Honolulu, Hawaii

SEP 1 3 2016

RE: JUD, COM, NO. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Twenty-Eighth State Legislature Third Special Session of 2016 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred Judiciary Communication No. 2, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH CIRCUIT (ISLAND OF KAUAI)

J.C. No. 2 MICHAEL K. SOONG, for a term to expire in six years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the resume and statements submitted by the appointee and finds Michael K. Soong to possess the requisite qualifications to be appointed to the District Court of the Fifth Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Testimony in support of the appointment of Mr. Soong was submitted by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i; Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui; and three individuals. Comments regarding the appointee were submitted by the Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors.

Mr. Soong received his Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Business Administration from the University of La Verne, where he was a four-year Letterman in Men's Volleyball and earned the Most Valuable Player Award in 1983. He subsequently obtained his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Southwestern Law School.

Mr. Soong is currently a sole practitioner of his own private law practice focusing on criminal law and personal injury



plaintiff litigation. His practice of law also includes representing petitioners and respondents in civil temporary restraining orders and orders for protection in Family Court. His work in the public sector includes being previously elected to two consecutive terms as the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i, where he helped the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney restore credibility in the eyes of community and reestablish a strong working relationship with the Kauai Police Department. Previous to his tenure as the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i, he served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i, a Deputy Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the County of Hawai'i.

Mr. Soong is licensed to practice law in Hawaii and has extensive service in the legal and local community of Kauai. He currently serves as a Board Member for the Friends of the Kauai Drug Court and member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He also currently serves on the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Kaumuali'i Chapter; Hokule'a-Kauai Crew Member of the Polynesian Voyaging Society; and member of Nā Kālai Wa'a 'O Kaua'i.

Testimony in support of Mr. Soong's appointment indicate that his practice of law in the government and private sectors makes him a well-rounded practitioner with nearly thirty years of trial experience. His experience as a prosecutor and defense attorney have prepared him well to be a fair, compassionate, and effective jurist. He has the reputation for being a person of integrity who treats everyone equally and fairly, listens to and recognizes both sides of an issue, and relates to and is respectful toward everyone. These are attributes that are especially important at the District Court level, where the public is most likely to come into contact with the court system.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor 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 and Labor,

GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Eighth Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Judiciary and Labor JDL Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Comm. No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	/	,
JC 2	JDL				//3//	16
The Committee is reconsidering its decision						
The Recommendation is:	··· -					
Consent Not Consent 2349						
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (C)						
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (VC)						
GABBARD, Mike						
KAHELE, Kaialiʻi					. <u>.</u>	
KIM, Donna Mercado						
THIELEN, Laura H.					· <u></u>	
SLOM, Sam						
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TOTAL		6				/
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted						
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original File with Committee Rep		Yellow Pink Goldenrod Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

^{*}Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes