

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 05 2010

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
First Special Session of 2010  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 1, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

G.M. No. 1            JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI,  
for a term to expire in ten years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Testimony in support of the appointee was submitted by the State Attorney General, the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii Women Lawyers, and thirty-one individuals. Comments were submitted by the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association and one individual.

Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

The Hawaii State Bar Association Board of Directors (HSBA Board) found the appointee to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge of the First Circuit, based upon a modified version of the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. These Guidelines include the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service, collegiality, and writing ability. The HSBA Board rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."



Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pitzer College and a Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law. Ms. Castagnetti's litigation experience includes both criminal and civil matters and work in both the public and private sectors. Since 2007, she has served as a per diem judge in the District Court of the First Circuit, presiding over both civil and criminal cases on an as-needed basis. She has also been employed as a civil litigation attorney in trust, commercial, and employment matters with the law firm Bronster Hoshibata since 2002. Ms. Castagnetti served for three years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the career criminal, domestic violence, and juvenile offenders divisions. Ms. Castagnetti has additionally served as Special Counsel to the Insurance Fraud Division of the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Ms. Castagnetti has served the legal community as a volunteer arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program and as a barrister in the American Inns of Court, Aloha Chapter.

Testimony in support of Ms. Castagnetti's appointment indicates that she is intelligent, competent, hardworking, and ethical. Testifiers praised her preparedness, professionalism, compassion, fairness, and knowledge both of the law and of courtroom procedure. Ms. Castagnetti has a reputation as a respectful, thoughtful attorney who is always well-prepared and who faces challenges with composure and grace. As a per diem judge, she has carried out her duties with intelligence and diligence, earning a reputation for competence and sound judicial temperament. Ms. Castagnetti's broad legal experience and excellent reputation in the legal community make her a strong candidate for appointment to the Circuit Court.

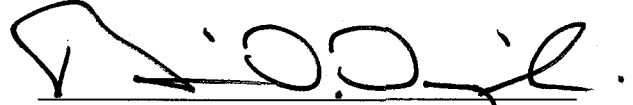
Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on her behalf, Jeannette H. Castagnetti has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to be a Circuit Court judge, and has a good sense of where the equities, rights, and responsibilities lie in a case, which is essential for a Circuit Court judge.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations 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 and Government Operations,

  
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



