

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 6 2010

RE: S.R. No. 26
S.D. 1

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

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, to which was referred S.R. No. 26 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO USE AND CONSIDER GENDER EQUALITY WHEN APPOINTING JUDGES AND JUSTICES TO HAWAII COURTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge Governor Lingle to use and consider gender equality when appointing judges and justices in the future.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Domestic Violence Action Center, Hawaii Women Lawyers, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Women's Caucus, Hawai'i Women's Coalition, Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights, Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, and one individual.

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

Your Committee finds that through a series of events, the gender gap in the Hawaii State Judiciary has been increasing. This gap is most evident in the First Circuit, primarily due to the recent retirements by female Circuit Court Judges Blondin, Wong, Marks, Hifo, Hirai and Radius, as well as the retirement of Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge Watanabe. In combination with judicial appointments and retentions of fewer women than men, the gender gap is much more pronounced.



Your Committee further finds that the current vacancies provide an appropriate opportunity to address this disparity in the courts, for a judiciary in which men and women are equally and adequately represented will ensure public confidence in the legitimacy and impartiality of the justice system.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical amendments for the purposes of consistency and clarity.

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 concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 26, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 26, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Government Operations,




BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
JGO

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SR 26</i>	Committee Referral: <i>JGO</i>	Date: <i>3/29/10</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓			
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y. (VC)				✓
BUNDA, Robert	✓			
GABBARD, Mike	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓		1	
SLOM, Sam			✓	
TOTAL	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
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 measure per Record of Votes