

Judicial Performance Evaluation

Hawai'i

Scope. The Judicial Performance Program was established in 1993 by Supreme Court rule. All full-time judges are evaluated.

Commission. The Judicial Performance Committee oversees the evaluation process and consists of thirteen members, all appointed by the Chief Justice. The Judicial Evaluation Review Panel consists of nine members, including former judges, members of the public knowledgeable in the law, and retired practitioners who consult with evaluated judges about their evaluations.

Criteria. Attorneys are asked to rate trial judges on their legal ability, judicial management skills, comportment, and settlement and/or plea bargain ability. Attorneys are asked to rate appellate judges on aspects of their fairness/impartiality, written opinions, and oral argument.

Data collection. Hawai'i Information Consortium (HIC) administers online surveys of all active judges and attorneys in the state. The Hawai'i Judiciary administers surveys of jurors, with up to 150 surveys mailed out for each judge.

Dissemination. Individual evaluation results are confidential and are provided only to the evaluated judge, the Chief Justice, and the Judicial Evaluation Review Panel. Individual results are also available to the Judicial Selection Commission upon its request for appointment and retention purposes. A summary evaluation report for each court is made public.

Website. http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/performance_review/judicial_performance_review.html