

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2**

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 05 2020

RE: JUD. COM. 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 Judiciary Communication No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 1 KARIN L. HOLMA,
 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 Karin L. Holma for appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Karin L. Holma from Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and eighteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Karin L. Holma 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 District Court Judge of the First Circuit 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".

Ms. Holma received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Administrative Studies from Lewis and Clark College. She later received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Willamette University College of Law, where she was Associate Editor of the Willamette Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board.

Ms. Holma is a partner at Bays Lung Rose & Holma, where she joined as an associate in 1992. At that firm, she represents clients in a full time civil litigation practice concentrating in commercial litigation, including construction, real estate, and business and partnership disputes. In that capacity, she has been lead counsel in hundreds of cases, as both plaintiff's counsel and defense counsel.

Ms. Holma has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association, she served as Treasurer, Vice President, and now President-Elect. She has participated as an arbitrator in the Hawaii Court-Annexed Arbitration Program since 1998 and served as a Commissioner on the Planning Commission of the City and County of Honolulu from 2005 to 2011, including a term as the Chair of the Commission from 2007 to 2009.

Testimony submitted in support of Ms. Holma's appointment consistently notes her wide range of experience, insight, and legal expertise. She has repeatedly demonstrated an extremely high standard of integrity and professional conduct, as well as outstanding mental flexibility. Several testifiers also praised her as an effective and highly skilled communicator.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about her and her qualifications, Karin L. Holma has the experience, temperament, and other competencies to be a District Court Judge of the First Circuit, and she has 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.:* JC 1 | Committee Referral: JDC | Date: 10/5/20 | | |
| <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 | ✓ | | | |
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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: <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