
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON
WAYS TO INCREASE GENDER EQUITY IN THE FILLING OF JUDICIAL
VACANCIES.

1 WHEREAS, according to the American Bar Association's 2017
2 report titled "A Current Glance at Women in the Law", women
3 constitute thirty-six percent of persons in the legal
4 profession; 47.3 percent of persons awarded law degrees; and
5 31.1 percent of all state court judges in the United States; and
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7 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Bar Association's
8 2017 Bar Statistics and Summaries, 2,195 of the 5,373 Hawaii-
9 based members of the bar, or nearly forty-one percent, are
10 women, and twenty-nine of the eighty-four Hawaii-based judicial
11 members of the bar, or roughly thirty-four percent, are women;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, 47.7 percent of the students enrolled in the
15 William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii
16 at Manoa in 2016 were women; and
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18 WHEREAS, despite the fact that the percentage of women
19 entering and graduating from law schools in the country is
20 nearly equal to that of men, the number of women applying for
21 judicial vacancies in the State is markedly low, compared to the
22 number of male applicants; and
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24 WHEREAS, press releases from the Judicial Selection
25 Commission within the past year indicate that:
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- 27 (1) Of the judicial vacancies announced by the Commission
28 in February 2018, two women and seven men applied for
29 a vacant Intermediate Court of Appeals position; four
30 women and twenty-one men applied for a vacant Circuit



1 Court position; and eleven women and twenty-nine men
2 applied for a vacant District Court position; and
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4 (2) Of the judicial vacancies announced by the Commission
5 in October 2017, four women and eighteen men, and four
6 women and nineteen men, applied for each of two vacant
7 Circuit Court positions, respectively; and
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9 (3) With respect to a judicial vacancy announced by the
10 Commission in July 2017, two women and four men
11 applied for a vacant Circuit Court position; and
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13 WHEREAS, if more women served as judges and justices,
14 members of the public would likely view the State's judicial
15 system as being more inclusive of women and, presumably, more
16 fair; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
21 to study and make recommendations on ways to increase gender
22 equity in the filling of judicial vacancies; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
25 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
26 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
27 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
28 2019; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
32 Supreme Court of Hawaii, Administrative Director of the Courts,
33 Chairperson of the Judicial Selection Commission, Dean of the
34 William S. Richardson School of Law, Executive Director of the
35 Hawaii State Bar Association, and President of Hawaii Women
36 Lawyers.
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