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LATE

April 24, 2008

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto
State Senator
Chair – Committee on Education
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 415
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In strong support of Dennis Hirota's nomination to the UH Board of Regents

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

Thank you for your consideration of Dennis Hirota to the University's Board of Regents. He is an excellent candidate and I stand in strong support of his confirmation.

As you may know, Mr. Hirota has served on the Central Pacific Financial Corporation (CPF) Board of Directors for 28 years. CPF is the parent company of Central Pacific Bank whose stock is listed on the NYSE. His numerous contributions as a board member include serving on the compensation committee, the senior loan committee, and the audit committee that he chaired from 1997 to 2002. Serving on the board of a major business has parallels to the fiduciary duties of a UH regent. Having observed his skills and experience over the past 7 years, I am confident that he can make immediate contributions to the Board of Regents.

Additionally, Mr. Hirota has an impressive history of community service which includes the higher education sector. He is currently a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for the UH College of Engineering. Previously, he lectured at UH School of Architecture over a six year period, and as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico.

The fiscal and strategic decisions that will guide our university system will require someone that puts the public interest first. That is what Mr. Hirota will do. He is an excellent candidate for the regent position and I encourage the Senate to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clint Arnoldus'.

Clint Arnoldus
President & Chief Executive Officer