

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

**Farm  
Service  
Agency**

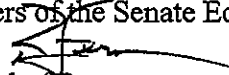
Hawaii State and  
Pacific Basin  
State Office

Rueben Flores  
State Executive Director  
PO Box 50008  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: 808 541-2600  
FAX: 808 541-2648



April 10, 2008

To: Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Senate Education Committee  
From: Rueben Flores, State Executive Director   
Subject: Support for Teena Rasmussen - UH Board of Regents

I am writing in support of Ms. Teena Rasmussen for nomination to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

I have known Ms. Rasmussen for approximately 7 years, primarily in a professional capacity, where she has served as a member of the United States Department of Agricultural/Farm Service Agency's State Committee.

In this capacity she provides the Farm Service Agency with valuable insights regarding current agricultural trends through out the state of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. In addition, she and the other board members help guide the agency regarding policy issues and federal programs directed to the agricultural community.

She is extremely knowledgeable about state-wide issues, always displays good management skills and is extremely personable. In short, she has all the qualities inherent in a true leader.

I am confident that Ms. Rasmussen will make an excellent regent. I encourage you and your committee to give Ms. Rasmussen a resounding vote of approval.

**KIEFER & GARNEAU LLC**  
A Limited Liability Law Company

Richard Kiefer

Greg Garneau  
Direct Dial (808) 871-9700  
Email: rickkief@hawaii.rr.com

April 10, 2008

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair  
Education Committee  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee Teena Marie Rasmussen  
Submitted for Consideration and Confirmation to Serve on the  
University of Hawaii Board of Regents; Governor's Message 610

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Teena Marie Rasmussen to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. As a lawyer on Maui, I have known Mrs. Rasmussen for seven years and have consistently been impressed by her intelligence, sound judgment, and business sense. She would be a valuable addition to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Thus, I without hesitation recommend that you confirm Mrs. Rasmussen's appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Richard Kiefer

cc: Teena Rasmussen



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*1100 Waipoli Road  
Kula, Hawaii 96790  
Office: 808-878-3004  
Fax: 808-878-2645*

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

As an active and supportive advocate in Hawaii's agriculture, Teena has moved in perpetual motion to raise awareness and initiate positive change. As co-owner and Marketing Director for Alii Kula Lavender Farm, I've watched her commitment and passion to make a difference. I've worked with Teena in an annual fundraising project called Growing Dreams sponsored by Maui Youth and Family Services. Under Teena's leadership as chairperson, we raised thousands of dollars to create support services for challenged youth in our communities. This is a large event involving hundreds of people held at the Four Seasons Wailea, which required lots of tireless hours of commitment from Teena to make it the success that it was. To acquire more sustainable diversity, Teena and I, both attended Export Readiness Training where we gained the knowledge to export and help others in agriculture do the same. Together, we were also awarded charter membership of the exclusive Seal of Quality program, created by the Department of Agriculture in Hawaii. An exclusive recognition of companies that create quality products endorsed and marketed by the State of Hawaii.

Teena Rasmussen is a committed individual that has a great bandwidth of knowledge on many levels within the community, state and global issues. She is passionate and accountable for her actions, resulting in only the highest of success and quality from her work. Awarding Teena a seat with the UH Board of Regents will be a wise choice for the succession of our future. Please appoint Teena Rasmussen.

Sincerely,

Lani Medina Weigert  
Co-Owner & Director of Marketing  
Alii Kula Lavender  
808-283-3777, lani@aklmaui.com



**Maui Memorial**  
MEDICAL CENTER

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation—Maui Region

April 10, 2008

**TO:** Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee  
VIA FAX: 808-586-6659

**FROM:** Carol Clark, Director of Communications, Maui Memorial Medical Center 

**RE:** TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents.

I have known and worked with Teena in a volunteer capacity for the past several years on Maui Youth & Family Services, Inc. signature event, "Growing Dreams." Not only does Teena bring a high level of enthusiasm and industry knowledge to the committee and the event, but she is also instrumental in her ability to get people to work well together in a positive manner.

Teena has a tremendous amount of personal integrity, and I heartily offer my support for her confirmation to the UH Board of Regents.

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Clark

Personal Testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
April 16, 2008  
1:15 p.m.  
by  
Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto

**GM 610: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, TEENA M. RASMUSSEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto. I serve as the Dean of UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and an ex-officio member of the Board of Agriculture. I am pleased to provide this personal testimony on GM 610. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or CTAHR.

I strongly support the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

I have worked with Teena through her service on the Farm Services Administration statewide committee and the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. As chair of the ADC board of directors, a farmer for more than 25 years, a former chair of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, and a member of many other local and regional trade associations, she brings to the BOR business acumen, leadership and teamwork skills, and knowledge of land-use and resource issues. She is a Maui resident and will represent the interests of that island well. She has done an excellent job as chair of the ADC board, and I urge you to confirm her to the BOR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**WAILUKU WATER CO.**

**WAIKAPU, IAO, WAIHEHU, WAIHEE**

*Na Wai Eha*

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chairperson  
Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 11, 2008

Chairperson Sakamoto and Committee Members,  
**RE: GM 610**

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mrs. Teena Rasmussen.

I have known Mrs. Rasmussen on a professional and personal basis for the past 20 plus years. We have worked together on various governmental activities, business matters and community events.

Teena is a very dependable, trustworthy individual of high moral character, and whose integrity is beyond reproach. She is efficient, self-motivating, resourceful, and sees tasks through to completion. I have no reservations in supporting Teena in whatever endeavor she would pursue and I am confident that she will be a valuable asset to the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii. During my tenure in the Hawaii State Legislature we worked together very closely on the development of public policy that would affect commerce and business in Hawaii, Teena's acute business sense and extensive past involvement in government will be an asset to the future of the University of Hawaii.

Please feel free to call me on Maui at (808) 244-7079 if you have any questions or if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Avery B. Chumbley  
Executive Vice-President, C. Brewer and Company LTD  
President & COO, Wailuku Water Company LLC.  
General Manager, Maui Tropical Plantation  
Hawaii State Senator, (retired)



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819  
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

APRIL 16, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON GM 610  
TINA M. RASUMUSSEN

Chair Sakamoto and Committee Members:

My name is Dean Okimoto, President, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Tina M. Rasmussen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Ms. Rasmussen has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's agricultural industry. She has been an active member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation since 1978, and was the recipient of the 2004 HFBF Farm Family of the Year award. Ms. Rasmussen is respected for her impressive credentials as an agriculture leader, having served on numerous agriculture boards and councils and through her involvement as a member of many agriculture organizations. Her experience was extended through her appointment to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) as a Board Member and most recently as the Chairperson.

Ms. Rasmussen also has a wide-ranging experience in business and government service, which include county, state, and federal positions. Ms. Rasmussen's knowledge and experience would be an asset to the State of Hawaii if appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is pleased to support the nomination of Tina M. Rasmussen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. We respectfully ask for your positive confirmation of Ms. Rasmussen's nomination to this position.

Thank you.

# **Maui County Farm Bureau**

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

APRIL 16, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON GM 610  
TINA M. RASUMUSSEN

Chair Sakamoto and Committee Members:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

Maui County Farm Bureau, on behalf of its member farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations **strongly SUPPORTS** GM 610, nominating Ms. Teena M. Rasumussen to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Ms. Rasmussen has been an entrepreneurial farmer on Maui since her return to the islands after college. Ms. Rasmussen together with her husband have nurtured and grown their farm beyond its' beginnings as a flower farm to one of the premiere sources of locally grown leis. As a hands on businesswoman she has headed our Maui Chamber of Commerce. Her personal experience of what it takes to be in business in today's global trade environment will provide valuable insight in deliberations that will come before the Board of Regents. For us in agriculture, it is important that the University of Hawaii step up to being THE knowledge center for agriculture in the Pacific Basin as well as the tropics across the world.

We respectfully request your support of Ms. Rasmussen to the Board of Regents. Thank you.

P.O. Box 148  
Kula, HI 96790

ph: 808 2819718  
email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com





TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Eric Tanouye and I am the Vice President/General Manager of Green Point Nurseries, Inc. on the Big Island. My family is in our second generation of floriculture agribusiness, a business that produces Hawaii's cut flowers and foliage and tropical blooming plants. Our products are distributed and exported locally, nationally, and internationally. Hawaii's agricultural future relies on the leadership decisions that we make today.

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

We have known Mrs. Teena Rasmussen and her husband (Mr. Craig Rasmussen) for some years now. These few years has helped us garner a respect for them as friends, parents and agribusiness owners. As we find ourselves in our second generation of agribusiness so do the Rasmussens. We also have served on a statewide promotion/marketing board for the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council (HTFC). I feel her background experience in floraculture is an important asset that Mrs. Teena Rasmussen. I believe she has the educational and professional background to fulfill requirements of the position. I also feel it is a good idea to have someone that has agriculture/business background on the Board of Regents.

Supporting Hawaii Agriculture

Eric S. Tanouye, Vice President/General Manager  
Green Point Nurseries, Inc.



**REALTORS®**  
*Association of  
Maui, Inc.*

441 Ala Makani Place  
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-3507  
Phone: 808-243-8585 ~ Fax: 808-243-8585  
Dave DeLeon, Government Affairs Director  
Cell: 808-281-3269  
E-mail: GAD@RAMaui.com  
www.RAMaui.com

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April 11, 2008

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
And members of the Senate Education Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: In Support of the Nomination of Teena Rasmussen to UH BOR (GM 610)**

TESTIMONY

For three decades Teena Rasmussen has played an increasingly important role in the social fabric of Maui County. Chamber of Commerce, Farm Bureau, Visitors Bureau, Trade Associations, Economic Development Board, County, State, and Federal panels, Non-profits, and school advisory panels and board leadership, you name the area of concern and Teena has quietly taken leadership positions which have resulted in positive outcomes for the immediate agency in question and the broader community in general. She is so involved in the community, there is a tendency to forget that Teena and her husband Craig are also successful small business owners. They have succeeded in a business – they farm and market cut flowers – in which only skillful and determined entrepreneurs survive. Teena would bring her wealth of knowledge about business, farming, Maui County and its needs, and a true Neighbor Island perspective to the University's Board of Regents. Having sat on the Maui Community College Provost's Advisory Board, she understands the importance of the University System to the state as a whole. Given her career as a community leader, Teena understands the honor and responsibility of this nomination and, if confirmed, you can be rest assured that she will dig in and do the work expected of a member of the Board of Regents and then some. You can expect Teena Rasmussen to bring the no-nonsense attitude born of her hard work as a farmer and a successful small business person in Hawaii to the important task of improving and expanding the mission of Hawaii's premiere institution of higher learning. I humbly ask that your committee recommends confirmation of the nomination of Teena Rasmussen to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

Submitted by  
David DeLeon  
Government Affairs Director  
REALTORS® Association of Maui

**Mikilua Poultry Farm Inc.  
1612-A Kilohi Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**

**April 16, 2008**

**Senate Committee on Education**

**TESTIMONY on GM 610**

Chairman Sakamoto Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, President of Mikilua Poultry Farm Inc a family operated egg farm in Leeward Oahu since 1947. I am here to submit supporting testimony for the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Teena since 2002. Both Teena and I along with Monty Richards are members of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Hawaii State Committee. Teena's impressive resume reflects her many accomplishments as a successful business co-owner with her husband Craig. She has held many leadership positions with private and government boards and committees as well as raising two daughters. She is fiscally responsible and conducts herself with the highest integrity.

The University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents is in great need of a member like Teena Rasmussen who represents Diversified Hawaiian Agriculture and understands the "Land Grant College" status that the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources holds. She has the understanding of applied research and economic development.

Please confirm Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents.

PHILIP H. LOWENTHAL

A LAW CORPORATION  
PHILIP H. LOWENTHAL  
BENJAMIN LOWENTHAL

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
33 N. MARKET STREET, SUITE 101  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

MAUI: (808) 242-5000  
HNL: (808) 545-5688  
FAX: (808) 242-1500

April 11, 2008

Chairman Norman Sakamoto  
Senate Education Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

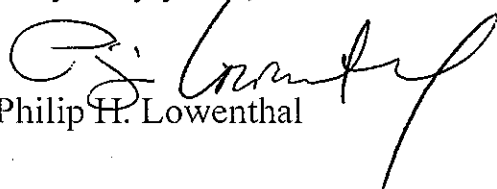
Re: Teena Rasmussen, Nominee for UH Board of Regents  
Governor's Message 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008

Dear Mr. Sakamoto,

I have known Teena Rasmussen for 28 years. I met her when she was one of my students at Maui Community College. Since that time we have become friends.

Mrs. Rasmussen is influential and active in the business of diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. She is honest, open, intelligent, and friendly. While she is not afraid to speak her mind, she consistently shows appreciation for the opinions of others. With a businessperson's practicality, I believe she will be an excellent addition to the UH Board of Regents.

Very truly yours,

  
Philip H. Lowenthal

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM WAYNE K. KATAYAMA  
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER  
KAUAI COFFEE COMPANY, INC.**

**BOARD MEMBER  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**April 16, 2008  
1:15 p.m.**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 610  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
TEENA M. RASMUSSEN  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-12**

**Chairperson Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:**

**I am in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Ms Teena M. Rasmussen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.**

**Ms. Rasmussen is active in the community, volunteer government service, and professional business associations. She has been recognized for her outstanding service over the years by receiving numerous awards such as Small Business Champion of the Year, and Outstanding Community Service & Achievement Award, both in 2005.**

**During the past five years as a Agribusiness Development Corporation Board Member, I have worked very closely with Ms. Rasmussen. Currently she is the Chair of the Board. Through its history, ADC has faced many challenges. Teena's approach in handling ADC has been very instrumental in establishing ADC as an effective and successful agency. Examples of Ms. Rasmussen's initiatives as Chair:**

Page 2 of 2  
Letter of Support  
Governor's Message No. 610

- 1 Ms. Rasmussen has crafted a strategic plan that the Board has used to focus our efforts in have the greatest impact in moving agriculture forward.
- 2 She understands ADC's mission and is not intimidated by our exemptions and powers. She openly supports our efforts both in action and in words.
- 3 When needed, she uses her relationship with other department heads to help move our projects along.
- 4 Under her watch ADC has addressed two critical issues that has hindered agriculture development - land and water.

Under Ms. Rasmussen's leadership, she has made ADC an effective tool to address agricultural issues and improve this important segment of Hawaii's economy.

I believe that Ms. Teena Rasmussen will apply the skills, commitment, and vision she has shown over the past five year at the ADC to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. I strongly support her confirmation. Thank you.



Wayne K. Katayama



**April 14, 2008**

**The Senate Education Committee  
Testimony Re: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee  
Submitted Via Fax: 808-586-6659**

**RE: GM 610, Confirmation Support of Teena Rasmussen for the  
UH Board of Regents**

**Dear Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:**

**It is my honor and distinct pleasure to support the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii (UH) Board of Regents.**

**Personally, I have known Teena for over 20 years due to her involvement with the agriculture industry, the Maui Chamber of Commerce, the Business & Professional Women (BPW), and as a small business owner with her farm, Paradise Flower Farms, Inc. This is a woman who is widely known for her extensive civic and community service contributions, as well as for her integrity, exemplary ethics and research/deliberation on issues before taking a position.**

**She is an engaged and devoted individual whose government service highlights her ability to work cooperatively with others and get things done. Teena has been the Vice Chair of the County of Maui Salary Commission; served on the Governor's Small Business Advisory Council; served as a State Committee Member of the Farm Service Agency (United States Dept. of Agriculture appointment from the President); served as a Board Member and was later Chairman of the Board for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Regional Advisory Board; and has served as a member and is the current Chairman of the Board for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) State of Hawaii (an appointment from the Governor).**

**In the area of education, Teena has demonstrated her commitment to quality education at elementary/intermediate, high school and college levels. She has been a Board Member, the Chair of Public Relations, and Chairman of the Board for Haleakala Waldorf School. She was the Charter President of the King Kekaulike High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and later worked on the School Community Based Management (SCBM) Council. And, she served on the Maui Community College Provost Advisory Board.**

**Chairman Norman Sakamoto & Members of the Education Committee  
Testimony Re: GM 610, Confirmation Support of Teena Rasmussen  
for the UH Board of Regents**

**April 14, 2008**

**Page 2.**

With the Maui Chamber of Commerce, Teena also has a long history, joining the organization in 1980, and remaining involved today. She was a member of the Board of Directors from 1985 through 1994, chairing the Government Affairs Committee for 2 year and becoming Chairman of the Board during that time. She also joined the Chamber's Made in Maui Trade Council in 1995 and continues to be a member of this organization as well. To us, she is a treasure.

In addition, Teena is a remarkable business person who has received vast recognition for her many accomplishments. She received the "Small Business Advocate of the Year" in 1991 and the "Small Business Persons of the Year" Award in 2001 for Maui County from the Small Business Administration (SBA); the 2000 "Entrepreneurs of the Year" award from the Maui Chamber of Commerce and Island Business Magazine; "Farm Family of the Year" 2004 from the Maui County Farm Bureau; "Most Outstanding Farm Family" 2004 from the Hawaii State Farm Bureau; "Small Business Champion of the Year" 2005 from NFIB Hawaii; "Outstanding Community Service & Achievement Award" April, 2005 from the Maui Agricultural Foundation; and Ho'okela Award for "E-Commerce Retailer of the Year" 2006 from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

Her many accomplishments, thoughtful service, and awards demonstrate her strategic planning and leadership abilities. What she has done for her business, the agriculture industry, education, government and the community at large, she can do for the University of Hawaii. They would be lucky to have her.

Therefore, given a UH Board of Regent's role of strategic planning, policy making, fiduciary oversight, serving as an ambassador, protecting the system from undue influence, setting an example, considering community interests, acting as a unit and evaluation of the Chief Executive and Board, I can wholeheartedly recommend the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for this position. She would be a tremendous asset to the board.

Sincerely,



**Pamela Tumpap  
President**



LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008, 1:15 P.M.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 610  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TEENA M. RASMUSSEN,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012

Chairperson Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration of Ms. Teena M. Rasmussen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Ms. Rasmussen has served on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), which is an attached agency to the Department of Agriculture, from May 2003 to the present. Ms. Rasmussen is the current chair and a valued member of the ADC Board. She has provided strong leadership to ADC in the transition of plantation infrastructure for use by diversified agriculture.

Ms. Rasmussen and her husband are co-owners of Paradise Flower Farms, Inc., a company that employs 25 people and encompasses 56 acres (5 acres under greenhouse) in Kula Maui. The company grows 25 different varieties of flowers including, roses, carnations, tuberose and orchids and provides cut flowers, lei and bulbs throughout Hawaii, the continental U. S. and Canada.

Ms. Rasmussen has extensive public service experience including, Vice-Chair of the County of Maui Salary Commission, Member of the Governor's Small Business

Advisory Council, State Committee Member for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Board Member and past Chair of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Regional Advisory Board, Board Member and past Chair of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Maui County Farm Bureau, Maui Economic Development Board, past President of the Maui Business and Professional Women's Club, Member of the Maui Flower Growers and Shippers Association, Board Member and Treasurer of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council. Ms. Rasmussen traveled with the Hawaii Visitor's Bureau on three marketing trips to Vancouver, Canada, Dallas, Texas and Long Beach, California to promote Hawaii

Ms. Rasmussen has also volunteered her time and service at Maui Youth and Family Services, Maui United Way and Hui Malama Learning Center.

Ms. Rasmussen received several distinguished awards including the "Small Business Advocate of the Year" from the Maui County Small Business Administration, the "Entrepreneurs of the Year" from the Maui Chamber of Commerce and Island Business Magazine, the "Small Business Persons of the Year" from the SBA for Maui County, the "Farm Family of the Year" from the Maui County Farm Bureau, the "Most Outstanding Farm Family" from the Hawaii State Farm Bureau, the National Federation of Independent Business, "Small Business Champion of the Year," and the "Outstanding Community Service & Achievement Award" from the Maui Agricultural Foundation.

Ms. Rasmussen has many years of experience in the public and private sectors in Hawaii. She is collaborative, forthright and has sound business acumen. She would be an invaluable asset on the UH Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for Ms. Teena M. Rasmussen's confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

**testimony**

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**From:** Bobby Cooper [eleuhilo@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 09, 2008 10:38 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education, Hearing on 4/16/08 in conference room 225  
Re: GM 610 Nomination of Teena Rasmussen for the Board of Regents

Chair Norman Sakamoto and Committee Members:

Teena is a good choice for this important position. I have known her about three years now. She is the chair of the State Agribusiness Development Corp. of which I serve on the board. She always is in attendance, always has done her homework prior to the meetings and handles herself well as we attempt to help the agricultural community be self sustaining. She and her husband run a flower business and I'm sure she is knowledgeable about the needs of Maui. Bobby Cooper, Hilo, Hawaii

## testimony

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**From:** Bettykay Griesemer [bkg@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 10:01 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** GM 610 Education Committee of the Senate  
**Attachments:** Card for Bettykay Griesemer <bkg@hawaii.edu>

RE: GM 610

TO: Education Committee of the Senate

CHAIR: Norman Sakamoto

I support the nomination of Teena Rasmussen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

I have known Ms. Rasmussen for over 25 years. One of my first encounters with her was when she was an outstanding student in one of my business classes. Her involvement over the years in the business, civic, and educational community on Maui has been exemplary. She was deeply involved in the accreditation process at King Kekaulike High School, she is a past president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, she presently serves on the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the state, and has served on too many not-for-profit boards of directors to name. All these experiences and many more make her an ideal choice for a seat on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

BK. Griesemer,  
Professor, CC,  
Maui Community College

## testimony

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**From:** H McCord [kbgmaui@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 9:14 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Teena Rasmussen  
**Subject:** Position-UH Board of Regents

TESTIMONY RE:gm 610  
Hearing Date: April 16  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education  
Committee:

I am writing this letter to support the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.  
I have known Teena since she moved to Maui in 1977. I am also in an agriculture business in Kula. I am co-owner of the Kula Botanical Garden, Inc. Teena is a hard working, honest, and involved person. As her resume shows, she has been an active participant in many Professional and Service Groups since she moved here and established a very successful business. In particular I have work with Teena on the Maui Youth and Family Services fund raising event which she has been a part of for several years. She organized volunteers and donors and personnel to help make the event a huge success. I have served on the MYFS Board for over 12 years and I am thrilled to have encouraged Teena to come onto the Board. Her contacts in the community, her knowledge of business and finances, and her untiring dedication to what ever task she accepts make her a valuable member to any group. Please give her your sincerest consideration.

Helen McCord  
Kula Botanical Garden, Inc  
638 Kekaulike Ave.  
Kula, Maui, HI 96790  
808-878-1715

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**testimony**

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**From:** KGHEAN@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 1:34 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Regents Candidate-Rasmussen

**Attention: Senate Education Committee**

I write to strongly support the appointment of Ms. Teena Rasmussen to the Board of Regents.

Ms. Rasmussen has an extensive knowledge of Hawai'i. She is involved in many areas of the Maui & Hawai'i community. She is active as a small business person in agriculture and Chamber activities.

She is involved in many levels of education from Maui Community College to local schools.

Ms. Rasmussen will be an intelligent and diligent member of the Board of Regents.

Kay Ghean  
Maui, Hawai'i

---

Planning your summer road trip? Check out [AOL Travel Guides](#).

## testimony

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**From:** BLTATUM@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2008 9:28 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Re: GM 610, Teena Rasmussen Confirmation to UH Board of Regents

TESTIMONY REGARDING GM 610  
HEARING DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee, Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Aloha, Chair Sakamoto and Committee Members:

My name is BETTE TATUM and I am pleased to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the confirmation of TEENA RASMUSSEN to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

As the longtime (now retired) state director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), I was privileged to work closely with Teena on many projects over the past twenty years or so, including the Governor's Small Business Advisory Council, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Regional Advisory Board, and the NFIB Hawaii Guardian Advisory Council. I could always count on Teena. When asked by NFIB to deliver testimony in person to the U.S. Congress, she stepped right up. She also testified in person before the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and the House Small Business Subcommittee.

Her outstanding qualities and record contributed to her receiving many well-deserved awards, including being named the NFIB Hawaii "Small Business Champion of the Year" in 2005, SBA's 1991 "Small Business Advocate of the Year" for Maui County, and SBA's 2001 "Small Business Persons of the Year," along with her husband Craig.

I feel close to Teena personally, too, and over the years have watched her and her husband rear two fine young daughters--both now successful adults. Teena's volunteer service in education on Maui through the years is admirable and exemplary.

Teena is one of the most dedicated, loyal, bright, competent young women I have ever known, both business-wise and personally--and her integrity is above reproach. Teena is a joy to work with. She has a calm, common sense, well-thought-out approach to solving problems. She gives 100 percent to everything she tackles and will, without a doubt, be a positive asset to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Please vote in favor of Teena's confirmation.

Aloha and mahalo to you all!

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Planning your summer road trip? Check out [AOL Travel Guides](#).

**testimony**

---

**From:** Guille [guille@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 4:20 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Teena Rasmussen  
**Subject:** Fw: TESTIMONY RE: GM 610

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Guille  
**To:** testimony@capital.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 3:54 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: TESTIMONY RE: GM 610

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Guille  
**To:** testimony@capital.hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** Teena Rasmussen  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2008 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY RE: GM 610

**TESTIMONY RE: GM 510**  
**HEARING DATE: APRIL 16, 2008**  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:**

This letter is in **SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

I have known Teena Rasmussen for 24 years. I started off as an employee at Paradise Flower Farms and from there we developed a friendship. I watched her do an amazing job raising her children. She was always actively involved in their education and sat on the Boards of the school or PTSA. She has given so much to the community of Maui and the State of Hawaii through her active participation on community boards. She is a dedicated, passionate, competent individual with high integrity. She gives 200% of herself to the task at hand. In my estimation Teena Rasmussen would make an excellent addition to the UH Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

Susan Guille  
Volcano Signs, Inc.  
Owner



## testimony

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**From:** ppjb@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2008 11:29 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Teena Rasmussen

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

Aloha e Mr. Chairman and members of the Education Committee:

I have known Teena Rasmussen for 10 years. She is a successful business owner, former president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, dedicated volunteer for numerous not for profit organizations and a leader in our community.

For five years we worked together on a major fundraiser for Maui Youth and Family Services. Teena's involvement grew each year until she was chair of the event for the last three years. This event raises in excess of \$60,000 annually to assist youth with substance use disorder. Without Teena's involvement this project would not be the success it is.

I believe she not only possesses the ideal qualifications to serve as a regent, but she will bring an understanding of the neighbor islands which will enhance the regents' membership substantially.

I hope you will endorse her for membership on the board of regents. Mahalo nui loa.

A hui hou,

Paul Janes-Brown  
600 Kaluanui Rd.  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-572-8000  
ppjb@hawaii.rr.com

## testimony

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**From:** Tammy A. Perkins [tammy@firstclassweddings.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2008 7:13 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** 'Teena Rasmussen'  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY RE: GM 610 on 4/16/08

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

*There are no words to adequately describe how loved and respected Teena is in my world. Over the last 5+ years I have witnessed her leadership skills chairing events and they're superlative. In the last 14 years my company has also experienced the management skills of her own business (Paradise Flower Farms) so I know first hand that her business skills are impeccable. In addition, I have known and been affiliated with Teena donating her time and energy to causes that she whole heartedly believes in. She has always operated with the utmost integrity and I am honored to learn from her and grow from her every time I'm around her. I value her perspective and trust her decisions in what ever she chooses to do with her life. If I were to describe Teena in one sentence I would say that she is a mentor, a friend, a business associate, a leader and a valuable contributor to our community, a person that truly operates from deep within her heart.*

*Sincerely*

*Tammy*

***Tammy Ash Perkins/President***  
First Class Weddings, Inc. and  
Author: The Best of Hawaii Wedding Book  
230 Hana Hwy. Ste. 11  
Kahului, HI 96732  
Phone: 808-877-1411  
e-mail: [tammy@firstclassweddings.com](mailto:tammy@firstclassweddings.com)  
[www.firstclassweddings.com](http://www.firstclassweddings.com)

April 12, 2008

Norman Sakamoto Chairman  
Senate Education Committee  
Governor message #610  
[testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Chairman and members of Education Committee,

Per Teena Rasmussen, candidate for the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

As a fellow farmer in Kula, Maui, I've worked with Teena in the flower business for nearly 30 years.

I believe Teena could provide much needed expertise and guidance toward a goal of agricultural self sufficiency in these islands.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gordean L. Bailey

90 Alae Rd  
Kula, HI 96790  
(808) 878-3828

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 610**  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TEENA MARIE RASMUSSEN  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS  
REGENT, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Teena Marie Rasmussen to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Mrs. Rasmussen for over 30 years, having met her shortly after her move to Maui. Throughout the years I have associated with her in community activities and worked with her on various boards and commissions. Teena's ability to articulate the needs and concerns of the organizations and agencies both public and private which benefited from her participation, became evident throughout her service to the community.

As a successful member of the farming and agricultural community as well as business community, Teena will offer a unique perspective to the Board of Regents as they guide and develop career and technical education paths of the university in the years to come. Her service as a spokesperson for, and participant in, the agricultural as well as small business advisory boards and commissions have given her valuable experience and insights which she can use in her service to the university board.

I believe that Teena Rasmussen will be an excellent addition to the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely yours,  
Carol Ball

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610

Hearing Date: April 16

Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

I have known Teena for approximately 30 years and have had numerous opportunities to work with her directly. Teena has an outstanding desire to help our community and she has the education and background to accomplish this well.

Teena has been a longtime member of the Maui Chamber of Commerce and has had the opportunity to be its chairperson and representative. She has been a vocal advocate for small business and the Maui and State Farmers Organizations. She has been on advisory boards at the State, County and Community levels.

Teena's greatest attribute, however, is her effervescent personality and ability to get people to work toward common goals.

This state can most certainly use a person of superior intelligence and common sense to help guide its educational future and Teena is such a person.

I wholeheartedly recommend Teena for this position.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Arakawa  
Former Mayor, County of Maui

TESTIMONY OF:

Kahu Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell Sr.  
157 Alea Place Pukalani, Maui Hawaii 96768

TESTIMONY RE GE 610  
HEARING DATE: APRIL 16  
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee.

I would like to testify in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

I have known Teena since she moved to Maui and established their flower farm. She has been very active in volunteering in the community and in the education of our children. Also she is very easy to work with and through my association with her in many areas, she thrives to be a problem solver, finds ways that can benefit the community at large and create the "feeling of Aloha". With our Hula Hanau Pukalani Hula Hale O Maui, and other community activities, we have worked closely together.

With here experience in small business, agribusiness and being a mom, she would be a valuable asset as a UH Board of Regent and I highly recommend her appointment and confirmation.

Mahalo a nui kakou

Kahu Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell Sr.  
Pukalani, Maui

**testimony**

---

**From:** Derby, Matthew G. [Matthew.Derby@ggp.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2008 2:07 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Derby, Matthew G.  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY RE: GM 610 / Hearing Date: April 16, 2008 / Senate Education Committee / UH Board of Regents: Teena Rasmussen Confirmation  
**Importance:** High

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Teena now for approximately eight years and I am very privileged to have worked with her on a number of tourism promotion projects for the Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau (HVCB) while I was a Senior Account Executive at McNeil Wilson Communications. In my role, I was in charge of executing "Experience Aloha Hawaii on Tour" for HVCB which included the promotion of Hawaii as a destination at major consumer shows at high-traffic malls and regional travel shows. Teena participated in three of our target market events as a "Hawaii expert" flower grower, lei maker and resident promoter of the islands. Her expertise and competence in her line of work enabled HVCB to take an aspect of the islands through culture (lei making and its story of tradition), industry (flower growing business in the islands), and being a true "Ambassador of Aloha" (personal spirit) to promote Hawaii, our heritage and culture to potential travelers. Her warm Aloha spirit, enthusiasm with all whom she encountered, the sharing of her family's craft, and her local sense of place really touched the hearts of many who attended these very special HVCB events. She truly cared about educating potential travelers – beyond treating Hawaii as a great place to travel – as a cultural destination through her craft and it amazed me that Teena's sharing of a simple story, a beautiful Hawaiian-grown flower, and her gracious spirit would connect her with many who attended our events. I am sure she helped our team of Hawaii participants positively influence those who have never been to the islands to one day visit or for those who were already familiar to someday return once again.

Going beyond Teena's very impressive background and knowledge of "what makes Hawaii work" through her experience in business, industry, and government service, she is one who fully envelops herself into whatever task she is committed while exhibiting a strong sense of doing what's right, the first time around – what's pono when it comes to family, business and the community. It's with this value that I know that she will do a great job to guide the University of Hawaii, its administrators, educators, staff members and most importantly students as part of this very important board so that the University can continue to grow and prosper in the best interest of our local community and be further established as a world class institution of higher education.

I fully support Teena's confirmation and know that she will do a great job serving on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am so proud of her accomplishments and I am honored to know her as a fellow colleague and a personal friend.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate calling me at (808) 628-5574.

4/14/2008

Mahalo!

**MATTHEW DERBY**  
***Director of Tourism & Public Relations***  
***Ala Moana Center / General Growth Properties of Hawaii***

Ala Moana Center - General Growth Properties, Inc.  
1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 800  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Ph: (808) 628-5574 – Direct  
Cl: (808) 384-7059 – Media Emergencies  
[Matthew.Derby@GGP.com](mailto:Matthew.Derby@GGP.com)  
Website: [AlaMoanaCenter.com](http://AlaMoanaCenter.com)



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**Mark J. Andrews**  
20 Foster Place  
Kula, Hawaii 96790  
Phone: (808) 878-6679  
Fax: (808) 878-3059  
[mauidatabook@aol.com](mailto:mauidatabook@aol.com)

**Testimony Re: GM 610**

**Hearing Date: April 16, 2008**

**Senate Education Committee**

Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Senate Education Committee thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Mrs. Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Mrs. Rasmussen for over 25 years and during that time have found her to be an outstanding member of our community. She has excelled in business, dedicated herself to community service by giving of her time to numerous government and nonprofit organizations and has received a number of awards for her outstanding service to our community. I believe she is well qualified to serve as a Regent of the University of Hawaii.

I personally have served 11 years in the State of House of Representative and worked for a number of years for the University of Hawaii. These experiences have made me well aware of how important it is to have people of the highest quality serve as Regents to our University. The University of Hawaii is a major player in Hawaii's economy, the development of the people of Hawaii and the preservation of those things we treasure the most. It is only with the appointment of outstanding persons within our community to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents that we can assure the University's continued importance to all the people of Hawaii. I believe that Mrs. Teenea Rasmussen is such an outstanding person and well deserves everyone's support in being confirmed as a University of Hawaii Board of Regent.

**Thank You.**

**Mark J. Andrews**  
20 Foster Place  
Kula, Maui, Hawaii

**Charles G. Jencks  
75 Ka Drive  
Kula, HI 96790**

April 14, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

TESTIMONY RE: GM 610, UH Board of Regents Nominee

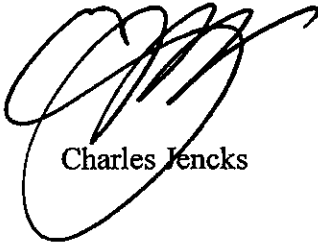
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Members of Education Committee:

This letter is in support of the confirmation of Ms. Teena Rasmussen as a member of the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents. I have known Ms. Rasmussen for over 15 years as a fellow Kula resident, owner of a successful flower farm in Kula and as a volunteer member of various boards and commissions for the State of Hawaii and County of Maui. It seems to me a valuable experiential asset for members of the Board of Regents is that gained from not only the small business environment but also the volunteer sector. In both of these areas, Ms. Rasmussen has done a terrific job and is a credit to her family and community.

Once again, I support Ms. Rasmussen's nomination to the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents.

Sincerely,



Charles Jencks

Christine M. Daleiden  
95-977 Wikao Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
(808) 625-8755

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Education  
April 16, 2008  
Teena M. Rasmussen, Nominee, GM 610  
Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Chair Norman Sakamoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Teena Rasmussen on the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii. I have worked with Teena for the past year as a Board Member for the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") and as Chair of ADC, Teena is professional, intelligent, communicative, fair, and efficient. Teena's leadership and direction has been instrumental to ADC's effectiveness. These qualities will serve her well on the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii. I strongly support her nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Christine M. Daleiden

**testimony**

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**From:** Mindy Armour [mindyarmour@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2008 6:22 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony RE: GM 610 Hearing date: April 16, 2008 Senate Education Committee RE: Teena Rasmussen

Testimony RE: GM 610  
Hearing Date: April 16, 2008  
Senate Education Committee

Dear Chairman Norman Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

I would be pleased and honored to recommend and support the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the UH Board of Regents. I am well acquainted with Ms. Rasmussen and have had the pleasure of knowing her for over 20 years. During that time I have experienced not only her friendship but her many talents as a successful business woman. I have worked with her on various projects within our community and have personally seen her conduct herself and her endeavors with the utmost integrity.

Teena is a person I wholeheartly recommend as an asset for a seat on the UH Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

Melinda Armour  
Armour Construction, Inc.

April 14, 2008

Chairman Norman Sakamoto  
Committee Members  
Senate Education Committee  
State of Hawaii

RE: GM 610 UH BOARD OF REGENTS

Aloha:

I offer this testimony in support of Teena Rasmussen for the position of Regent for the University of Hawaii.

I have known and worked with Teena for some fifteen years and find her dedication to Maui County and the State of Hawaii unrivaled. All of Teena's work for her community has been done on a volunteer basis while running her successful agriculture business here on our island.

Tina is extremely intelligent, thoughtful, and will always consider what is best for all. Her work on various boards and commissions gives her immense experience and her desire to continue her efforts for the University will bring commitment to the work at hand and enrichment to her fellow Regents.

I thank you for your attention to this testimony and for your support of Teena's nomination.

Yours truly

Lynne Woods  
CEO, Keller Williams Realty Maui

Alfredo Lee (Personal Testimony)  
98-1960 D Kaahumanu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

April 16, 2008  
1:15 p.m.

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 610**  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD  
OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,

**TEENA M. RASMUSSEN**  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2012

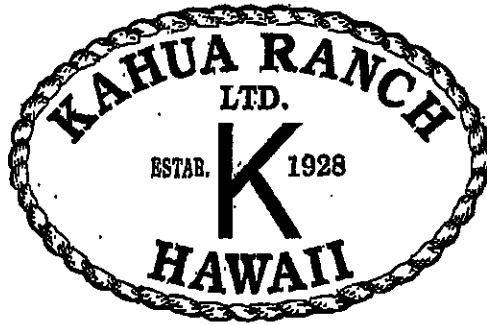
Chairperson Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support** of Ms. Teena M. Rasmussen's consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

I have known Teena for the past 6 years since she was appointed to the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). As executive director of the ADC, I have worked very closely with her during the past several years, especially after she was elected chairperson of the board.

I find Teena to have the intellectual capacity to absorb new information quickly and the ability to sort out the important elements of a complex situation. She participates with ease on the discussion of many different subject matters. She is very approachable and fair. She is diplomatic and yet not afraid to make her opinion known. She is always willing to hear the other side of the story and to compromise in order to reach a win-win agreement with others. Teena gets along well with her fellow board members and is well liked by staff.

Besides running her business, she has also donated her time very generously to various non-profit organizations and government agencies. I believe she is just the right kind of person to be on the Board of Regents. Thank you for your consideration.



**LATE**

April 14, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
Chairman  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have had the opportunity to work with Tina Rasmussen for over 6 years on the FSA.

She has done a marvelous job and will be an asset to the State as a member of the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert Richards Jr.".

H.M. Richards Jr.

April 14, 2008

Chair Sakamoto  
Vice Chair Tokuda  
Senate Education Committee

**LATE**

RE: TESTIMONY RE: GM 610  
HEARING DATE: April 16, 2008  
SUPPORT for confirmation of Teena Rasmussen

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda and Committee Members;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Teena Rasmussen for a seat on the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents. I have known Ms. Rasmussen both personally and professionally for more than 25 years. We met as young career women in the Maui Business & Professional Women's (BPW) organization. I have witnessed first hand her hard work in sustaining a successful Kula farming enterprise, while she has dedicated countless hours in community volunteerism, advocacy and leadership. Her respect in the small business community is very apparent, with her service as Chair of the Maui Chamber of Commerce and many well-deserved awards from the SBA and the Farm Bureau. While her business prowess is highly recognized, her incredible philanthropic contributions are not as well known, but equally strong. She has given so generously of her time, money and flower products to literally hundreds of worthy efforts. I cannot count the number of school and community functions where beautiful leis and flowers have been carefully delivered or even shipped to the mainland, with her donation not publicly recognized.

I would like to also speak to her strong character and to her passion for improving educational opportunities for Hawaii's young people. As a mother of two, now young women, she has been an invested community partner in education for more than 20 years. She understands the critical and dual roles the University must play as an economic engine in research, as well as the state's workforce development provider. She will bring a needed neighbor island perspective to the Board, advocating for the important roles the community colleges serve in the U.H. system.

Although Ms. Rasmussen and I often find ourselves on opposite sides of the political aisle and even supporting opposing candidates...my respect for her community dedication, advocacy skills and her high ethical standards has never wavered over nearly three decades. She will bring seasoned business skills and community based perspective to the Board. I am certain she will serve with the highest level of integrity and dedication. If you should have further questions, please contact me at 808-242-0999.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Wilkins