

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

Honolulu, Hawaii

NOV 14 2017

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Third Special Session of 2017
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 FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1 JESSI L.K. HALL,
 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 Jessi L.K. Hall to possess the requisite qualifications to be considered for appointment to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Testimony in support of the appointment of Ms. Hall was submitted by the Hawaii State Bar Association, Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian Bar Association, Hawaii Women Lawyers, and twenty-three individuals.

Ms. Hall received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, specializing in International Political Science, from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She later received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

Ms. Hall is currently of counsel in the law firm of Kleintop & Luria. Previously, she was an associate with Coates & Frey, Attorneys at Law, from 2001 to 2015 and an associate with the Law Offices of Richard Lee from 1999 to 2001. Throughout her legal career, Ms. Hall has focused on family law. She has tried forty-



three cases to a decision as lead counsel including divorce cases involving custody, child support, and property division; guardianship cases involving custody; and adoption cases involving custody and termination of parental rights. Ms. Hall was also the co-author of the "Divorce and Paternity" section of the *Hawai'i Divorce Manual* from 2005 to 2015.

Ms. Hall has been licensed to practice law in Hawaii since 1999, and has served as an officer in numerous legal professional groups and committees. She served as vice chair and chair of the Family Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association in 2012 and 2013, respectively. She additionally participated in the Family Law Section Leadership and Community Services Committee as a member from 2009 to 2013, and as co-chair from 2010 to 2013. Furthermore, she has served on the Child Support Enforcement Agency Oversight Committee from 2013 to the present. Ms. Hall is also active in her community. She was a team parent for the Kailua Basketball Association from 2014 to 2016, and has been an adult leader in Cub Scout Pack 311 as a den parent from 2015 to the present, and as pack committee secretary in 2017.

Testimony in support of Ms. Hall's appointment indicates that she has a strong reputation for exemplary professionalism, leadership, equanimity, and fair and decisive decision-making. She is well-regarded for her extensive knowledge of Hawaii family law, and has a deep understanding of the myriad of issues facing the parties who appear in family court.

The Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) Board of Directors found the appointee to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, District Family Court of the First Circuit, based on all categories of the HSBA's criteria that includes: integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position.

Accordingly, your Committee finds that Jessi L.K. Hall has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to be a District Family Court Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

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,


BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* JC 1	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 11/14/2017		
<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
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓			
RHOADS, Karl (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado				✓
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod				
File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes