

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2009

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225

Re: GM 312 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERTA M. RICHARDS.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education.

My name is Roy Ogawa and I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Roberta Richards. I am one of three Commissioners from the State of Hawaii and the past Chair of the 15 state Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. I support the confirmation of Roberta Richards as a Commissioner. I first met Ms. Richards when I was first appointed to WICHE in 2004. During that time I have come to know her as a conscientious and supportive commissioner who has served on several committees and provides her knowledge and background of the education system to benefit what we do at WICHE. Roberta is presently the Principal at Pauoa Elementary School and despite her busy schedule continues to volunteer her time and expertise.

I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Roberta Richards as a Commissioner for WICHE. Hawaii needs her on the Commission since she recognizes the important work of WICHE and is very supportive of the dedicated staff of professionals at WICHE. Thank you very much.