

**JOURNAL**  
**of the**  
**SENATE OF THE**  
**THIRTY - FIRST LEGISLATURE**  
**of the**  
**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

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**Special Session of 2022**

**Convened Monday, June 20, 2022**  
**Adjourned Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that the minutes for each day's session as appears in this Senate Journal are true and correct and that a copy is on file in the Archives of the State of Hawai'i.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

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THE  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
SPECIAL SESSION OF 2022  
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

FIRST DAY

**Monday, June 20, 2022**

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Special Session of 2022, was called to order at 11:03 a.m., by Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate, in accordance with the following Proclamation, which was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

*“Proclamation*

June 16, 2022

I, Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 10, Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, and at the written request of two-thirds of the members to which the Senate is entitled, do hereby convene the Senate in Special Session as sought in the petition at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 20, 2022, in the State Capitol Senate Chambers, for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities established by Section 3, Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i.

/s/ Ronald D. Kouchi  
RONALD D. KOUCHI  
President of the Hawaii State Senate”

The Roll was then called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senators Chang, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Kim, and San Buenaventura who were excused.

At this time, Senator Kidani introduced Nikki-Ann Yee, her son Max Raba, her sister Jamie-Lee Kapana, and Dustin and Aidan Hirayama, who were present in the gallery. Senator Kidani noted that Ms. Yee and Ms. Kapana were two of the three sisters who had founded the Ma'i Movement and helped advocate for Senate Bill 2821, which required menstrual products be provided free of charge at all Hawai'i public schools. Senator Kidani then recognized 'Ilima Intermediate School students and their teachers, Sarah Milianta-Laffin and Elizabeth Baker, who were also seated in the gallery. Senator Kidani explained that the governor had signed S.B. No. 2821 into law that morning. Senator Kidani thanked the group for their hard work and noted that the students had worked with the Ma'i Movement team and learned a lot about the Legislature and government in action.

Senator Misalucha introduced students from Pearl City High School who were there to observe democracy in action. Present in the gallery were Jenna Hickman, student body president for 2021–2022; Keziah Mae Tuazon, incoming student body president; Eliana Mafi, class president; and Brian Ngo, student body vice president.

The Chair commented that he had been asked if his lei was left over from Father's Day, and he had responded that he had been across the street at Washington Place as a non-bleeding ally of the Ma'i Movement. The Chair extended his thanks for the beautiful lei from that morning's ceremony.

**JUDICIARY COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications from the Judiciary (Jud. Com. Nos. 1 to 3) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Jud. Com. No. 1, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the appointment of JILL M. HASEGAWA to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, for a term of six years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Jud. Com. No. 2, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the appointment of JOANNA E. SOKOLOW to the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, for a term of six years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Jud. Com. No. 3, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the appointment of GREGORY H. MEYERS to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, for a term of six years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

At this time, Senator Rhoads announced that the Committee on Judiciary would be holding a decision-making meeting on Jud. Com. Nos. 1 to 3 that morning at 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 016.

The Chair then made the following announcement:

“The deadline to file standing committee reports on Jud. Com. Nos. 1 to 3 is 4:30 p.m. this afternoon.”

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried unanimously, the Clerk was authorized to receive standing committee reports on Jud. Com. Nos. 1 to 3. In consequence thereof, and subsequent to its recessing at 11:10 a.m., the Senate took the following actions:

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of GREGORY H. MEYERS as Judge of the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, in accordance with Jud. Com. No. 3.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1 and Jud. Com. No. 3 was deferred until Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of JOANNA E. SOKOLOW as Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, in accordance with Jud. Com. No. 2.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2 and Jud. Com. No. 2 was deferred until Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of JILL M. HASEGAWA as Judge

of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, in accordance with Jud. Com. No. 1.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3 and Jud. Com. No. 1 was deferred until Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:30 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

## SECOND DAY

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Special Session of 2022, convened at 10:02 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senators Chang, Ihara, Kim, San Buenaventura, and Taniguchi who were excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the First Day.

At this time, Senator Rhoads introduced the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Hawai'i; Rod Maile, administrative director of the courts; and Pat Mau-Shimizu, Hawaii State Bar Association executive director, who were seated in the gallery.

Senator Dela Cruz introduced students from his alma mater, Leilehua High School, who were participating in a summer school class called Participation in Democracy and who were present in the gallery with their instructor, Mr. Zienkiewicz. Senator Dela Cruz expressed the hope that one of the students would someday hold his Senate seat, and he reminded them to study hard.

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

**ADVISE AND CONSENT**

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1 (Jud. Com. No. 3):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Keohokalole and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate consent to the appointment of GREGORY H. MEYERS as Judge of the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, for a term of six years, seconded by Senator Keohokalole.

Senator Rhoads rose to speak in support of Jud. Com. No. 3 as follows:

"Gregory Meyers has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i since 2002. Upon graduation from law school, he moved to Hilo to work for the Legal Aid Society. He then transferred to the Legal Aid office on Kaua'i, where he worked until 2006, completing his tenure there as managing attorney.

"Mr. Meyers then moved to private practice, first with a firm he started named Hempey & Meyers from 2007 to 2014 and then a new version of the firm in 2014, De Costa Hempey Meyers, where he continues to be of counsel. At the firms, he handled complex litigation, criminal law, family law, and appellate cases. In 2017, he and his wife started their own firm, Meyers & Meyers, specializing in family law, criminal defense, and civil litigation.

"From 2014 to 2016, Mr. Meyers also served as a per diem judge in the District Family Court of the Fifth Circuit.

"Mr. Meyers received his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Michigan and his juris doctor degree from my alma mater, the George Washington University Law School. During his career, he has served on numerous legal and community organizations, including service on the boards of Junior Achievement Kauai, Hale 'Ōpio Kaua'i, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Friends of the Children's Justice Center, and Hō'ike Community Television.

"After having reviewed the testimony, which was overwhelmingly in support of his confirmation, and other

materials submitted to the committee and having examined the appointee in a hearing, your Judiciary committee finds that Gregory Meyers is qualified to serve as a district court judge of the Fifth Circuit and recommends that the Senate consent to the appointment.

"Mr. President, I have additional written remarks that I would like to have entered into the Journal. Thank you."

The Chair having so ordered, Senator Rhoads's additional remarks read as follows:

"The Committee received extensive written testimony in support of Mr. Meyers' appointment. It additionally received one piece of testimony from a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney who works in the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i. This individual alleged wrongdoing by Mr. Meyers during the representation of a criminal defendant. The brief testimony stated that Mr. Meyers was 'under a criminal investigation initiated by our office for Witness Tampering in a criminal case. The Kauai Police Department is currently investigating this as a criminal matter with the investigation ongoing.' It also stated that a complaint had been filed with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

"During the hearing, the Committee discussed the allegations with Mr. Meyers and several other testifiers who practice criminal law. To the best of the appointee's knowledge, the allegations relate to an event that occurred in December 2021. Your Committee confirmed at the hearing that similar information had been provided to the Judiciary in advance of the appointment of Mr. Meyers and to the HSBA Board in advance of their assessment of him, and that both entities choose to proceed, respectively, with the appointment and determination that he is qualified for the position. Additionally, the Committee questioned the Administrative Director of the Courts and verified that there are procedures in place if the allegations are validated that would allow the Judiciary to take any necessary action against a judge for conduct that occurred prior to assuming duties as a judge.

"The Committee found that the allegations had been reported to the appropriate entities for investigation and are being suitably addressed. Further, the Committee received communication from the Kaua'i Prosecuting Attorney after the hearing had concluded that clarified that the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney does not oppose Mr. Meyers' appointment. The Prosecuting Attorney also stated that the Kaua'i Police Department did not recommend filing any charges based on their review of the evidence and that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has declined to charge Mr. Meyers and since referred the matter to the Attorney General for disposition. Additionally, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office did not authorize the testimony disclosing the filing of a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel."

Senator Fevella rose to speak in support of Jud. Com. No. 3 as follows:

"I'm here today to clarify this situation. I understand all outstanding issues have been resolved, but having the privilege of being a member on the Judiciary committee—one of the committees that I'm on—I feel very privileged and I take what I do very seriously. But when there's allegations and defamation of character, especially seeing the overwhelming support of this candidate, I was very disturbed that something like this would happen in my lifetime.

"I know when I asked the nominee about his strengths and his weaknesses, he couldn't come up with any weaknesses. I told my staff, before I went out and made the decision, I would

attend the committee hearing and observe his speaking and watching this gentleman's interactions, then I would make my decision. But when I saw the people that I recognized on top of the list that showed support, especially my good friend, Mel Rapozo, I seriously took the testimony into consideration. When I saw this gentleman get up and he was under this scrutiny, I went out of turn and tried to ask him different questions. The reason why I'm saying this today is defamation of someone's character is a very serious action.

"Over my lifetime, I've been accused for a lot of things. The things that with people like Senate President, myself, and others here—my colleagues—some of us, we wear our heart on our sleeves, and it's very easy to be attacked and always easy to be a center of negative public attention. So when he couldn't figure out what was his weakness, his weakness is because he wears his heart on his sleeve and he really loves what he does and he really loves his community. That's his weakness, which is mine and probably a lot of our colleagues here; we wouldn't be in public service otherwise.

"So that's the reason why I am standing in strong support for this candidate, because of what he went through, and nobody should have to go through that. Because I know in my community, it took me 30 years to be where I am today because of all those kinds of false allegations that they said about me. But all I did was love and care about my community. So when we put people like this up for positions, we've got to be very careful of the people that are lurking in the darkness to try to kill, steal, and destroy. This man would have been ruined if our chair of the Judiciary committee and our vice chair decided to move him on the side. That would have been the most devastating thing that we could do as senators, legislators, and lawmakers. So I'm glad they stood their ground. I supported him in committee, and I support him and his family for the great things he will do for our community. Thank you, Senate President. Take care, and God bless."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20. Noes, none. Excused, 5 (Chang, Ihara, Kim, San Buenaventura, Taniguchi).

At this time, Senator Rhoads introduced Judge Gregory H. Meyers, who wished to acknowledge the support of his wife, Emiko, and their children, Lea and Declan, and all of his colleagues watching the proceedings.

The Chair remarked:

"Before going on to the next nominee, I would simply say that the test of an individual is how they carry themselves when confronted with adversity. To Greg Meyers, you know, he certainly carried himself with class, dignity, and in a very professional way while going through this process as has been described by Senator Fevella. And so, for the way that he carried himself, I want to certainly extend my congratulations and acknowledge his exemplary character and behavior."

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2 (Jud. Com. No. 2):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Keohokalole and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate consent to the appointment of JOANNA E. SOKOLOW as Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, for a term of six years, seconded by Senator Keohokalole.

Senator Rhoads rose to speak in support of Jud. Com. No. 2 as follows:

"Joanna Sokolow has spent her legal career serving Hawai'i island. She started in 2006 as an AmeriCorps attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i in the Kailua-Kona office and subsequently rose to the positions of staff attorney and managing attorney. After nine years with Legal Aid, she moved to the public defender's office for Hawai'i island, where she represented indigent criminal defendants for four years. Judge Sokolow then spent two years with the Children's Law Project, where she advocated for at-risk, low-income youth, including as a court-appointed guardian ad litem. In 2021, she started her own practice, focusing again on criminal defense for indigent defendants.

"Since July 2021, Judge Sokolow has served as a per diem judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit.

"Judge Sokolow received her bachelor of arts degree in international relations and French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. Throughout her career, she has served on numerous legal and community organizations, including as commissioner on the Access to Justice Commission, board member of Family Support Hawai'i and the Children's Law Project of Hawai'i, and volunteered with Hawaii State Bar Association programs.

"After having reviewed the testimony, which was all in support of her confirmation, and other materials submitted to the committee and having examined the appointee in a hearing, your Judiciary committee finds that Joanna Sokolow is qualified to serve as a district family court judge of the Third Circuit and recommends that the Senate consent to the appointment. Thank you."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20. Noes, none. Excused, 5 (Chang, Ihara, Kim, San Buenaventura, Taniguchi).

At this time, Senator Rhoads introduced Judge Joanna E. Sokolow, who wished to acknowledge the support of her husband, Benjamin, and their children, and retired judge Ronald Ibarra.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3 (Jud. Com. No. 1):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Keohokalole and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate consent to the appointment of JILL M. HASEGAWA as Judge of the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, for a term of six years, seconded by Senator Keohokalole.

Senator Rhoads rose to speak in support of Jud. Com. No. 1 as follows:

"Jill Hasegawa began her legal career in Honolulu at Ashford & Wriston, a private law firm, where she focused on family law and serving financial institution clients. During her 13 years at the firm, she became a partner. In 2017, Judge Hasegawa relocated to Hilo, where she grew up, to work with her father in his law practice. Her work has since focused on probate and trust administration matters and estate planning, and she has been appointed by the court to serve as a commissioner on foreclosure cases.

"Since the fall of 2020, Judge Hasegawa has served as a per diem district court and district family court judge for the Third Circuit. She has already logged a significant number of hours



on the bench presiding over a variety of district court criminal, family court criminal, and district court civil cases.

“Judge Hasegawa received her bachelor of arts degree from the Elliot School of International Affairs at the George Washington University—I think I mentioned before that that’s one of my alma maters—and her juris doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Throughout her career, she has served on and led numerous legal and community organizations, including president of the Hawaii Women’s Legal Foundation, president of the Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division, and vice chair of the Access to Justice Commission.

“After having reviewed the testimony, which was all in support of her confirmation, and other materials submitted to the committee and having examined the appointee in a hearing, your Judiciary committee finds that Jill Hasegawa is qualified to serve as a district family court judge of the Third Circuit and recommends that the Senate consent to the appointment. Mahalo.”

Senator Inouye rose to speak in support of Jud. Com. No. 1 as follows:

“Colleagues, I have known the Hasegawa family all of my life, and I’m so happy that Jill has returned to Hilo to continue her role in support of her parents. Both of her parents are attorneys as well, and I have known her mom when I was mayor of Hawai’i County when she worked for the State, representing the State in her duties in Hawai’i County as well. Jill, so impressive upon her return, of course, after having had to work on O’ahu for a long time; we’re just happy that she has come back to the Big Island and, in particular, East Hawai’i as well. Her commitment to her responsibilities as well, contributing and volunteering to her role as a community member, but also as an alumni at University of Hawai’i at Hilo. Of course, so impressive with her work on the Women’s Legal Foundation and doing her pro bono work with the victims of domestic violence. So, please, Mr. President, members, please support J.C. 1 in the name of Jill Hasegawa and appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. President.”

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20. Noes, none. Excused, 5 (Chang, Ihara, Kim, San Buenaventura, Taniguchi).

At this time, Senator Rhoads introduced Judge Jill M. Hasegawa, who was present in the gallery with her parents, Ray and Gerry Hasegawa.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION

The following resolution (S.R. No. 1) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

S.R. No. 1 “SENATE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL OF THE SENATE ON THIS FINAL DAY OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF 2022.”

Offered by: Senator Kanuha.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, S.R. No. 1 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair made the following comments:

“With Chief Justice Recktenwald here: two weeks ago, we finally returned to the Supreme Court chambers in swearing in two of the judges. Now, the associate justices were distanced and the Supreme Court chamber was not in the overflowing state that it used to be, but it’s certainly a step back to normalcy,

and I am glad that we have the three nominees in our gallery today, the students from Leilehua—you know, it’s nice to be here with others and a real great energy in our chambers. You know, hopefully, we’ll continue to make progress, and the return to normalcy will be sooner rather than later.”

#### ADJOURNMENT

Senator DeCoite moved that the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai’i, Special Session of 2022, adjourn Sine Die, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried.

At 10:20 a.m., the President rapped his gavel and declared the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai’i, Special Session of 2022, adjourned Sine Die.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SCRep. 1            Judiciary on Jud. Com. No. 3**

Recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of the following:

DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 3            GREGORY H. MEYERS, for a term to expire in 6 years

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Gregory H. Meyers for service on the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Gregory H. Meyers from Kauai Credit Adjusters, Ltd.; Oma'ō Ranch Lands; Kaua'i Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc.; and sixty-six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the appointment of Gregory H. Meyers from a deputy prosecuting attorney from the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Gregory H. Meyers from the Hawaii State Bar Association Board of the Directors.

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, health, 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 Fifth Circuit.

Mr. Meyers attended the University of Michigan where he received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He received his Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School in May 2001. Mr. Meyers has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2002.

Mr. Meyers currently works as an attorney with Meyers & Meyers LLC, a firm specializing in family law, criminal defense, civil litigation, personal injury, administrative law, and landlord-tenant law. Previously, Mr. Meyers served as a part time Per Diem Judge for the District Family Court of the Fifth Circuit where he presided over divorce, custody, child support, adoption, guardianship, temporary restraining orders, involuntary hospitalization, and civil matters. For over ten years, Mr. Meyers also worked as an attorney and partner at De Costa Hempey Meyers LLC, formerly known as Hempey & Meyers LLP, where he handled complex civil litigation cases involving contract disputes, derivative lawsuits, dissolution, commercial lease negotiations, declaratory judgements, trusts and estates, real estate and property title disputes, product liability, fraud and misrepresentation, wrongful death, landlord-tenant law, civil rights litigation, criminal law, and family law.

Mr. Meyers additionally served as a managing attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii on Kauai where he directed and supervised the day-to-day operations of attorneys and staff who provided free legal services to indigent clients. He also personally handled cases involving paternity, custody and visitation, temporary restraining orders, guardianship, adoption, child support, disability benefits, income maintenance, landlordtenant, and consumer dispute matters.

Mr. Meyers has been an active participant and volunteer in the legal community throughout his career and has demonstrated his commitment to serving the public. He currently serves as a board member for Junior Achievement - Kauai, which teaches financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills to Kauai grade school students; a Teen Court judge; and a board member of Hale Opio, a non-profit organization dedicated to nurturing Kauai's youth. Mr. Meyers previously served as a board member of the Friends of Children's Justice Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding and assisting abused and neglected youth on Kauai; a board member of Ho'ike Community TV, a non-profit public access television station; board president of Niumalu Outrigger Canoe Club, a non-profit outrigger canoe paddling club whose mission is to perpetuate the culture and tradition of outrigger canoe paddling; and a board member of Garden Island Arts Council, a nonprofit organization that specializes in bringing arts to the people.

Testimony submitted in support of Mr. Meyers's appointment commends his compassion, moral character, and dedication to the community. Testimony further indicates that during his time in private practice, Mr. Meyers has shown exceptional judgement and legal skill, fairness, and respect for others. Numerous testifiers also praise his integrity, as well as his intelligence and critical thinking.

Your Committee received written testimony in opposition from one individual who alleged wrongdoing by Mr. Meyers during Mr. Meyers' representation of a criminal defendant. The testimony was brief and stated that the matter had been reported to the appropriate entities for further investigation. During the hearing, your Committee discussed the allegations with Mr. Meyers and several other testifiers who practice criminal law. Your Committee confirmed that similar information had been provided to the Judiciary in advance of the appointment of Mr. Meyers and to the HSBA Board in advance of their assessment of him. Additionally, your Committee questioned the Administrative Director of the Courts and verified that there are procedures in place if the allegations are validated that would allow the Judiciary to take any necessary action against a judge for conduct that occurred prior to assuming duties as a judge. Your Committee finds that the allegations are being suitably addressed.

Therefore, 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, Gregory H. Meyers has the expertise, dedication, and other competencies to be a District Court Judge of the Fifth Circuit, and he has the knowledge, diligence, 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.

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.  
Ayes, 6. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Kim).

**SCRep. 2            Judiciary on Jud. Com. No. 2**

Recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of the following:

DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 2            JOANNA E. SOKOLOW, for a term to expire in 6 years

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Judge Joanna E. Sokolow for service on the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Joanna E. Sokolow from eight individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Joanna E. Sokolow 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, health, 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 Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Judge Sokolow attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison where she received a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in International Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in French. She received her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center where she made the Dean’s list, was admitted to practice as a Student Attorney for Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic, and received the Juvenile Justice Clinic Alumni Public Service Award. Judge Sokolow has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2006.

Since July 2021, Judge Sokolow has served as a Per Diem Judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit where she has presided over criminal, family court, and temporary restraining order cases.

Judge Sokolow also currently works as an attorney with Sokolow & Gibson, LLP where she represents indigent defendants in court-appointed cases ranging from petty misdemeanors to felonies. Previously, Judge Sokolow worked as an attorney for the Children’s Law Project of Hawai’i where she advocated for at-risk, low-income youth through adoptions and guardianships; acted as Guardian Ad Litem in abuse and neglect cases and contested divorce, custody, and restraining order matters; and acted as defense counsel for juveniles accused of law violations in Family Court.

Judge Sokolow also previously worked as a Deputy Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii, where she provided criminal defense for indigent persons and was responsible for the Kona and Waimea Juvenile Delinquency calendars, Family Court Criminal calendars, Juvenile Drug Court, Waimea Traffic, Veterans Treatment Court, and involuntary hospitalization cases. Judge Sokolow additionally served as an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii for almost ten years where she represented low-income clients in a wide range of civil actions and was the Managing Attorney for the Kailua-Kona office during the latter part of her tenure.

Judge Sokolow has been an active participant and volunteer in the legal community throughout her career and has demonstrated her commitment to serving the public. She currently serves as a Commissioner for the Access to Justice Commission and Chair for the Commission’s Committee on Initiatives to Enhance Civil Access to Justice. She is also currently a member of the Per Diem Judges Education Committee, is active within the Hawaii State Bar Association, serves as a volunteer for the Kids First Program and on the Board of Directors for Family Support Hawaii, and is a participant in the West Hawaii Keiki Coalition and Hui Laulima.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Sokolow’s appointment commends her compassion, legal intellect, and dedication to the community. Testimony further indicates that during her tenure as a Per Diem Judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, she has demonstrated a superb judicial temperament and the ability to treat all individuals with whom she interacts with fairness, dignity, and respect. Numerous testifiers also praise her integrity, as well as her intelligence and keen understanding of the law.

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 Joanna E. Sokolow has the experience, dedication, and other competencies to be a District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, and she has the legal expertise, 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.

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.  
Ayes, 6. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Kim).

**SCRep. 3            Judiciary on Jud. Com. No. 1**

Recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of the following:

**DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT**

J.C. No. 1            JILL M. HASEGAWA, for a term to expire in 6 years

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Judge Jill M. Hasegawa for service on the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Jill M. Hasegawa from the Domestic Violence Action Center and twenty-five individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Jill M. Hasegawa 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, health, 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 Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Judge Hasegawa attended the Elliot School of International Affairs at the George Washington University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Studies, Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs, and a double minor in Political Science and History. She received her Juris Doctor from William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During law school, Judge Hasegawa served as a law clerk for the Queen Emma Foundation and the Office of the Corporation Council, County of Hawaii. Judge Hasegawa has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2004.

Since October 2020, Judge Hasegawa has served as a Per Diem Judge for the District Court and District Family Court of the Third Circuit where she has presided over a number of cases, including criminal, civil, family court, and juvenile cases; and cases involving temporary restraining orders, divorce, paternity, child welfare, adoption, and involuntary commitment.

Judge Hasegawa also currently works as an attorney with Raymond K. Hasegawa Attorney at Law, a Law Corporation, where she advises clients and also serves as a court-appointed Commissioner on foreclosure cases. Previously, from 2004 to 2012, Judge Hasegawa worked as an associate attorney for Ashford & Wriston LLP where she counseled clients, researched and analyzed various legal issues, represented clients in court proceedings, served as an attorney-advocate and neutral mediator, and advised financial institutions on regulatory compliance and other related matters. In 2013, Judge Hasegawa became a partner at Ashford & Wriston LLP and chaired the firm’s Marketing Committee and served as the partnership’s Associate Liaison.

Judge Hasegawa has been an active participant and volunteer in the legal community throughout her career and has demonstrated her commitment to serving the public. She currently serves as a Court Annexed Arbitration Program Arbitrator in the First Circuit and Third Circuit Courts and as a Volunteer Settlement Master for the Family Court’s Volunteer Settlement Master Program. She has also served as a volunteer attorney with Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, Hilo Self Help Center, and Kapolei Access to Justice Room, and has been a volunteer with Kids First Hawaii, a mandatory education program of the Hawaii State Judiciary that educates families about the impact of divorce and separation on children. Judge Hasegawa is an active member of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association where she has served in numerous leadership roles with the Board of Directors, including prior service as its Treasurer, Vice President, and President.

Judge Hasegawa has received a number of awards and recognitions from the Hawaii State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division and the Hawaii Domestic Violence Action Center. Additionally, in 2019, Judge Hasegawa received the Outstanding Alumna Award from the William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Hasegawa’s appointment commends her legal expertise, dedication to the community, and commitment to fairness and justice. Testimony further indicates that during her tenure as a Per Diem Judge for the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, she has demonstrated a superb judicial temperament and work ethic. Numerous testifiers also praise her integrity, as well as her leadership skills.

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 Jill M. Hasegawa has the experience, dedication, and other competencies to be a District Family Court Judge of the Third Circuit, and she has the legal expertise, 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.

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.

Ayes, 6. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Kim).

NUMBER AND TITLE	Offered	Referred	Report of Committee	Adoption
S.R. No. 1 AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO APPROVE THE JOURNAL OF THE SENATE ON THIS FINAL DAY OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF 2022.	5			5