

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 6

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 05 2020

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 5

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

DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 5            COURTNEY N. NASO,  
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 Courtney N. Naso for appointment to the District Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Courtney N. Naso from Hawai'i Women Lawyers and thirteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Courtney N. Naso 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 Family 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

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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. Naso received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from Michigan State University. She later received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Regent University School of Law, where she was a delegate to the 1996 American Bar Association Fall Roundtable and co-ordinator of the American Bar Association Mentorship Program.

Ms. Naso has been in private practice since 2000, working in both Hawaii and California, and has practiced primarily in the area of family law, including divorce, child custody, child support, paternity, adoption, guardianship, restraining orders, and orders for protection. She has extensive experience in litigating challenging and complex issues, including relocation motions in child custody cases, and has demonstrated great skill in crafting creative solutions in the resolution of such cases.

Ms. Naso has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career. She has been a volunteer mediator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific since 2015 and for the District Court since 2019. Additionally, she has been a Court-Appointed Volunteer Settlement Master of the Family Court of the First Circuit since 2013. She has also volunteered multiple times with Kapolei Access to Justice Room and the Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii Family Law Clinic.

Testimony submitted in support of Ms. Naso's appointment commends her for her great depth of legal knowledge and expertise, as well as her professional demeanor. She has earned a reputation among her peers for her integrity, honesty, and compassion. In addition, several testifiers praised her skill and efficiency regarding alternative dispute resolution.

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, Courtney N. Naso has the experience, temperament, and other competencies to be a District Family 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,




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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.:* <b>JCS</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>10/5/20</b>		
<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	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one Message/Communication per Record of Votes