

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 21 2023

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 2

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 Judiciary Communication No. 2, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

J.C. No. 2            ROBERT J. BROWN,  
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 Judge Robert J. Brown for service on the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Judge Robert J. Brown from eighty-seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Judge Robert J. Brown from the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

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,



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 District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Judge Brown attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where he received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. He received his Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Judge Brown has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 2014.

Since 2021, Judge Brown has worked as a Per Diem Judge for the Family Court of the First Circuit where he presides over various family court calendars, including matters pertaining to temporary restraining orders, paternity, custody, divorce, and drug court. Judge Brown is also a litigation associate at Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher in the practice areas of business litigation, commercial litigation, real estate litigation, and criminal defense. Previously, Judge Brown served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu where he was lead counsel on more than twenty felony jury trials on charges ranging from drug possession to murder.

Prior to law school, Judge Brown was a reporter with the Honolulu Civil Beat where he covered issues from public housing to government transparency. In addition to his professional work, Judge Brown is an active member of the community, volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i for almost ten years. He also currently serves as the President of the Christian Legal Society.

Testimony submitted in support of Judge Brown's appointment commends his dedication, high ethical standards, and professionalism. Testimony further indicates that in his various legal roles, Judge Brown has shown exceptional temperament, diligence, and impartiality. Numerous testifiers also praise his integrity, compassion, and work ethic.

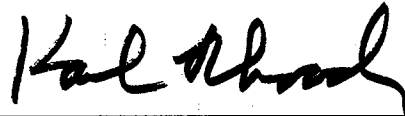
Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, responses to questions asked by the members of your Committee, and your Committee's review of information about him and his qualifications, Judge Robert J. Brown has the knowledge, commitment, and other competencies to be a District Court Judge of



the First Circuit, and possesses the intelligence, diligence, 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,



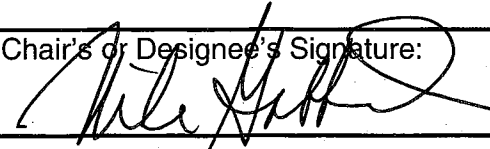
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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**  
**Consent**

Gov. Msg./Jud. Com. No.:* <i>JC 2</i>	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: <i>8-21-2023</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent 2347 <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Consent 2349</span>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>5</i>			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
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