

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 4

Honolulu, Hawaii

AUG 05 2010

RE: JUD. COM. NO. 4

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 Judiciary Communication No. 4, submitting for study and consideration the appointment of:

DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

J.C. No. 4 MICHAEL K. TANIGAWA,
for a term to expire in six years,

begs leave to report as follows:

Testimony in support of the appointee was submitted by the State Attorney General and fifteen individuals. Comments were submitted by the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

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."



Michael K. Tanigawa received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts and a Juris Doctor degree from Hastings College of the Law. Since 2008, Mr. Tanigawa has been a staff attorney with the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA), where he is responsible for screening appellate cases, advising the ICA judges on case dispositions, responding to inquiries from practicing attorneys and pro se litigants, and handling other projects. His broad legal background also includes private practice with two different law firms, where he engaged in a wide variety of civil litigation matters, including bankruptcy, business transactions, general civil litigation, and representation of nonprofit organizations. His legal career has also included significant criminal law experience, gained from his seven years with the Office of the Public Defender.

Mr. Tanigawa has also served as an adjunct professor for appellate advocacy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law and as an arbitrator with the Judiciary's Court Annexed Arbitration program.

Testimony in support of Mr. Tanigawa's appointment indicates that he is intelligent, thoughtful, responsive, fair, respectful, energetic, compassionate, and hardworking. Testifiers praised his incisive legal analysis and excellent research and writing skills. He has a reputation in the legal community as a conscientious and thoughtful attorney, with a superior substantive knowledge of the law, developed through his broad experience and his inquisitive nature and love of the law. These excellent legal skills are tempered with a respectful demeanor and a genuine, unpretentious sense of humor. Testimony in support of Mr. Tanigawa's appointment indicated that he will make an ideal judge in the District Court.

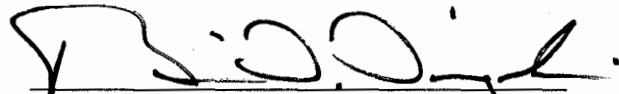
Your Committee finds that, based on the testimony submitted on his behalf, Michael K. Tanigawa has the experience, temperament, judiciousness, and other competencies to be a District Court judge, and has a good sense of where the equities, rights, and responsibilities lie in a case, which is essential for a District 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



