

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



SENATORS INOUYE & AKAKA STAND UP HAWAII FEDERAL JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION TO FILL IMPENDING VACANCY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONOLULU, HAWAII – Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka last week formally stood up the nine-member Hawaii Federal Judicial Selection Commission, established in July 2006, to make recommendations of qualified applicants for the U.S. District Court seat being vacated by Judge Helen Gillmor at the end of June.

“Judge Gillmor has done an outstanding job during her time on the federal bench. She has been on point in her application of the law, wise in her interpretations, and fair in her rulings. She has brought honor to the bench, and we are pleased that she will stay engaged as a senior judge of the court,” stated Senator Akaka.

In light of Judge Gillmor’s retirement announcement, the Senators have made their appointments to the Commission, beginning with respected attorney and long-time advocate of merit judicial selection, Larry Okinaga, as the Chair. The other eight members are as follows:

- **Ms. Bennette Misalucha Evangelista**
- **Ms. Lynn Fallin**
- **Ms. Rosemary Fazio**
- **Mr. Allen Hoe**
- **Retired Judge Marie Milks**
- **Mr. Jeff Sia**
- **Mr. Tony Takitani**
- **Ms. Donna Tanoue**

Four members were selected by Senator Inouye, three by Senator Akaka, and two by the Hawaii State Bar Association. They are respected members of our community, each of whom will bring important perspectives and experiences to the Commission’s deliberations, and ultimately, its recommendations.

“The purpose of the Commission is to help ensure a strong, independent, and qualified federal judiciary, and to provide a fair process for selecting nominees with the highest professional qualifications and attributes,” stated Senator Inouye.

The Commission will organize itself, put its administrative processes into place, and will at that time, issue a call for applicants. Senators Inouye and Akaka expect a robust and diverse pool of lawyers to apply, and look forward to ultimately receiving a stellar list of outstanding candidates from which they will make their selections, and will forward it to the White House for consideration.