DEC 29 P2:54

December 29, 2005

DEPT. COMM. NO. 25

The Honorable Robert Bunda President, Hawai'i State Senate State Capitol, Room 003 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

> Re: Report of the Appellate Review Task Force

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to section 83 of Act 202, 2004 Hawai'i Session Laws, I am pleased to transmit for your review and consideration the final Report of the Appellate Review Task Force. Section 83 of Act 202 posed nine (9) substantive issues, and each was addressed, as reflected in the Report, by the task force in a series of monthly meetings from November 17, 2004 through November 2, 2005.

The final product of the task force represents many hours of work by members who represented appellate court practitioners, appellate court staff, and judges. The members brought a wealth of experience, knowledge, and expertise to the project. Members of the task force were: Associate Justice Paula Nakayama and Associate Judge Daniel Foley, Co-Chairs of the task force, as well as Associate Judge Alexa Fujise; Attorney General Mark Bennett; Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board Chair Randall Iwase; Deputy Prosecutor Donn Fudo; Deputy Public Defender Deborah Kim; Prosecutor Arlene Watanabe; Practitioner Michael Tanigawa: and Hawai'i Supreme Court Staff Attorney James Branham. The Honorable Gail Nakatani (retired) served as Recorder.

On behalf of the Judicial Council and the Appellate Review Task Force, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the legislature and the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair, JudicialCouncil

Enclosure