



February 27, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: Jill A. Otake U.S. District Court Judicial Nominee
for the District of Hawaii

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Jill A. Otake for the position of U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Hawaii.

Prior to informing a confirming authority of its findings on a judicial nominee, the HSBA Board of Directors follows a multi-step review process.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; redacted copies of applications and questionnaires submitted to other entities; a form authorizing disclosure from the Hawaii Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors in Honolulu.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review Subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President, which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review Subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.
- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.

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- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board which culminates in a qualified or unqualified vote.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Ms. Otake on February 21st to discuss the Subcommittee's findings. On February 22nd, Ms. Otake was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Otake was reviewed and all of the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Ms. Otake in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Judicial temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialog and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Hawaii, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Jill A. Otake to be **QUALIFIED**.

Ms. Otake's breadth of courtroom and case management experience in Washington State and Hawaii, and superlative research, oral and written skills as reported by HSBA members were impressive. Her unquestionable integrity and sincere willingness to continually work towards the fair and prompt administration of justice were also noted. Ms. Otake's poised demeanor during the Board interview, especially during the question and answer phase, was evidence of her temperament which is well-suited to the Federal Bench. The nominee appreciates the culture of the 50th State and is comfortable in other settings having lived on the Mainland where she began practicing law.

To reiterate, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds Jill Otake to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, and is proud to endorse this Aloha State native without reservations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of this Committee.

Sincerely,



Howard K.K. Luke
HSBA President

Cc: Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Brian Schatz