

STAND. COM. REP. NO. |

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 05 2020

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
First Special Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS

G.M. No. 1 KAREN T. NAKASONE,
 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 Karen T. Nakasone for appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals as an Associate Judge.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Karen T. Nakasone from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Japanese American Citizens League; Hawai'i Women Lawyers; Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights; the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.-retired; the Honorable Steven H. Levinson-retired; the Honorable Marie N. Milks-retired; and fifty individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Karen T. Nakasone from the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals based on established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial appointments



generally using the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Specifically, the Board uses the following criteria in its deliberations: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and ability to perform the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been appointed. The Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified".

Judge Nakasone received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Boston University School of Law, where she was Vice President of the National Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and President of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. She has been serving as a Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit since 2011. During her time on the bench, she has also served as a Substitute Associate Judge in the Intermediate Court of Appeals and a Substitute Associate Justice in the Hawai'i Supreme Court. At the outset of her legal career, she was a law clerk to then-Intermediate Court of Appeals Associate Judge Simeon Acoba, Jr.

Prior to her appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Judge Nakasone served as a Deputy Public Defender in the Hawaii State Office of the Public Defender. In that capacity, she represented clients in many criminal matters covering the full range of the Hawaii Penal Code. Additionally, she has extensive experience in appellate practice, having handled sixty-five appeals and serving as counsel in over five hundred post-conviction administrative hearings before the Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Judge Nakasone has been active in the legal community throughout her career. In addition to the Hawaii State Bar Association, she is a member of the National Asian Pacific Bar Association Hawai'i Chapter and Hawaii Women Lawyers. She has previously served as a member of the Judiciary Penal Rules Committee, Director of the Mediation Center of the Pacific, and a participant in various capacities in the Hawaii State Bar Association Judicial Administration Committee. Additionally, the appointee emphasized the importance of her personal background, especially the values she learned from her first and second



generation parents, in shaping her professional qualifications to serve on the bench.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Nakasone's appointment commends her analytical ability and extensive experience in criminal and civil as well as trial and appellate cases. The testimony of judges before whom Judge Nakasone appeared as a Deputy Public Defender unanimously praised her legal skill, attention to detail, and professional demeanor. In addition, the testimony of attorneys who have appeared before her in her capacity as judge highlights her expertise, precision, integrity, and judicial temperament.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted in support of her appointment, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about her and her qualifications, Judge Karen T. Nakasone has the experience, temperament, and other competencies to be an Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and she possesses the legal expertise, integrity, and demeanor to fully and faithfully discharge the duties associated with that judicial office.

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.:* GM 1	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 10/5/2020		
<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)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
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