

## RCUH

1. What skills, qualifications and expertise have prepared you to serve as a board member of RCUH?

*My formal education is primarily in business management. This includes a BA in Economics with a minor in Business Administration, an MBA (from the Univ. of Hawaii), and a 9-week executive education program at Harvard Business School that specifically focuses on issues of top management; ie. strategy, technology & innovation, risk management. Thus, I have the formal skills that will facilitate proper oversight of RCUH.*

*In addition to my educational qualifications, I have substantial and diverse experience in starting up, operating, managing, acquiring, selling, and merging businesses. I have personally managed a portfolio of businesses with annual revenues of about \$75M, with a few hundred employees. My experience also includes substantial hands-on experience managing technical projects and people; the principal job of RCUH. My experience also includes working with large defense contractors, government agencies, and military and congressional officials. I have first-hand knowledge of government contracting procedures and regulations.*

*Finally, I am a long time Hawaii resident with a strong sense of community and a deep appreciation for the tremendous value that a robust research enterprise can add to the community.*

2. What are your top three priorities as a board member? What short and long term goals do you have for RCUH?

### Priorities:

- 1. Be an effective and efficient project execution organization as measured by our customers.*
- 2. Promote UH and RCUH as a top-tier R&D organization, enhancing its ability to win grants and research contracts.*
- 3. Facilitate the flowdown of benefits from UH/RCUH to the community with respect to enhancement of educational, employment, and economic/entrepreneurial opportunities*

### Short Term Goals

- 1. Ensure UH/RCUH is cognizant of, and pursuing, new opportunities available as a result of the federal economic stimulus package.*
- 2. Ensure RCUH has systems, especially software infrastructure, that will allow it to function at maximum efficiency. This should be combined with metrics of performance, and a management team that has real world experience.*

### **Long Term Goals**

- 1. Ensure that RCUH remains independent of UH's administrative policies and procedures so that it can operate like a business; and that its primary mission of providing support services to the research and training mission of the University does not get diluted.**
- 2. Establish UH/RCUH as a "go-to" organization for large-budget R&D sponsors.**

3. As you know, the President of the University of Hawaii also serves as the President of RCUH. In the coming months, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents will be called upon to select a new President. What qualifications to believe the Board of Regents should consider most important with respect to RCUH's mission?

***The new President of the University should view the research, work force development, and economic development missions of the University with the same importance as the educational and community service missions.***

4. What role, if any, do you see RCUH playing in the State's effort to recover from the current economic crisis?

***RCUH can play a critical role in the management of federal stimulus funding, especially for research and training. I believe that the National Science Foundation will be providing additional funding for existing programs, and RCUH's current services will allow UH to take full advantage of that funding. I also understand that there is funding for workforce development in green jobs, healthcare, and information technology. RCUH can help UH and state and county agencies identify, secure, and manage that additional funding.***

DANIEL K. INOUYE  
HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE,  
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND COORDINATION  
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April 3, 2009

**The Honorable Jill Tokuda**  
**Chair**  
**Senate Committee on Higher Education**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218**  
**415 S. King St.**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Dear Chairperson Tokuda:

I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Robert (Bob) Dewitz's nomination to serve as a Director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH).

I have had the pleasure of working with Bob for many years on a variety of matters that demonstrate his ability to be an effective and engaged Director of RCUH. He has extensive, first-hand experience in federal and state contracting and procurement processes and statutes. He is a seasoned, highly ethical business person, and has orchestrated several significant teaming arrangements between locally owned firms and major defense contractors.

He has worked with our office on matters of significant importance to Hawaii's economy. He has a deep appreciation of Hawaii's relationship with the military and has been effective in working with senior military leaders on various initiatives – from the preservation of the local industrial base, to bringing to fruition some of the most important public-private partnership programs that exist today between the Navy and Hawaii's private sector.

Within applicable rules and regulations, I recommend Bob DeWitz for a Director position at RCUH fully and without reservation. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,



JENNIFER G. SABAS  
Chief of Staff - Hawaii

JGS:sd

## The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii



Testimony  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Thursday, April 9, 2009  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
1:15 p.m.

by  
Michael Hamnett, Executive Director  
Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

### **RE: Governor's Message 525**

Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, gubernatorial nominee **Robert D. Dewitz**, for a term to expire 6/30/2013.

The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) supports the appointment of Mr. Robert Dewitz to the RCUH Board of Directors.

Although we are not personally acquainted with Mr. Dewitz, his experience in the business arena will be helpful to RCUH in carrying out its mission of supporting the research enterprise at the University of Hawaii as well as the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

BAE Systems  
Hawaii Shipyards  
P.O. Box 30989  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820-0989  
808-423-8888

**BAE SYSTEMS**

March 26, 2009

Ms. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 S. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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Subject: Letter of Recommendation in favor of **Robert Dewitz** for the position of Director,  
Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)

Dear Chair Tokuda & Committee Members:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation in support of Robert (Bob) Dewitz's nomination to serve as a Director for RCUH.

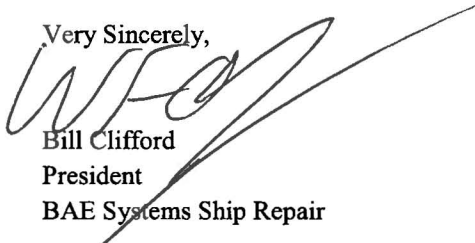
I have worked with Bob for over 15 years; first as business partners in Hawaii, and more recently as a "Teaming Partner" between his firm and BAE Systems; one of the largest aerospace and defense contractors in the United States. Bob is a careful business manager who brings a focused, analytical approach to business ventures, while still being creatively entrepreneurial. He is absolutely honest and ethical; he has my complete trust and confidence.

We have also worked together as officers of our industry association and made numerous trips to Washington D.C. to lobby congressional and senior military officials to bring opportunities to Hawaii and the entire Pacific Rim. Bob played an important and effective role in these efforts which have resulted in a vibrant private sector Ship Repair industry in the State of Hawaii.

Bob is deeply committed to Hawaii and I know would enjoy, appreciate, and work hard at this opportunity to give back to the community.

If you would like to discuss Bob's qualifications directly or in more detail, I would be pleased to do so. I can be reached by email at [bill.clifford@baesystems.com](mailto:bill.clifford@baesystems.com) and/or phone at (757) 672-5270.

Very Sincerely,



Bill Clifford  
President  
BAE Systems Ship Repair

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*THE ESTATE OF JAMES CAMPBELL*

April 1, 2009

Ms. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 S. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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Subject: Letter of Recommendation in favor of **Robert Dewitz** for the position of  
Director, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)

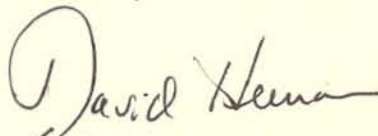
Dear Chair Tokuda & Committee Members:

I offer this letter of recommendation in support of Robert (Bob) Dewitz's nomination to serve as a Director of RCUH.

I have known Bob for approximately 12 years in a variety of business and social settings. He is a talented and seasoned executive with a keen appreciation for the role that higher education plays in strengthening the social and economic fabric of Hawaii. He has an exceptional grasp of economic development opportunities. His recent participation in the Harvard Business School Owner/President Executive Education program, which has its strong focus on the management of technology and innovation, is another plus.

I highly recommend Bob for this important position. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information on his behalf.

Sincerely,



David A. Heenan  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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DEAVER  
LUNG  
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11/27/2009

April 6, 2009

Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Vice-Chair  
Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker  
Hon. Russell S. Kokubun  
Hon. Dwight Y. Takamine  
Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi  
Hon. Sam Slom  
Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Robert Dewitz, Nominee for Director, Research Corporation of the University of  
Hawai'i

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members:

I write to communicate my strong support for the Senate's confirmation of the nomination of Robert Dewitz as a director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

I have known Mr. Dewitz in several capacities for several years, ranging from our joint efforts on various issues during my tenure as a Member of Congress, to my representation of his companies as a private attorney, to my personal relationship with him and his equally-accomplished wife, Hiroko. Based on my personal interaction with Bob in all of these areas, I believe strongly that he would prove an invaluable addition to the RCUH board in many ways.

You can see from Bob's resume that his background and work experiences are highly diverse and that he has succeeded in several enterprises and other undertakings. The sum total of his accomplishments would add a valuable perspective to all of the RCUH board's deliberations. But perhaps Bob's most valuable contribution would be his expertise in federal research and development, especially Hawai'i-specific, and federal procurement. As you know, this is a major and growing component not only of the Hawai'i economy and federal expenditures here, but of our University's financial base.

Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Senate  
April 6, 2009  
Page 2

Federal defense expenditures is an area Bob knows especially well, having not only served in the military here, but having personally dealt for several decades with the federal procurement process. I know from my own experience with him during my congressional service that he has actively championed Hawai'i small businesses in ensuring that they are not excluded from competing fairly for federally-funded research and jobs. He knows this world, from its language to its people, and RCUH would benefit greatly from that knowledge as it pursues its own related efforts.

What is not as evident from the words of his resume is the quality of the person. Bob Dewitz is a highly competent and seasoned professional who has maintained a strong sense of ethics throughout all of his activities. He is straight and fair in his business and personal dealings and with his employees, earning respect and extending it as well. He would broaden RCUH's reach within our community and materially add to its credibility and ability to accomplish its goals.

Finally, what is also only partially addressed in his resume is Bob's deep commitment to public service and to giving back to our Hawai'i. He has been actively involved in many non-profit organizations over the years, ranging from the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center to the USS Missouri Memorial Association. This is a passion he has shared with Hiroko, who herself contributes in various ways, including as a board member of the Japanese Women's Society and of the Honolulu Foundation.

Having achieved most of his personal and professional goals, Bob Dewitz's motivation for serving on the RCUH board is purely selfless: he simply wants to continue to give back in the best way he can. I strongly endorse his nomination as a director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you very much for considering my perspective. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or needs.

With aloha,



Ed Case

EEC/jah





April 1, 2009

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 S. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation in favor of **Robert Dewitz** for the position of  
Director, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)

Dear Senator Tokuda & Committee Members:

I am pleased to offer this letter of recommendation in support of Robert (Bob) Dewitz's nomination to serve as a Director of RCUH.

He is a successful, highly ethical businessman and has demonstrated an ability to work well as an intermediary between large defense contractors and smaller, locally owned businesses. He understands the important role that the Department of Defense plays in supporting local R&D, high technology efforts. He also understands and appreciates the critical role that our congressional delegation plays in this effort and can make positive contributions in that regard.

I am very confident that Bob will be an active and effective addition to the Board of RCUH. If you would like to discuss Bob's qualifications directly, I would be pleased to do so.

Bob is an exceptional  
nominee. Strong leader  
with a clear technical  
foundation. He has my  
unquestionable support.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS B. FARGO  
Admiral, USN (Ret)

**Robert K.U. Kihune**  
1597 Haleloke Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

March 26, 2009

Ms. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 S. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: HREtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Letter of Recommendation in favor of **Robert Dewitz** for the position of  
Director, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH);  
Hearing on 4/7/09 at 1:15 pm in Room #225

Dear Chair Tokuda & Committee Members:

My name is Robert Kihune, a retired U.S. Navy Vice Admiral and a Trustee of the Kamehameha Schools as well as the CEO of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. I offer this letter of recommendation in support of Robert (Bob) Dewitz's nomination to serve as a Director of RCUH.

I first met Bob when he served as a Naval Officer on my staff in Pearl Harbor in 1981. I am pleased to say that I now have the opportunity to serve with him again on the Board of Directors of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. A constant of Bob's style through those years is a commitment to hard, thorough work, to knowing the facts, and to "getting the job done". He is a successful businessman and has demonstrated an ability to bring together synergistic combinations of locally owned businesses and the largest of global defense contractors. He has a deep, first-hand appreciation for the role of the military in Hawaii's economy and is respected in that arena.

Bob understands and supports the role that higher education plays in strengthening the social fabric of our State, and of the direct value it brings to our citizens in terms of economic opportunity and growth. He believes in "giving back" to the community and does so not only through his service to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, but also through active support of the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, the Honolulu Council of the Navy League, The Japan-American Foundation, the Honolulu Foundation, and other worthy causes.

I am very confident that Bob will be an active and effective addition to the Board of RCUH. If you would like to discuss Bob's qualifications directly, I would be pleased to do so.

Very Sincerely,

Robert K.U. Kihune