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April 8, 2009

Senator Jill N. Tokuda  
Senator Norman Sakamoto  
Committee on Higher Education

Re: Support for James H. Q. Lee for Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Dear Senator Tokuda and Senator Sakamoto:

I am pleased and honored to be writing a letter in support of James H. Q. Lee for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

James Lee has been a friend of mine for the past thirty years since we were in law school together at the William S. Richardson School of Law. James was a hard working and intelligent law student—one who we all respected and looked to for guidance on our studies. We worked together as editors for the Law Review and James could always be counted on to produce good work. While for most people, attending law school was an extreme challenge in itself, James juggled numerous responsibilities. In addition to law school, he continued to work on his CPA designation as well as working at the family restaurant business. In addition, James was a strong supporter of the University during law school and his support has continued—whether it be attending sporting events or participating in other alumni activities.

Following law school, James developed a successful law practice. On a personal note, I can attest to the legal services he provided to my late father for a real estate venture and my relatives' estate planning. During the same time he was starting off his law practice, James also managed the family business, building a commercial retail building in Kapahulu, along with a new, larger and upscale location for the family Hee Hing Restaurant. His business ventures became so successful that he later gave up his law practice to put his full efforts into the businesses.

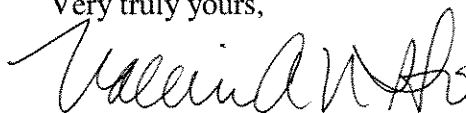
More importantly, through the years, James has continued to be a true friend. His generosity is unsurpassed. When my husband, Hiroshi Ito, was diagnosed with cancer in August, 2005, James planned a fundraiser at his restaurant for us and offered his support in whatever way he could. I know that James has demonstrated his support to so many others—including Big Brother and Big Sisters and Iolani School.

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I cannot begin to express how strongly I feel that James would be an excellent Regent. He is a smart businessman, attorney, and the epitome of public service and commitment.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you will consider and confirm James to the Board of Regents—I cannot imagine that there would be a more qualified candidate than he. Please feel free to contact me should you need any further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie A. U. Ito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a distinct "A" and "U".

Valerie A. U. Ito

**David Z. Arakawa  
99-1378 Hele Mauna Place  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701**

**April 9, 2009**

**Via Capitol Website**

**Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda  
Honorable Vice Chair Norman Sakamoto  
Senate Committee on Higher Education Members**

**GM 580: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee JAMES H. Q. LEE, for a term to expire 6/30/2014  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 9, 2009, 1:15 p.m. in CR 308**

Dear Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Norman Sakamoto and Senate Committee on Higher Education Members:

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am testifying in support of the nomination of Mr. James H.Q. Lee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Mr. Lee for over 30 years, first as classmates at the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii, then as colleagues in our different law practices, in various business and government relationships and through mutual community service contacts. Mr. Lee has an outstanding record of academic achievement, impressive experience in the accounting and legal professions, and a sincere and long-standing commitment to the community – all of which will make him a valuable member of the Board of Regents.

**Background of James H. Q. Lee** Mr. Lee is a *Cum Laude* graduate of Iolani School; graduated with honors from the School of Business at University of Hawaii at Manoa; and he also served on Law Review and received his *Juris Doctorate* from the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii. Mr. Lee has been a licensed attorney and practicing since 1981, and has also been a Certified Public Accountant since 1978. He is a member of the Hawaii State and American Bar Associations, Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants and National Association of Accountants. In his current law practice his concentration Real Property; Estate Planning; Taxation; Commercial Transactions and Criminal Tax Defense. For over 30 years he has also been an owner and operator in restaurant businesses, including Hee Hing Restaurant and Sam Choy's Restaurants in Hawaii, Guam and Japan. He is also fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Mr. Lee is married and has two children, but still finds time to give back to the community. He has been very active in a number of community and educational organizations, including, but not limited to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, Boy Scouts of America, the Downtown Jaycees, and Iolani School. He has also received a National Philanthropic Award for Outstanding Small Business.

**In Support of Mr. Lee's Nomination to the Board of Regents.** Mr. Lee's nomination has been approved by the Regents Candidate Advisory Council, and the Governor has submitted his name to the State Senate for nomination to the University Board of Regents. The Board of Regents play a vital role in the affairs of the University of Hawaii, as they oversee the general management and control of the University; establish major policies relating to the University; exercise control over the university through its executive officer, the university president; and have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management and operation of the university.

The University of Hawaii is the only public university of higher education in the state and includes over 53,000 students at 10 UH campuses statewide with an additional campus in West Oahu in the process of being built. The Board of Regents have the institutional commitment and responsibility for the effective management of the University to insure that the citizens of the State of Hawai'i are provided with the finest possible higher educational opportunities.

In light of the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Regents, I believe that Mr. Lee would make an excellent Regent, based on his outstanding record of academic achievement, impressive experience in the accounting and legal professions, and his sincere and long-standing commitment to the community.

Based on the above, we respectfully request your **favorable consideration of GM 580 and the nomination of James H.Q. Lee to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.**

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **support for Mr. Lee and GM 580.**