

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 4

Honolulu, Hawaii

SEP 16 2019

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 4

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
First Special Session of 2019  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 4, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 4           RONALD G. JOHNSON,  
for a term to expire in 10 years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Ronald G. Johnson for service as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Ronald G. Johnson from twenty-five individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Ronald G. Johnson from the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors (HSBA Board) uses a rating system that considers several criteria to assist the HSBA Board in making a recommendation to your Committee on whether the appointee is "qualified" or "not qualified". Specifically, the criteria the HSBA Board employs is the same criteria found in the American Bar Association's Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Those guidelines include the following criteria, which are not



exclusive: integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, 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. Upon review of the established criteria, the HSBA Board found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Ronald G. Johnson received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii College of Business Administration and later obtained his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He currently serves as a Transportation Security Administration Attorney Advisor for the Pacific Rim airports. Previously, he worked approximately twenty-five years in the United States Attorney's Office where he assumed a variety of roles, including Co-Chief of the Violent Crime and Drug Section, Senior Litigation Counsel of the Fraud and Financial Crimes Section, and Chief of the Major Crimes Section, among others. In addition, Mr. Johnson's legal experience includes performing in various roles within the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for over seven years.

Testimony submitted in support of Ronald G. Johnson's appointment commends his professionalism, high level of integrity, and dedication to public service. Additionally, he has a reputation for compassion and fairness, legal expertise, and dedication to the just application of the law. Testifiers stated that although much of Mr. Johnson's experience is as a federal prosecutor, he would easily transition to overseeing cases of a civil nature.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, Ronald G. Johnson has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and requisite competencies to be a Judge of the Circuit 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,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**  
**Consent**

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">GM4</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">JDC</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">9/16/2019</div>		
<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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	/			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				/
GABBARD, Mike				/
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report                      Clerk's Office                      Drafting Agency                      Committee File Copy				

\*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes