

GOV. MSG. NO. 307

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii:**

Ramon S. de la Pena PhD

Term to Expire: 6/30/2012

Sincerely,


LINDA LINGLE

Questions for Board of Regents Nominees

1. What motivated you to apply to be a member of the Board of Regents and what skill sets and experiences do you bring to the table that will help move the University forward?

I came from a small farm town in Central Luzon, Philippines of poor and humble beginning. The only inheritance I received from my father is my education which enabled me to come to Hawaii to pursue my graduate degrees and eventually work for the University of Hawaii. Recognizing the value of education, I have become an avid advocate of education and have been encouraging every graduate from our high schools to pursue a college degree.

I use myself as an example when encouraging students to go to college. By being a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, I feel I can be more effective in advocating for higher education among the younger members of our community. It is a great venue for giving back to the University and community for the opportunities that I received as a student and member of the UH faculty.

My experience as a student, researcher, faculty member and administrator in the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for more than 41 years has given me a vast experience and training in leadership, team work and working with individuals of different backgrounds. I have gained awareness of the challenges that our students, researchers and faculty members face in the University.

2. What specific short and long term goals do you have for improving the University?

Short term goal - In addition to the current search for a new President of the University of Hawaii, I have had numerous conversations with President David McClain encouraging him to fill vacant executive and managerial positions in the University of Hawaii System. Too many Acting and/or Interim Chancellors or Directors does not give a vision of stable and decisive governance of the University.

Long term goal - Repair and maintenance of many of our old classrooms, laboratories and offices to provide adequate space for our students, faculty and researchers.

3. As a Regent, what will be your top three priorities for the University?

First priority is the successful completion of West Oahu Complex. Second is the repair and maintenance of UH Manoa student housing. Third priority will be in the Community Colleges to help alleviate remediation problems of incoming new students. Programs which help prepare high school students for college work such as the Construction Academy should be encouraged and supported as well as many of the CTE programs which give high school juniors and seniors early introduction to Community College courses and curricula.

4. In the coming months, the Board of Regents will be called upon to select a new President. What will be qualifications that you consider most important? What do you feel are the most important duties of the President, and what kind of relationship should exist between the Board and the President?

In addition to the listed criteria and qualifications such as being an effective leader and manager and having excellent academic credentials, the next President of the University of Hawaii should have a sensitivity and understanding of Hawaii's unique mix of culture and people. Perhaps a "home grown" talent or native to the State of Hawaii?

Most important duties would be to identify new strategies to expand access to higher education in Hawaii and improve success in student graduation at the UH.

The President must have a cooperative, communicative and close relationship with the Board of Regents.

5. We are currently faced with an unprecedented budget crisis. What ideas do you have for generating revenue for the University and how we approach any cuts that have to be made within the budget?

Improve the athletic program and public relations with the community to help increase attendance and income in athletic events. Encourage commercialization of UH research results such as the patented "flash carbonization" for converting green waste to charcoal or fuel and many other commercially viable patents.

Budget cuts should be met with more efficient budgeting and prioritization of repair and maintenance of UH Facilities. Explore the use of renewable sources of energy such as solar panels wherever they are feasible and replace old and outdated light fixtures with new and energy efficient ones to help lower the cost of electricity.

6. How do you view the role of the system as it relates to the 10 campuses? Do you feel that the relationship as it exists now should be changed? How will you ensure equity of resources across all campuses?

The existing single system of public higher education for the State is conducive to a holistic approach and view of the challenges posed by the 10 campuses. It gives University administrators opportunities to develop programs that enable students to work on degree programs in more than one campus. Currently several campuses are developing programs that enable students to easily transfer from a two-year degree granting campus to a four-year degree granting campus.

I believe the existing relationship among the campuses is working and should not be changed.

Chancellors of the 10 campuses having equal access and opportunity to interact with the system President and support personnel ensures equity of resource allocation across all campuses. Open communication among the 10 campuses during budget allocation gives every campus fair share of the University resources. The Council of Chancellors is a great venue for giving every campus a fair share of University resources.

7. What kind of relationship do you feel should exist between the University and the Legislature? More specifically, how would you view the relationship between the Board of Regents and the Legislature?

The University and Legislature should have a close and cooperative relationship. Likewise, the Board of Regents and Legislature should have a cooperative and synergistic relationship since both are working for the benefit of the University and community. It would be beneficial for the University if the Legislature and Board of Regents have regular meetings to discuss issues and concerns affecting the University of Hawaii.

8. Do you have any real or perceived conflicts of interest to disclose?

None.

Testimony GM 307

De La Pena, Ramon

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUAI
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

March 17, 2009
1:15 p.m.

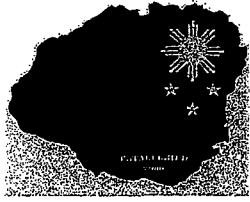
TESTIMONY ON **GM 307**, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RAMON S. DE LA PENA PH.D.

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Ramon S. de la Pena to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board of Regents).

Dr. de la Pena is being nominated to serve on the Board of Regents for an additional term expiring on June 30, 2012. Dr. de la Pena's distinguished career in education and his experience as a community leader will be assets to the Board of Regents as it formulates policy and exercises jurisdiction over the internal structure, management and operation of the University of Hawai'i.

We ask you to confirm his nomination, and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce



President
Ernie Pasion
Vice President
Lesther Calipjo
Secretary
Evelyn Basnillo
Assistant Secretary
Connie Balisacan
Treasurer
Cristeta Owan
Assistant Treasurer
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Directors
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Dr. Antolin Apalla
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Rudy Sina
Dr. Sarah Styran
Phil Tacbian

Past President
Sonia Topenio
Legal Counsel
Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
Asst. Legal Counsel
Rosa Flores
Executive Director
Oscar Portugal

March 5, 2009

Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Higher Education Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda:

It is indeed an honor and a great privilege to bring to your kind attention and for your serious consideration the re-appointment of Dr. Ramon dela Pena as a Member of the Board of Regents representing the Garden Island of Kaua'i.

Dr. dela Pena is a very distinguished Filipino-American, who has earned the respect and admiration of the peoples of Kaua'i, having served as a member and Chair of the Kaua'i Planning Commission and on the Boards of various Filipino organizations, such as the Kaua'i Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Kaua'i Filipino Community Council, Kaua'i Pangasinan Club, etc.. His varied civic oriented activities in the Filipino Community involve scholarship programs. He has been passionate about advocating higher education among the graduating students of Kaua'i's high schools.

I humbly ask you, Honorable Chair Tokuda, to re-appoint Dr. Ramon dela Pena to the Board of Regents. I remain

Respectfully yours,

Ernesto G. Pasion
President



Testimony in strong support of GM 307

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 17, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

To:

Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H.
Baker, Sen. Russell Kokubun, Sen. Dwight Y. Takamine, Sen.
Brian T. Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From:

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Vice Chair, National Federation of
Filipino American Associations

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation
to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMON S. DELA PENA PHD, for a term to
expire 6-30-2012.

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

Although I work at UH Mānoa, my testimony in support of
Ramon S. de la Pena, Ph.D., is submitted on behalf of NaFFAA
Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in
Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National
NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and
national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of
Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United
States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national
affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American
institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve
regions throughout the continental United States and U.S.
Pacific territories.



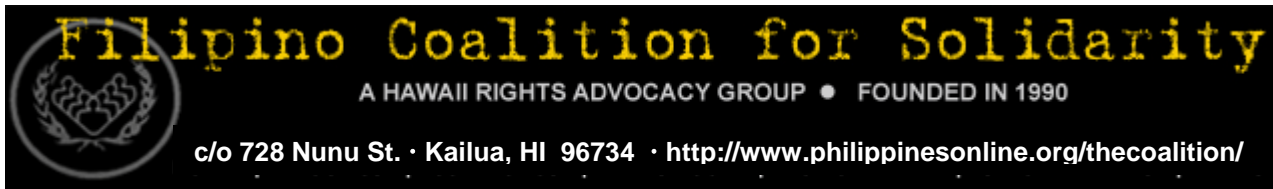
Our regional chapter, as well as our national organization, is extremely proud of Dr. Ramon de la Pena during his tenure as a UH regent, because it is very rare to have a Filipino American member of a university governing board at any US campus. Dr. Ramon de la Pena is a UHM emeritus professor, who has earned international recognition for his research in tropical agriculture. He is also well known for his contributions to economic and cultural activities on Kaua'i. He is considered one of our most distinguished Filipino community leaders and we are very thankful for his past participation in NaFFAA events.

Dr. de la Pena is intelligent and has great integrity. He can be counted on to take seriously his responsibilities as a regent. I believe that his experience as a faculty member and researcher are valuable to the board of regents.

On a personal note, I have known Ramon and his family for over 40 years and am very proud of the fact that I am a godmother ("ninang" in Filipino) for one of his children. I have nothing but respect for Dr. de la Pena and can vouch for his character and dedication to higher education. I respectfully urge you to approve his nomination, so he can continue to serve UH and the state of Hawai'i with distinction.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.
Vice Chair
NaFFAA Region XII



Testimony in strong support of GM 307

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 17, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Sen. Russell Kokubun,
Sen. Dwight Y. Takamine, Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMON S. DELA PENA PHD, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.
Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I want to express appreciation to you for considering the confirmation of Ramon S. de la Pena, Ph.D. to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

We strongly support Dr. de la Pena's confirmation, because he has demonstrated his commitment to improving the quality of life for all of Hawai'i's diverse people in his distinguished research and contributions to strengthen Hawai'i's leadership in the agricultural industry, which has provided economic sustenance to our state and to many minority families. As a longtime leader in the Filipino community, Dr. de la Pena has also actively engaged community involvement in health promotion initiatives in smoking cessation and prevention, health screening for diabetes and cancer, and access to higher education. We also believe that Dr. de la Pena's leadership style of respect for differences, patience, open-mindedness, rigorous and evidence-based analysis of issues, humility, good humor, commitment to social justice and civil rights, and his bilingual and multi-cultural background will bring an asset to the Board of Regents in discerning critical issues. Dr. de la Pena's qualities and linkages to the community will foster diverse collaborations that will not only benefit all of Hawai'i's people, but also serve as a model for other boards of regents in the nation.

We recommend Dr. de la Pena's confirmation without reservation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support of his confirmation to the UH Board of Regents.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 · Honolulu · Hawaii 96817

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
 Carehome Administrators
 Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
 Foundation, Inc.
 Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
 Annac ti Batac
 Annac ti Caoayan 2002
 Annak ti Kailokuan iti
 America
 Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
 Asingan Organization of
 Hawaii
 Badoc-Pinili Aid
 Association of Hawaii
 Banna Association of
 Hawaii
 Bannatiran Association of
 Hawaii
 Batangas Association of
 Hawaii
 Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
 Caballeros de Dimasalang
 Cabugao Sons & Daughters
 of Hawaii
 Candonians of Hawaii
 Caoayan ISAH
 Cavitenians of Hawaii
 Dingras Association of
 Hawaii
 Divine Word College
 Alumni Association
 FilAm Sports USA
 Fil American Citizens
 League
 Filipino Business Women's
 Club
 Filipino Nurses Organization
 of Hawaii
 Filipino Women's Civic
 Club
 GUMIL Hawaii
 GUMIL Oahu
 Hawaii Filipino Women's
 Club
 Hawaii Council of Bilingual
 Educators
 ILAH
 Ilocos Nortnians of
 America
 INCAT Alumni Association
 of Hawaii
 International Filipino
 Society of Hawaii
 Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
 La Union Circle of
 Hawaii
 Lingayen Gulf Club of
 Hawaii

Testimony in strong support of GM 306

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 17, 2009, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and
 confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of
 Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMON S. DE LA PENA
 PHD, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members:

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Sen. Russell Kokubun, Sen. Dwight Y.

Takamine, Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Cirvalina Longboy, OFCC President

My name is Cirvalina Longboy, president of the Oahu Filipino
 Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that
 represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified
 vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

I submit this testimony to strongly support the confirmation
 of Dr. Ramon S. de la Pena to serve as a member of the UH
 Board of Regents. We are very proud that for over a century,
 Filipinos made up a large segment of Hawai'i's agricultural
 industry, in which Dr. de la Pena has contributed greatly
 through research, education, and community action. We
 believe that he will contribute much to reinvent the assets of
 our university system to help lead our students, faculty and
 state toward sustainability and innovation that can be of
 help to our global neighbors and partners. We believe that
 he possesses the leadership qualities of a global citizen that
 will bring unity, credibility, and productivity to our university.

Thank you for hearing this important bill.

Sincerely,

Cirvalina Longboy

President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
 Hawaii
 Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
 Hawaii
 Nueva Vizcaya Association of
 Hawaii
 Pasuquinos Association of
 Hawaii
 Philippine Cultural Foundation
 Philippine Nurses
 Association of Hawaii
 Piddig Association of Hawaii
 Sanchez Mira Association of
 Hawaii
 San Manuel Pangasinan
 Association of Hawaii
 San Nicolaneos USA
 San Nicolas Goodwill
 Foundation
 San Nicolas Teachers of
 Hawaii
 Santa Lucia Association of
 Hawaii
 Sarrat Association of Hawaii
 Sarrat International Inc.
 Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
 of Hawaii
 Solsona of Hawaii
 Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
 TPCP
 Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
 Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
 Samar Leyte Association of
 Hawaii
 Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of
 Hawaii
 San Juan Association of
 Hawaii
 San Nicolas Nat. High
 Santa Marians of Hawaii
 School Alumni
 Santa Nicolas Nat. High
 School Bingao Annex
 Tagalog Association of Oahu
 United Bacarreneos of Hawaii
 United Group of Home
 Operators
 United Pangasinan of Hawaii
 United Urdaneta Club of
 Hawaii
 United Vintarinians of Hawaii
 Vigan Association of Hawaii

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Testimony in strong support of GM 306

Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 17, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMON S. DE LA PENA PHD, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Report Title:

Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

To:

Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair & Honorable Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair

Honorable Senate Health Committee Members: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Sen. Russell Kokubun, Sen. Dwight Y. Takamine, Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From:

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Ramon S. de la Pena to the UH Board of Regents. His character is beyond reproach, and can bring people together to work effectively and productively. Dr. de la Pena's scientific and community expertise, as well as his advocacy and knowledge of neighbor island strengths are valuable leadership perspectives that he can bring to the intellectual rigor and accountability to discern and act upon university business that is of utmost importance to Hawai'i's diverse communities.

Your consideration of his confirmation is greatly appreciated.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences
March 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Clesson Higashi and I am a Graduate Student in the Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Science at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I completed undergraduate work also at University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2008, with a B.S. in Plant and Environmental Biotechnology.

I am writing to you in regards to Dr. Ramon S. de la Peña who will be going through the Hawaii State Senate Confirmation Hearings for the University of Hawaii Board Of Regents. He is currently serving UH as a Regent and is hoping to extend his service for another term.

My association with Dr. de la Peña began during my sophomore year of high school (2000-01) with my involvement in science fair projects. His involvement as a mentor to me as well as fellow classmates has had a great influence on our academics and career pathways, many of which have become engineers, science researchers, and educators. My decision to engage in agriculture research was due in part of his continuous education on the importance of research science, particularly in agriculture.

His contribution and involvement extends beyond the classroom and science community. He is actively involved with community organizations such as Kaua'i Pangasinan Association, the Kaua'i Filipino Community Council, St. Catherine Filipino Catholic Club and emeritus director of Leadership Kaua'i. He also serves on the Boards of Director for Wilcox Hospital and is a member of the County of Kaua'i Charter Review Commission.

As a former UH research professor and UH regent, his work and contributions has positively impacted local agriculture, community development, and the sustainability of the University of Hawaii as a higher education institution.

It is for these reasons and more that I fully support the confirmation of Dr. de la Peña to continue his service as a Regent for the University of Hawaii System. With that, I encourage the honorable members of the Senate to do the same. If you have any questions at all, or if you would like more information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at clessonh@hawaii.edu. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Clesson Higashi
M.S. Student, PEPS Dept.
University of Hawaii Manoa

From: Shigemoto, Tom at Kukui'Ula [.]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 9:27 AM
To: Sen. Jill Tokuda
Cc: Dennis Esaki
Subject: FW: Dr. Ramon de la Pena for UH Board of Regents

Honorable Senator Tokuda,

Please accept my wholehearted endorsement of Dr. Ramon Dela Pena on his reappointment to the U.H. Board of Regents. Dr. Dela Pena is a well respected, outstanding icon to our Kauai Community. He is an educator, a dedicated community volunteer, an astute agri-business advocate, a devoted family man and a person concerned about the well being of students and business of his University.

I have know Dr. Dela Pena for at least 30 years and during that time have been able to witness first hand his passion for advancing agriculture and the development of technology and techniques that are designed to enhance this important industry. He understands the importance of diversificaton of our economic engines and how important higher learning is to our successes. He is not about talking, but about doing. In Dr. Dela Pena, you will not find a better, more compassionate Regent, in my humble opinion.

Thank you very much for your consideration on his re-appointment.

Tom Shigemoto
A&B Properties, Inc.
Tom H. Shigemoto
Vice President

March 13, 2009

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corp.
Space Technology
One Space Park
Redondo Beach, California 90278

To Whom It May Concern:


Hello. My name is Richard Rodrick and I am an Electrical Engineer working for Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems in El Segundo, CA. In 2007, I received my B.Sci. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

This letter is in regards to Dr. Ramon S. de la Peña who will be going through the Hawaii State Senate Confirmation Hearings for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Dr. de la Peña is currently serving UH as a Regent and is hoping to extent his service for another term.

I'm fortunate enough to have known Dr. de la Peña since 2001. At the time, I was a sophomore in high school on Kauai and had been assigned to do a science project for my biology class. After telling my physics teacher, Ray de la Peña about the assignment, he referred me to his father, Dr. de la Peña. Thankfully, I was able to arrange a meeting with him at the UHM CTAHR Kauai Agriculture Research Center, in the hopes of getting pointers from a real scientist. I found Dr. de la Peña to be very personable and more than happy to show me around the research center's laboratories and agriculture facilities. In addition to playing tour guide, Dr. de la Peña provided insight into the scientific processes involved in doing advanced research. He even went so far as to offer some space in one of his greenhouses which I could use to perform plant related experiments for the science project. After receiving so much tutelage and generosity, I considered myself extremely privileged. Therefore, I was quite surprised when I learned that Dr. de la Peña had been helping kids just like me for years. Continuing his dedication to the education of Hawaii's youth, following our meeting Dr. de la Peña offered his knowledge and resources to a number of my classmates. His influence undoubtedly helped trigger a love for science as most of these students took their science projects beyond the classroom and into competition at the state and international levels. Since my years in high school, Dr. de la Peña has continued to be an approachable and invaluable resource, committed to the advancement of education in Hawaii.

It is for these reasons, I fully support the confirmation of Dr. de la Peña to continue his service as a Regent for the University of Hawaii System, and I encourage the honorable members of the Senate to do the same. If you have any questions regarding myself or my experiences working with Dr. de la Peña, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 221-6194 or via email at Richard.Rodrick@ngc.com. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Richard Rodrick

Electrical Engineer

Northrop Grumman

Liela N.L. Nitta, Ed.D.

March 3, 2009

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Higher Education Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 281
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda,

This letter is written in behalf of Dr. Ramon de la Pena who has been a stalwart of public service and one who "builds and strengthens" communities through education. I've had the good fortune of working with Dr. de la Pena while I was a science teacher at Kapa`a High School and we continue to collaborate on educational issues as I serve as the Principal at `Ele`ele Elementary School.

Dr. de la Pena has motivated students to pursue higher education and mentors those who desire to find solutions to problems that challenge them. In addition, he actively supports programs that raise funds for college scholarships (i.e., Miss Kaua`i Filipina Scholarship Pageant, Kaua`i Filipino Community Council).

In the community, Dr. de la Pena supports farmers through lectures and workshops on taro production. As a retired agronomist, he continues to assist the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources as cooperator in the taro breeding and improvement program. He has been an advocate of the successful corn seed companies on Kaua`i, too.

I staunchly support Dr. de la Pena's confirmation to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents so he can continue to be a voice for the people of Kaua`i. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the phone numbers above.

Sincerely,

Liela Nitta, Ed.D.

Liela Nitta, Ed.D.

Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 17, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

Governor's Message No. 307
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii
Gubernatorial Nominee RAMON S. DE LA PENA, PhD
Term to Expire: 06/30/2012

by
Andrew G. Hashimoto

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

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I am the Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am pleased to provide personal testimony to the decision-making process on GM 307, the consideration and confirmation of Dr. Ramon S. De La Pena as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

I am in strong support for Dr. De La Pena's reappointment to the Board of Regents as the Kauai representative on the Board. Dr. De La Pena has been a contributing member of the Board since 2004.

Dr. De La Pena's long association with CTAHR started in 1960 as a college student. He received his master's degree in 1964 and his doctorate in 1967, both in plant physiology. He served as a CTAHR agronomist and professor from 1983 to 2001, during which time he conducted research on improving important tropical crops such as dryland taro, other root and tuber crops, rice, corn and other plants. He authored over 80 scientific papers on his findings.

Dr. De La Pena also served as the superintendent of the UH Kauai Branch Research Station, and was the director of the Kauai County Office of Economic Development, and as such, gained valuable insight into Kauai's strengths and needs. He generously donates his time to numerous civic and community activities including the UH Regents Scholarship Selection Committee, the Kauai Planning Commission, and various Filipino community associations.

Dr. De La Pena retired from public service in 2001, and holds the designation as emeritus professor with CTAHR. He has a friendly, open nature and a keen intellectual mind, and values research and education as a means to improving communities and its people.

Governor's Message No. 307
Ramon De La Pena, PhD
UH Board of Regents Nominee
Page 2

I have no doubt that Dr. De La Pena will be an effective, contributing asset as Kauai's representative on the Board of Regents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in behalf of Ramon S. De La Pena's confirmation.