

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1

Honolulu, Hawaii

JUL 09 2018

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
First Special Session of 2018
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 COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1 KRISTINE Y. YOO,
 for a term to expire in 6 years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Kristine Y. Yoo for service on the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Kristine Y. Yoo from the Public Defender's Office; Kalani High School; Korean American Bar Association Hawaii; Hawaii Women Lawyers; Manage Hawaii, LLC; and fifty individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Kristine Y. Yoo from the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors (HSBA Board) found the appointee to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit based on established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial and executive appointments generally utilizing the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Those Guidelines include the following criteria, which are not exclusive: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial

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temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been appointed. The HSBA Board ratings system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified".

Kristine Y. Yoo received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1997. In 2000, she received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she was the notes editor of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* and president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association.

Ms. Yoo has been a deputy prosecuting attorney at the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney since August 2016, after having previously worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney in the same office from September 2003 to December 2015. She serves as the trials division team captain, where she supervises four felony deputy prosecuting attorneys and is responsible for case assignments and other managerial duties while handling an active trial caseload. She has tried approximately one hundred criminal cases as lead counsel, including high publicity cases that required individual voir dire. Prior to her time as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Ms. Yoo was an AmeriCorps attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, where she represented clients in court and at administrative hearings and advised clients and community workers regarding compliance with various state and federal regulations.

Ms. Yoo has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career, including serving as director, treasurer, and vice president of Hawaii Women Lawyers from July 2011 to the present. She has also served as a mock trial coach at Kalani High School from 2012 to 2017. In addition, she has been a surf mentor and secretary of the Surfrider Spirit Sessions.

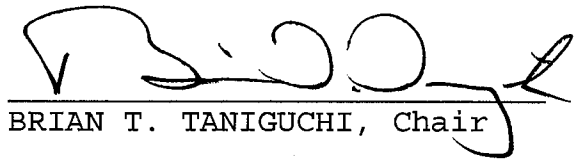
Testimony submitted in support of Ms. Yoo's appointment commend her wealth of trial experience, vigorous advocacy for her position, and awareness of her duty to ensure justice is served. She has repeatedly demonstrated an exemplary level of professionalism, and is well respected in the legal community. Numerous testifiers also praised her intelligence, temperament, and integrity.



Your Committee finds that based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, Ms. Yoo has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to serve as a Judge of the District 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: 7/9/18 | | |
| <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. | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Recommendation: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads | | | | |
| 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