



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL SELECTS SPECIAL DEPUTY TO
INVESTIGATE KALOKO DAM BREACH**

(HONOLULU) Hawaii Attorney General Mark Bennett announced today that he has selected Hawaii attorney Robert Carson Godbey as the Special Deputy Attorney General to civilly investigate the Kaloko Dam breach and to prepare a report as set forth in House Concurrent Resolution 192. A special legislative committee had forwarded five names to the Attorney General to consider.

The Attorney General made the following statement:

“Over the course of the last two weeks, I have extensively interviewed and researched the qualifications of each of the five individuals whose names were forwarded to me by the legislative special committee. Each of the five is very well-qualified, and each was willing to take on this commitment, demonstrating a true commitment to public service.

Given the excellent qualifications of the each of the five, selection was a difficult task.

Mr. Godbey is a lawyer of exceptional talent and unquestioned ethics and integrity. He is a gifted attorney educated at the Harvard Law School, has significant investigative experience, and is an engineer with degrees in both engineering and mathematics. I am personally familiar with his investigative talents, as when he was Chief Special Counsel to the Senate's Special Investigative Committee headed by Senator Richard Matsuura, I was counsel for some of the witnesses, and was greatly impressed by Mr. Godbey's skill, integrity, diligence, and fairness.

I am fully confident that Mr. Godbey will perform his role as a special deputy attorney general with great skill, independence, and diligence.”

Mr. Godbey graduated *magna cum laude* with degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, in 1975, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi. He then worked as an engineer for Southwestern Bell and Texas Instruments. In 1980 he graduated *cum laude* from the Harvard Law School, where he was a teaching fellow and associate with the Harvard Program on Information Resources Policy. He was in private practice for four years in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Godbey spent the next seven years with the United States Department of Justice, first as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia and then as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii. He was lead trial attorney on over thirty cases tried to verdict, and received commendations from the Department of Justice, the United States Secret Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chief Postal Inspector.

Mr. Godbey joined his present firm in 1991. In 1993, he served as Chief Special Counsel to the Senate's Special Investigative Committee led by Senator Richard Matsuura, whose investigation led to revisions in the state's procurement code. He has served as a Special Master for the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, and is an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Godbey is one of five lawyer delegates from Hawaii to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and was the lawyer chair of the U.S. District Court Hawaii District Conference in 2006. He is a member of the Board of Bar Examiners for the State of Hawaii and has been a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions for more than a decade. He is past chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association Intellectual Property Section and of the HSBA Technology Committee. He is also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Mr. Godbey is an "AV" rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell (the highest rating), and has been listed for several years in Honolulu Magazine's list of "Hawaii's Best Lawyers," and the related Woodward/White reference, "Best Lawyers in America."

The State Procurement Office has granted the Department of the Attorney General a procurement exemption to allow the selection from the list proposed by the special selection committee. Mr. Godbey is currently on the Mainland for one week attending the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference as a Hawaii delegate, and it is expected that he will begin his work as a special deputy upon his return to Hawaii.

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