

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 4

Honolulu, Hawaii

JUL 09 2018

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 4

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. 4, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 4                      WENDY M. DEWEESE,  
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 Wendy M. DeWeese for service on the District Family Court of the Third Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Wendy M. DeWeese from the Office of the Public Defender, Hawaii Women Lawyers, and thirteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Wendy M. DeWeese 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 Family Court Judge of the Third 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 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".

Wendy M. DeWeese received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College, and her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the Southwestern University School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude.

Ms. DeWeese has served as a deputy public defender in the Kealahou, Hawaii Office of the Public Defender since 2007. In her capacity as a deputy public defender, she primarily represents indigent persons charged with crimes. In addition to being responsible for all aspects of misdemeanor and felony cases, including negotiating plea agreements, contested evidentiary motions, and jury trials, she supervises five attorneys and two clerical staff members. She was a law clerk to the Honorable Ronald Ibarra, Circuit Court Judge of the Third Circuit, from 2005 until 2007, and worked as an attorney in private practice prior to that, focusing exclusively on family law, including divorce, custody, and paternity cases.

Ms. DeWeese is extensively involved in the community. She volunteers with the Judiciary's Self-Help Center as well as Courts in the Community. In addition, she is involved with Kids First Hawai'i, a mandatory program of the state Judiciary to educate families about the impact of divorce and separation on children.

Testimony submitted in support of Ms. DeWeese's appointment commend her dedication to the fair and just application of the law. Her zealous advocacy for those she represents as well as her professional and civil demeanor demonstrate that while the justice system is adversarial in nature, it does not require sacrificing ethics or professionalism. In addition, numerous testifiers praised her diligence, knowledge of the law, and strong work ethic.

Your Committee finds that based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, Ms. DeWeese has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to serve as a Judge of the District Family Court of the Third 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



