

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 5

Honolulu, Hawaii

OCT 28 2021

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 5

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

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 5 WENDY M. DEWEESE,
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 Wendy M. DeWeese to serve as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the Third Circuit.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Wendy M. DeWeese from the Office of the Public Defender, Hawai'i Women Lawyers, West Hawaii Bar Association, Honorable Mahilani E.K. Hiatt-retired, and fourteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Wendy M. DeWeese 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 Third 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 DeWeese received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics/Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College. She later received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Southwestern University School of Law, where she graduated cum laude. She is a licensed attorney in both California and Hawaii.

In 1997, Judge DeWeese became a partner at Messina & DeWeese LLP in California where she managed all aspects of law practice specializing in general civil and family law. She later started the Law Offices of Wendy M. DeWeese, where she continued to manage a California law practice. From 2005 to 2007, Judge DeWeese served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ronald Ibarra. Then, from 2007 to 2018, she served as a Deputy Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Kealahou, where she worked on all aspects of misdemeanor and felony cases, including negotiating plea agreements, litigating evidentiary motions and jury trials, overseeing the juvenile criminal calendar and involuntary hospitalization case, and supervising other attorneys and staff members.

From 2018 to 2020, Judge DeWeese served as a Family Court Judge for the District Court of the Third Circuit, where she presided over the family court calendar consisting of temporary restraining order, child welfare, paternity, and divorce cases. Since 2020, Judge DeWeese has been temporarily assigned as a Circuit Court Judge for the State of Hawaii Third Circuit Court, where she presides over Big Island Drug Court, Big Island Veterans' Treatment Court, and felony criminal and civil cases.

Judge DeWeese has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2006 and has been actively involved in the legal community throughout her career. She has volunteered at numerous programs and organizations, including the Court House Self Help, Courts in the Community, Kids First Program, and We the People. Judge DeWeese is also a member of the Hawaii Board of Examiners, Hawaii Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, and other committees.



Testimony submitted in support of Judge DeWeese's appointment commends her legal expertise, dedication to the community, and commitment to fairness and justice. Testimony further states that during her tenure as a Family Court Judge, she demonstrated a superb judicial temperament and the ability to treat all individuals with whom she interacted with thoughtfulness and fairness. Numerous testifiers also praised her work ethic, as well as her strong leadership skills and dedication.

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, Wendy M. DeWeese has the experience, commitment, and other competencies to be a Circuit Court Judge of the Third 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
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* <i>GM5</i>	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: <i>10/28/2021</i>		
<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)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
LEE, Chris	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	<i>7</i>			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<i>Hal Nhoon</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