal assistant and law clerk for Lyle S. Hosoda & Associates, LLC. Following law school, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Eden Elizabeth Hifo.

Starting in 2008, Judge Morikone became an associate at Lyle S. Hosoda & Associates, where he conducted and analyzed legal research, drafted court pleadings and discovery requests, drafted motions and oppositions, argued motions, and conducted district court trials. In 2011, Judge Morikone became a partner at Hosoda & Morikone, LLC, where he was given additional responsibilities, including developing litigation strategy, serving as lead counsel in matters, and serving as a CAAP arbitrator.

Judge Morikone served as Per Diem District Court Judge for the Family Court of the First Circuit from 2015 to 2018. He was since appointed in 2018 to the Family Court of the First Circuit as a District Court Judge, where he has presided over numerous divorce cases for more than three years, been assigned as Lead Judge of the Special Division, become a member of the Family Court Legislative Team, and served as a member of the Judicial Education Committee. In 2019, the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court temporarily assigned Judge Morikone to serve as a Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, where he presided over family criminal cases.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Morikone's appointment commends his diligence, intelligence, and commitment to fairness and justice. According to testimony, during his service as the District Court Judge and Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Judge Morikone has demonstrated a superb judicial temperament and the ability to treat all individuals with whom he interacts with dignity, humility, and equality. Judge Morikone has also gained experience



in criminal law during his assignment as a Circuit Court Judge where he presided over eleven misdemeanor jury trials. Numerous testifiers specifically praised his integrity as well as his high moral character.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about him and his qualifications, Kevin T. Morikone has the commitment, temperament, and other competencies to be a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, and he has the dedication, integrity, and demeanor to fully and faithfully discharge the duties associated with that judicial office.

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
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* GM2	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 10/28/2021		
<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)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)		✓		
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado		✓		
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt		✓		
TOTAL	4	3		
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