

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 6

Honolulu, Hawaii

SEP 16 2019

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 6

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

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 6 TRISH K. MORIKAWA,
 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 Trish K. Morikawa to serve as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Trish K. Morikawa from Hawaii Women Lawyers and twenty-seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Trish K. Morikawa 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.

Judge Trish K. Morikawa received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania and later obtained her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She serves as a District Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit, where she presides over criminal misdemeanor, petty misdemeanor, violation, and traffic infraction offenses. Currently, she is temporarily assigned as a Judge of the Circuit Court for the First Circuit where she presides over criminal felony offenses.

Prior to her appointment as a District Court Judge, Judge Morikawa was appointed as a Per Diem District Family Judge. Before that, she was an associate at Gallagher Kane & Amai where she represented clients in commercial, automobile, and homeowner insurance litigation in state and federal courts; mediation; and arbitration. She also previously worked as the County Housing Coordinator in the City and County of Honolulu Office of Housing, a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and a Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Justice Division of the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General.

Judge Morikawa currently serves on the District Court Per Diem Committee and Environmental Working Group. She has previously served on the Committee to Review and Recommend Revisions to the Hawaii Penal Code and has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate as well as with the Alignment Hawaii Initiative.

The testimony submitted in support of Judge Trish K. Morikawa's appointment commends her extensive litigation experience, high intelligence, community involvement, and capacity for compassion. Additionally, she has a reputation for excellent judicial temperament, professional ethics, legal expertise, and dedication to the fair and just application of the law.



Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, Trish K. Morikawa 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,




KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* GM16	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 9/16/2019		
<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	/			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
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