



## AKINAKA & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

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Civil Engineering • Land Planning

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CRAIG K. MATSUMOTO

April 23, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Senate Committee Members:

Subject: Consideration and Confirmation of Dennis I. Hirota  
to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

I support Governor Linda Lingle's nomination of Dennis I. Hirota to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have had the honor of working with Dennis for over 37 years. Dennis and his firm, Sam O. Hirota, Inc., has been a leader in engineering and graphic computer technology and application here in Hawaii. Dennis' background as a practicing civil engineer and land surveyor, bank director, aquatic researcher, and University of Hawaii lecturer, has fully prepared him for the duties and responsibilities required as a Board of Regent.

Dennis is well respected by Hawaii's professional engineering and architectural community.

I respectfully ask for your support of Dennis I. Hirota's confirmation to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Very truly yours,

Robert Y. Akinaka  
Chairman  
Akinaka & Associates, Ltd.

April 23, 2008

Mr. Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ms. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Nomination of Dennis Hirota to UH Board of Regents

Dear Senators Norman Sakamoto and Jill Tokuda:

I am writing in support of Mr. Dennis Hirota who has been nominated to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Mr. Hirota through professional endeavors for the past seven years and have found him to be of high integrity with considerable qualities that would make him a valued and reliable Regent of the University.

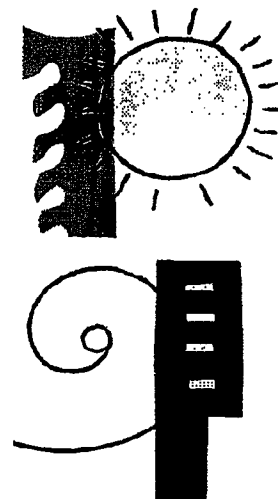
The cornerstone of Mr. Hirota's qualifications will be his foundation of objectivity and fairness with decision making. This not only gives him the ability to search for comprehensive background from which to base his understandings, but unencumbered by bias, allows opportunity for creativity and nurturing — a scenario for stability and growth from which the University would benefit.

As a pillar of our professional community here in Hawaii, Mr. Hirota would bring his work ethic and discipline, together with solid practical underpinnings in his perspective to the Board. Within our community he is known for fairness and for being carefully considerate with his opinions.

Sincerely,



Mark de Reus, AIA



de Reus Architects

65-1291 Kawaihae Rd.  
Suite 105  
Kamuela, HI 96743

T 808 885.6222  
F 808 885.6225  
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Resorts + Homes

April 23, 2008

Mr. Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ms. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 South Beretania Street  
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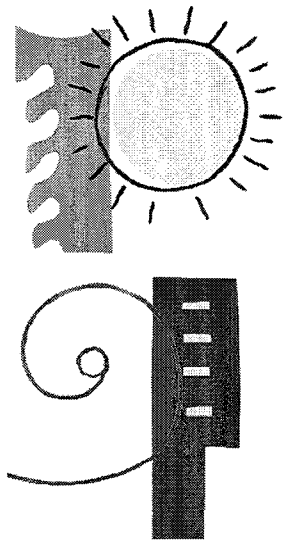
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**KAI HAWAII**  
STRUCTURAL & FORENSIC ENGINEERS

Ken K. Hayashida, P.E.  
Michael P. Hunnemann, P.E.

April 30, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
E-mail: [sensakamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sensakamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office at 586-6659

**SUBJECT:** Nomination of Dennis Hirota  
University of Hawaii Board of Regents for a term to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012  
Senate Committee on Education-Confirmation Hearing: 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in  
Conference Room 225

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Committee Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally endorse Dennis Hirota on his nomination to the University of Hawaii-Board of Regents. Dennis has numerous years of professional experience serving our community from Engineering Company-President, Central Pacific Bank-Director and University Hawaii-Industry Advisory Committee member. He has been a strong supporter of UH Engineering and Athletics program. With our emphasis of science and technology education, he has the required background to provide leadership and direction to expand our programs. His dedication to this was shown in his leadership in the Punahou FIRST robotic team.

I am proud to support Dennis Hirota's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. His record of professional achievements and record on community service indicate he will provide leadership and direction for the University.

Sincerely,

KAI Hawaii, Inc



Ken Hayashida  
President

KH/ms

**BAYS  
DEAVER  
LUNG  
ROSE  
HOLMA**

Attorneys at Law

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Daniel S. Park  
Jonathan S. Moore  
Megan H. Warren

Jason N. Baba  
(1957-2001)

April 23, 2008

**Via email: [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
Education Committee Chair  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

I understand that Dennis Hirota has been nominated for appointment to the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents. I am writing to express my support for his confirmation by the Senate. I have known Mr. Hirota for many years and worked with him on a number of projects in different capacities. I have always been impressed with his professionalism, good judgment and the extensive experience that he has brought to the table. I believe that he would make a fine addition to the Board of Regents and that the University of Hawaii system will benefit greatly from his appointment.

Senator Norman Sakamoto  
April 23, 2008  
Page 2

Thanks for considering my thoughts on this appointment.

Respectfully yours,

BAYS DEEVER LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

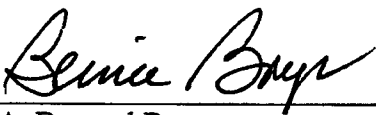
By:   
A. Bernard Bays  
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation  
Its General Partner

ABB:rt

cc: Jill Toduda, Vice Chair  
Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Mike Gabbard  
Clayton Hee  
Clarence K. Nishihara  
Brian T. Taniguchi  
Sam Slom



# JOSEPH F. BLANCO

April 24, 2008

**Sent via Electronic Mail**

Committee on Education  
The Honorable Norman Sakamoto  
Chair  
The Senate

Re: GM#658 - Supporting Testimony of Gubernatorial Nominee Dennis Hirota  
to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents  
Hearing Date: April 28, 2008, 3:00pm - Conference Room 225

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Dennis Hirota to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Having known Dennis for over 15 years, I sincerely believe he is eminently qualified to serve as a university regent.

Dennis unique experiences as PhD graduate, faculty researcher, university teacher, private sector entrepreneur, and his years of corporate board governance experience, make him an ideal Board of Regent nominee. I have no doubt Dennis will serve with honor and distinction and will bring a balanced and conscientious voice governing one of Hawaii's most important institutions. Towards that end, I wholeheartedly encourage you and your colleagues to favorably consider his gubernatorial nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph F. Blanco'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph F. Blanco

Lori T. Tsukada  
2752 Kaaha Street, #310  
Honolulu, HI 96826

April 24, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Senate Committee Members:

Subject: Consideration and Confirmation of Dennis I. Hirota  
to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

I support Governor Linda Lingle's nomination of Dennis I. Hirota to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I am an accounting clerk and have known Dennis for over 18 years. I first got to know Dennis from working together with his firm Sam O. Hirota, Inc., on many architectural/engineering projects. I found Dennis to be very knowledgeable in many areas but his passion for computers always stood out. About 15 years ago, I was in need of a computer for my young children but had very little knowledge and limited funds. On his own time Dennis went shopping and found the best deal (quality and price) and called me to see if I wanted him to pick one up as there were only a few left. He then set up the computer and installed all the software while teaching me as much as I could absorb. I was so touched by his generosity and kindness. Here he was the President of a company taking his valuable time to help my family. I later realized that education was very important to him and he always said that the computer was going to be a vital and necessary learning tool for all children. Today my son is 26 years old and is an electrical engineer in Atlanta. My daughter is 23 and will be graduating next month from the University of Hawaii's Shidler College of Business.

When I learned Dennis was being considered for the UH Board of Regents I felt compelled to write this letter. I continue to have the utmost respect for Dennis as a professional in his field but more importantly for his compassion for others.

I respectfully ask for your support of Dennis I. Hirota's confirmation to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Very truly yours,

*Lori T. Tsukada*



## testimony

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**From:** Tom Witten [twitten@pbrhawaii.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2008 4:48 PM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** Senate Education Committee, April 28, 2008 at 3:00 pm RE: Dennis Hirota, UH Board of Regents

Senator Sakamoto, Chair, and Members  
Senate Education Committee

Dear Chairman and Members,

Please support the nomination of **Dennis Hirota** to the UH Board of Regents.

I have known and worked with Dennis Hirota for over 20 years and he is an excellent selection to serve on the UH Board of Regents. He understands the needs of our community and the importance of providing a quality higher education experience. He has always been an innovator and utilizes the latest technology to advance his professional services of Civil Engineering and Land Surveying. He is an excellent choice to serve our community on the Board of Regents and his diverse experience, knowledge and skills should contribute significantly towards achieving the goals of the Board. Throughout his career, he has continually served the community interests in his business endeavors and always seeks ways to improve his community and our State directly or indirectly.

Although I am unable to personally present this testimony at your hearing on April 28, I wanted to encourage your Committee to support the nomination of Dennis Hirota to the UH Board of Regents.

Mahalo,

Thomas S. Witten, ASLA  
President

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.  
1001 Bishop Street  
ASB Tower, Suite 650  
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Fax: 808-523-1402

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