

April 16, 2008

LATE

To Senate Education Committee
Chair Norman Sakamoto

From Bertrand Kobayashi

RE: Harvey Tajiri, nominee for UH Board of Regents

Harvey Tajiri will make an excellent Regent. He has been a long-time businessman, County Councilman, State Representative, ~~Con-con delegate~~, and booster of many Hilo programs.

He was visionary in starting the idea of the University village with housing for "semi-permanent" tourists in the form of students in the late 1980's, which is only now being to take shape.

Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial, Inc.
21 Akekeke Street
Hilo, Hi 96720

April 15, 2008

LATE

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Education Committee
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hi 96813

SUBJECT: Nomination of Harvey S. Tajiri for UH Regent

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

I'm writing in support of Harvey Tajiri's nomination for university Regent. Harvey is a long time friend and a fellow Board member of our non-profit corporation which is seeking to build an affordable Senior Independent Living Community here in Hilo for Hawaii's elderly veterans and other Hawaii seniors. The knowledge, advice, and assistance he has provided our Board in the multi-million dollar development we are undertaking has been invaluable.

Harvey needs little introduction to you and to most of your colleagues since he's been a former colleague to many of you and is well known and respected within political circles here in Hawai'i. Similar to you, Harvey comes from a successful background in small business management, has an abiding interest in public service, and has served his community and the state of Hawai'i in many different capacities over a number of years. As a graduate of the UH system, a long time booster, and a lifelong resident, he knows the system well and fully understands its strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps his greatest legacy of public service has been the contributions he has made to the university system over the past 30+ years so it is therefore highly fitting and appropriate that he now serve this system in a capacity as a Regent – a position for which he is extremely well prepared. Ever the entrepreneur, Harvey will definitely work creatively and collaboratively to effectively address the critical resource issues the university system constantly wrestles with as it strives to maintain its position of excellence in higher education, and he will provide the strategic oversight and continuum of leadership the university system needs in the face of changing administrations. I commend him to you and strongly encourage you to support his confirmation as Regent.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

R.N. Williams (Lt Col USA, ret.)
Chairman



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 16, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Sakamoto and Tokuda:

Re: Governor's Message 611

I would like to offer my heartiest support of nominee Mr. Harvey S. Tajiri to represent East Hawaii on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

A graduate of UH Manoa in 1966, Mr. Tajiri has been an active and continuous supporter and promoter of the University system. He was founder of the UHH Athletic Booster Club, primarily responsible for transforming UHH athletics from club status to collegiate competition, and most recently, a founding member of Hui Ka Ua, a non-profit organization offering support to UHH faculty, students and programs.

I have known Mr. Tajiri for over forty years as a coach, businessman, community volunteer, and Hawaii County Councilmember. He was a mentor to me when we served together in the State House of Representatives for six years, offering his expertise as fellow members of the Finance Committee.

Throughout the years I have found Mr. Tajiri to be a long-range thinker, with foresight into the future of the University system and our economy.

With his past experience and focus on the future, Mr. Harvey S. Tajiri will be a valuable asset as a member of the Board of Regents of Hawaii's institution of higher education.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry L. Chang".

JERRY L. CHANG
Chair – Higher Education