

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 21 2023

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
First Special Session of 2023
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:

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

G.M. No. 1 JORDON J. KIMURA,
 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 Jordon J. Kimura for service on the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Jordon J. Kimura from the Governor, University Health Partners of Hawaii, Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Hawai'i Nature Center, and fifty-nine individuals.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors (HSBA Board) uses a rating system that considers several criteria to assist the HSBA Board in making a recommendation to your Committee on whether the appointee is "qualified" or not "qualified". Specifically, the criteria the HSBA Board employs is the same criteria found in the American Bar Association's Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. Those guidelines include the following criteria, which are not exclusive: integrity, diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, temperament, financial responsibility,

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public service, and ability to perform the responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been appointed. Upon review of the established criteria, the HSBA Board found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Mr. Kimura received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. After returning to Hawai'i, he received his Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he again graduated *summa cum laude*, was honored as Co-Salutatorian, and received numerous scholastic merit awards. Mr. Kimura has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2009.

Since graduating from law school, Mr. Kimura has worked as an attorney at the local law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. Mr. Kimura is currently a Partner in the firm's Litigation and Trusts, Estate Planning, and Wealth Management practice groups, and serves as a Co-Managing Partner, overseeing the firm's day-to-day activities. Mr. Kimura maintains a diverse litigation practice, focusing on complex civil, constitutional, probate, wills and trusts, health care, Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), construction, and medical malpractice matters. Mr. Kimura also counsels estate planning clients on legacy preservation issues and advises institutional clients on administrative, regulatory, and legislative matters. Mr. Kimura was selected by his peers to be included in the *Best Lawyers of America* list for insurance law since 2020, and has been identified as one of Hawaii's "Super Lawyers". Mr. Kimura has also served in various court-appointed roles, including as both master and kokua kanawai on behalf of the Probate Court of the First Circuit and as an arbitrator for the Court Annexed Arbitration Program. Mr. Kimura's fourteen years of legal experience in various subject matters and capacities reflects his diligence, intelligence, and ability to successfully carry out his professional duties.

In addition to his professional work, Mr. Kimura is an active volunteer, leveraging his legal acumen and experience to benefit local communities and organizations. Since 2012, Mr. Kimura has served as Pro Bono Counsel for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, a statewide program that provides comprehensive services for survivors of sexual assault. Mr. Kimura has also provided valuable pro bono services on behalf of the United States District Court Pro Bono



Program, where he assisted clients with their cases as they proceeded through the federal court system. Further, Mr. Kimura also serves on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the University Health Partners of Hawaii. Through his actions, Mr. Kimura has time and again demonstrated his deep commitment to public service and the people of Hawai'i.

Testimony submitted in support of Mr. Kimura's appointment commends his meticulousness and diligent study of the law, especially the Rules of Evidence. Testimony further indicates that throughout his legal career, Mr. Kimura has demonstrated exceptional judgment and legal skill, fairness, and respect for others. Mr. Kimura is known to be a thoughtful and caring professional who has always practiced with civility. Numerous testifiers also praise his dedication to public service, noting that he treats the many organizations that he counsels pro bono with no less attention than his fee for service clients. Testifiers in support have further praised his fairness, leadership skills, commitment to excellence, and willingness to go above and beyond what is expected of him.

Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about his qualifications, Jordon J. Kimura has the experience, temperament, and other competencies to be a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, and he 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,

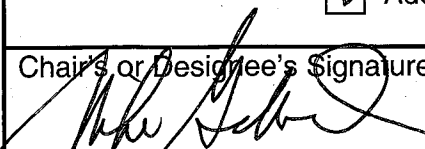


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Consent

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* GM 1	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 8-21-2023		
<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)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
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