

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 9, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We submit our recommendations for candidates to fill a vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

We arrived at these recommendations after creating a commission of distinguished members of the Hawaii bar and tasking them with receiving and screening applications. From the applications the commission received, a short list of candidates was submitted to our offices for interviews. The commission's review process coupled with our own interviews helped us identify individuals with outstanding qualifications who we believe would make excellent nominees to the court. We respectfully request that you consider nominating one of the following candidates, listed in alphabetical order:

Clare Connors:

Clare Connors is a trial attorney who began her legal career in 2001 with the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2002, she served as a clerk for the Honorable Judge David Ezra, in his capacity as a federal district court judge. She returned to Hawaii to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney, and eventually moved over to civil litigation. She continues to practice law in Hawaii.

David Louie:

David Louie was admitted to the Hawaii bar in 1977. He has practiced exclusively in Hawaii, focusing mainly on civil litigation. In 2011, Mr. Louie was appointed as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, a capacity in which he served through 2014. During his time as Attorney General, Mr. Louie provided legal counsel for all aspects of state government.

Jill Otake:

Jill Otake has spent most of her legal career in criminal litigation as a prosecuting attorney. She began her career as a deputy prosecuting attorney for King County, Washington. She had the opportunity as well to clerk for Hawaii State Supreme Court Justice Simeon Acoba before returning to Washington to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for Washington State. In 2014, Ms. Otake became an Assistant U.S. Attorney for Hawaii, and has served in that capacity since.

Also enclosed with this letter are application materials for each candidate that the commission and our offices reviewed in the process of making our selection. We would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have or provide any other information necessary to aid you in your review.

Thank you for your consideration of our nominees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Schatz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mazie K. Hirono". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name being the most distinct.

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator