

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 21 2023

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
First Special Session of 2023  
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 COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1            ERIKA E. IRELAND,  
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 Judge Erika E. Ireland for service on the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Erika E. Ireland from Darrell Lim and Company, Inc. and twenty-five individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Erika E. Ireland 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 is 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, and ability to perform 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 Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Judge Ireland attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she received a Bachelor of Business degree in Accounting. She received her Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and received a CALI award for Excellence in Second Year Writing Seminar: Criminal Justice, CALI award for Excellence in Elder Law, and CALI award for Excellence in Estate Planning. Judge Ireland has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1997.

Since 2021, Judge Ireland has worked as a Per Diem Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit where she presides over both criminal and civil calendars, including traffic and criminal arraignment, pleas, and trials; temporary restraining orders; summary possession; and small and regular claims. Additionally, Judge Ireland is a sole practitioner where she specializes in conservatorship, probate, and trust matters. She also has served as a court-appointed master, special master, kokua kanawai, special conservator, trustee, and counselor, and mediated and facilitated a wide variety of cases.

Judge Ireland's legal career includes private and public practice. She practiced at Bronster Hoshibata where she was the head of the trust and estate division, specialized in probate and trust and estate litigation, mentored associates, and gave internal seminars on trust and probate practice. She also practiced at the Law Office of Yuklin Aluli specializing in probate and trust administration and litigation. Earlier, when she was at Bronster, Crabtree & Hoshibata, she concentrated her practice in business and trust litigation. Judge Ireland also served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Community Prosecutor with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, where she prosecuted hundreds of cases including traffic, DUI, domestic violence, and a wide variety of criminal offenses; collaborated with the community, the courts, law enforcement, and other stakeholders on crime reduction initiatives; and designed and implemented several innovative crime prevention programs.



In addition to her professional work, Judge Ireland is an active volunteer in the legal community. She served as Director and Treasurer of Hawaii Women Lawyers and as a member of the trusts and estate planning section, elder law section, alternative dispute resolution section, litigation section, and tax section of the Hawaii State Bar Association. Furthermore, Judge Ireland has received numerous awards, including Mediator of the Year in 2015, Conch Shell Award and Pro Bono Attorney-Access to Justice in 2016, and Special Mediator Recognition in 2017.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Ireland's appointment commends her compassion, moral character, and professional competence. Testimony further indicates that in all of her prior work as a judge and attorney, Judge Ireland has shown exceptional judgment, temperament, intelligence, and respect for others. Numerous testifiers also praise her integrity, compassion, and diligence.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about her and her qualifications, Judge Erika E. Ireland has the knowledge, dedication, and other competencies to be a District Court Judge of the First Circuit, and possesses the legal expertise and integrity 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,



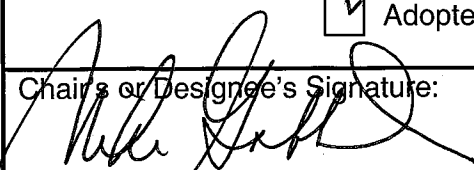
---

KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* <b>JC1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>8-21-2023</b>		
<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)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <del>Not Adopted</del>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report                      Clerk's Office                      Drafting Agency                      Committee File Copy				

\*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes