

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**NOV 20 2023**

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 2

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 2, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII SUPREME COURT

G.M. No. 2            VLADIMIR P. DEVENS,  
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 Mr. Vladimir P. Devens for appointment as an Associate Justice of the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment of Mr. Vladimir P. Devens from the Governor; United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO; University of Hawaii Professional Assembly; Hawaii State Teachers Association; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Retail Merchants of Hawaii; State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers; The People's Justice Center; Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3; IATSE Local 665; Nā Wahine Toa Foundation; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142; Hawaii Association for Justice; Public Safety Labor Group; Hawaii State AFL-CIO; Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO; and seventy-nine individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the appointment of Mr. Devens from one individual. Your Committee received comments on the appointment of Mr. Devens from the Hawaii State Bar Association.



The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors found the appointee to be qualified for the position of Associate Justice of the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court 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, diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, temperament, financial responsibility, public service, and ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties required of the position. The Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified".

Mr. Devens received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and participated in the Economics Honor Society. He then received his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where he was an Associate Editor of the Industrial Relations Law Journal.

Since 2013, Mr. Devens has been a shareholder of the Law Offices of Vladimir P. Devens, where he has litigated cases in all of the State's courts, including Circuit Court, District Court, Family Court, and the federal courts in the District of Hawaii. His scope of practice has included an emphasis on litigation, appeals, personal injury, labor relations, constitutional issues, land use, workers' compensation, legislation, and alternative dispute resolution. Mr. Devens was previously a partner at Meheula & Devens, LLP, and Winer Meheula & Devens, LLP.

Before becoming a law partner, Mr. Devens was an associate at two firms: Ikazaki, Devens, Lo, Youth & Nakano, and Winer and Meheula. For six years, he also worked as a police officer for the Honolulu Police Department, where he attained the rank of corporal, earned an Outstanding Recruit Award and Academic Award, was nominated for Officer of the Year, and was Recruit Class Leader. After leaving the Honolulu Police Department to resume practicing law, Mr. Devens continued to serve the department and has been volunteering as a reserve police officer since 1995.

Mr. Devens has been actively involved in the community throughout his career. He currently serves as a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Hawai'i Supreme Court and the Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers Honolulu, Inc., where he also serves on the By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Strategic Planning committees.



Additionally, Mr. Devens has served on numerous boards and committees for the Hawaii State Bar Association, where he currently serves on the Board of Directors and as co-chair for the Committees on Judicial Administration and Strategic Planning. Mr. Devens also devotes time to serve as a volunteer attorney for the Access to Justice Center, certified arbitrator for the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, and member of the Hawaii Association for Justice, where he was previously the Treasurer. Mr. Devens' public service also extends to the youth in the State. He has coached at-risk youth in boxing since 1995 and previously coached for the Amateur Softball Association Girls Softball, Kalaniana'ole Athletic Club Baseball, and American Youth Soccer Organization and Hawaii Youth Soccer Organization Soccer.

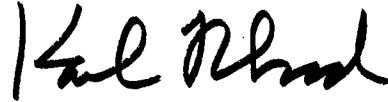
Testimony submitted in support of Mr. Devens' appointment commends his extensive experience, knowledge of the law, acuity of advice, professional judgment, and dedication to serving justice and helping working families. Throughout his career as a practicing attorney, Mr. Devens has earned a reputation for a deep understanding of the law and a finely honed ability to apply it in ways that promote equity and fairness. Those who have worked closely with Mr. Devens note his ability to be thoughtful, skillful, and persuasive while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethical conduct.

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, Mr. Vladimir P. Devens has the experience, compassion, and other competencies required to be an Associate Justice of the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court, 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,




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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.:* <b>GM 2</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>11/20/2023</b>		
<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>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
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