

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 4

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 28 2021

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 4

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Third Special Session of 2021  
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 SECOND CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 4                      KIRSTIN M. HAMMAN,  
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 Kirstin M. Hamman to serve as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Kirstin H. Hamman from the Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui, and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Kirstin M. Hamman from the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the Second 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".

Judge Hamman received her Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Hawaii-West O'ahu. She later received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During law school, Judge Hamman was a law clerk for the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. Following law school, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Boyd P. Mossman, Judge of the Second Circuit Court.

From 1998 to 2007, Judge Hamman served as a Deputy Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Maui, where she represented indigent clients during all stages of criminal proceedings, including conducting arraignments and pleas, bail hearings, evidentiary hearings, sentencing hearings, bench trials, jury trials, and parole hearings. Subsequently, from 2007 to 2013, Judge Hamman was a legislative attorney for the Office of Council Services, Maui County, where she assisted the County Council and its committees and council members in carrying out their legislative duties; conducted legal research and writing; and reviewed and drafted legislation, contracts, committee reports, and other council member correspondence.

In 2013, Judge Hamman went into private practice where she primarily represented clients in family law matters. From 2014 to 2018, she also was a Per Diem Judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit presiding over traffic, criminal, and civil matters. Since 2018, she has served as a District Court Judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit.

Judge Hamman has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1997 and has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career. She is the secretary for the Hawaii State Trial Judges Association and a member of both the Hawaii Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being and the District Court Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of Operational Solutions. Additionally, she was previously a member of the Council of Parent



Attorneys and Advocates and the Maui County Commission on Children and Youth.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Hamman's appointment commends her legal expertise, extensive experience with criminal and civil litigation, and dedication to the community. Testimony further indicates that during her tenure as a Per Diem Judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit and District Court Judge for the District Court of the Second Circuit, she demonstrated a superb judicial temperament and the ability to be respectful and fair to all individuals with whom she interacts. Numerous testifiers also praised her diligence and strong work ethic.

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, Kirstin M. Hamman has the experience, demeanor, and other competencies to be a Circuit Court Judge of the Second Circuit, and possesses the honesty, intelligence, and integrity 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



