

## **Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii**

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1. What motivated you to apply to be a member of the Board of Regents, and how are you uniquely qualified to represent your geographic constituency?

The underlying reason I applied to the Board of Regents is because I value making a positive contribution to the lives of others. Education has had a great impact on improving my life, and I hope to ensure that others have the same educational opportunities that I have had. Education not only enriches and transforms individual lives, but also contributes to the diversification of our economy, empowers minorities, and provides our state with an educated citizenry and a well-trained workforce.

I am qualified for the Board of Regents for a variety of reasons but, most notably for my experiences with co-curricular activities within the University. To illustrate, I have been active in the Graduate Student Organization as a representative for the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene for the last two years. I have been on the Executive Council of the University of Hawaii Student Caucus as a representative from the Graduate Student Organization for two years, first as the Treasurer, and at present, as the Vice Chairperson. I am also the Graduate Student Organization Judicial Affairs Representative for the Academic Grievance Committee. In addition, I have volunteered for the UH Buildings & Grounds Award committee and the Willard Wilson Award committee.

Of these experiences, my time with the University of Hawaii Student Caucus, in particular, has provided me with the unique opportunity to visit and interact with individuals from each of the ten university campuses. Meetings are held each month at a different campus, and this has given me the opportunity to tour each campus and hear issues of concern from students, staff and faculty. These experiences have provided me with an understanding of the issues that the entire University of Hawaii System faces.

2. As a regent what will be your top three priorities for the University?

My first priority as a Regent will be to improve the educational assets of the State. In particular I will focus upon the educational pipeline into the University of Hawaii System by partnering with K-12 education providers to reduce remediation and improve student preparation, participation, and performance into the higher education arena. Within the University of Hawaii system I hope to increase college application and enrollment rates, increase retention rates, increase transfer rates from two year to four year educational programs, and increase matriculation from programs.

Second, I will encourage the expansion of workforce development initiatives by preparing workers for a technologically advanced and globally competitive economy. Specifically, I support increasing outreach to those not present in the workforce, increasing outreach to the under-employed, increasing access and

service for the underserved, and expanding capacity in critical shortage areas. These shortage areas include teaching, nursing, computing, social work, and hospitality.

Third, I will focus my energies on capital improvements. The effects of the deferred maintenance backlog are now being felt with the deterioration of campus facilities. During these times of budget crises it is important to support our infrastructure. By maintaining our facilities from deterioration now, it will save the University of Hawaii System millions of dollars in costly repairs in the future. It is not only important to maintain the existing facilities, but to update and improve our current facilities as well. Providing facilities that meet the demands of emerging technologies will expand the University's ability to attract leading researchers and premier students.

3. In looking at the University's strategic plan and the goals laid out by President Greenwood in her State of the University Hawaii system, what particular areas are of particular interest to you, and how will your particular skill sets and experiences help to move these areas forward?

I am particularly impressed with the ambitious goals President Greenwood has established. The proposed Hawaii Graduation Initiative to increase the number of college graduates by 25 percent by the year 2015 is a worthwhile aspiration. In particular, I support the approach that will focus on access, affordability, and placing more students from the State of Hawaii within the University of Hawaii System. As a full-time student I can personally relate to the financial pressures of pursuing higher education. Based upon my leadership experience and MBA education I encourage efforts that are entrepreneurial in nature throughout the University of Hawaii System to achieve these goals. In addition, the relationships I have developed through co-curricular activities across the University of Hawaii System will help to ensure these goals are implemented throughout the organization.

4. 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 in the budget?

Numerous activities exist for the University of Hawaii to generate additional income. In a few words, I hope to initiate programs for campuses, schools, and departments to increase entrepreneurial activity. By placing appropriate incentives in place, these units will be motivated to engage in activities that foster growth not only for the university system, but for their individual programs. To illustrate, some examples may include partnering with the private sector; developing new educational programs; increasing the number of night and distance education classes; developing dual enrollment tracks; or seeking private and corporate sponsorships.

The response to the previous budget cuts was to reduce budgets equally across the University to allow individual campuses and schools to determine how budgets should be adjusted. This approach empowered chancellors and deans, the individuals most knowledgeable about their campuses and schools, to seek cost saving measures in ways central leadership never could. Although, any additional budget cuts should not only maintain this approach, but should also consider changes that could be made to the university system as a whole.

Lastly, when considering future budget cuts, the University should remain committed to the established mission and priorities. Focusing on the mission and strategic plan will not only keep the University on focus, but will ensure a dedication for improvements, even during budget cuts.

5. 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 10 campus system provides a broad based educational system managed by centralized leadership. Yet, each campus within the University of Hawaii System has its own mission, unique programs, and serves a distinct population. University leadership should respect the identities and individualized needs of each campus, while balancing the needs of the greater population that is the University of Hawaii System and the State of Hawaii.

Because each campus has a unique mission, and a unique set of programs and degrees, each campus will have individual needs and will require different resources at different times. Thus, every effort should be made to ensure that resources are disbursed as equal as possible while understanding that the resource demands for each campus is unique.

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

Although the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and the State Legislature are separate entities with different duties, the greater mission of each is to serve the people of the State of Hawaii. Each entity's success is interdependent upon the success of the other. It has been my experience that establishing and fostering strong working relationships is the most valuable asset when working towards a common goal. I hope to establish relationships with the State Legislature that respects the roles that each organization plays while working collaboratively to improve the State of Hawaii.

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

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.



UNIVERSITY  
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Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

April 8, 2010

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I am honored to be able to give my highest recommendation of **Matthew Williams** to the student seat of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I have known Matthew for two years in my capacity as the advisor to the University of Hawaii Student Caucus (UHSC), and as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

The UHSC is comprised of at least two representatives from each of ten UH campus student governments, and meets monthly to discuss current student issues that affect UH students systemwide. The members of the group advocate for the interests of students as a whole, and work closely with the campus and system administration to do so. They also keep actively apprised of legislative issues and budgets that impact students.

As the advisor for the UHSC, I have had the opportunity to observe Matthew lead students with a fair and balanced approach. In Matthew's first year on the UHSC, he was elected to the Executive Committee as the Treasurer and now in his second year is the Vice Chair. Matthew has a natural leadership style with articulate communication skills and the ability to approach difficult issues with a reasoned, balanced manner. The members of the UHSC come from a variety of socio-economic, educational, and cultural backgrounds, and on numerous occasions, there were ideological conflicts. However, by carefully considering the viewpoints of others, respecting the diverse viewpoints on complex issues, being considerate of the needs of each campus, and actively participating in lively discussions, Matthew manages to respond consistently with respect and compassion, and in thoughtful and articulate responses, and always leads the members to stick to the issues at hand. His maturity on the UHSC Executive Committee has had a profound effect on the participants, and largely because of Matthew's exceptional skill and professionalism, the UHSC functions as highly respected organization.

As an Executive Committee member, Matthew not only advocates for the Manoa graduate students he represents but for all the students in the University of Hawaii System. He has visited all of the ten campuses, and has actively sought to understand the current student issues on each of the campuses. I have been impressed that Matthew has been able to effectively work with and relate to the students from the various campuses as a humble leader. Matthew consistently reminds the UHSC about the mission of the University to serve the needs of the State of Hawaii – producing more college graduates and an educated workforce.

Matthew will serve on the UH Board of Regents with the qualities of a natural leader: intelligence, collaboration and integrity. Moreover, he will serve with an enthusiasm to make the University better for its students, its employees, and the State of Hawaii.

In short, I highly recommend Matthew for the Board of Regents position. I am certain that he will be a true asset to the Board and continue to contribute to the University in this new capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen C. Lee".

Karen C. Lee  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

April 8, 2010

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

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I am pleased to give my support to the appointment of Matthew Williams to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents student seat. Mr. William's is a graduate student in the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH). I have known Matthew for two years after he was admitted into the inaugural cohort of the highly competitive Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) in January 2008. Matthew is an outstanding student in the program. He successfully completed the pre-licensure coursework in 2008, and is currently progressing in the advanced nursing practice specialty coursework in Nursing Administration with a joint MBA degree with the Shidler College of Business.

Matthew exemplifies excellent leadership and communication skills. He is the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) representative for the SONDH. As the GSO representative, he is the liaison between the GSO and the graduate students and faculty within the SONDH. In this role, I have come to know him better through his membership on the SONDH Shared Governance Council, which provides the sharing of viewpoints between and among constituent groups who have complementary expertise and experience to inform decision-making to achieve the mission and vision of the school. I found Matthew to be professional, articulate, collaborative and forward thinking.

Matthew is a strong advocate for students, individually and collectively, as well as internal and external to the SONDH. For example, Matthew was selected to represent MEPN students and testify to the Hawai'i Legislature regarding provisions that would allow MEPN students to qualify for application for registered nurse licensure. The successful passage of HB 2165 in 2008 has made a difference to assist with addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurse professionals to enter the workforce in a shorter amount of time and contribute to the increasing pool of advanced practice nurses and potential future faculty. To date, like Matthew, many of the MEPN students are serving healthcare agencies throughout Hawai'i while they continue with their advanced practice specialty coursework.

In another instance, after a school-wide meeting to discuss planning and implementation regarding the budget reductions to the university and SONDH, Matthew approached me and discussed the merits of the plan. He demonstrated a fair and balanced perspective that considered the needs not only of the students, but of the faculty and staff as well. This demonstrated his consideration and commitment to the greater mission of the School and the understanding of the need to work collectively towards that common goal.

Matthew embraces the role of higher education in his personal and professional endeavors, and knows the value and importance that the University of Hawai'i affords our entire community, especially students. He has demonstrated a clear commitment to improving the SONDH and

Senator Tokuda

April 8, 2010

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University of Hawai'i to ensure we address the needs of our constituencies. He brings enthusiasm in serving others, values diversity in views, and works toward developing working relationships between students and their faculty. Matthew is highly motivated, intelligent, dependable, fair, self-disciplined, and trustworthy. He has a pleasant demeanor, collaborative style, and strong work ethic making him the ideal member of any team.

Thank you for this opportunity to endorse Matthew for the Board of Regents. I am confident that Matthew will exceed your expectations in this role and bring a valuable perspective to the Board.

Sincerely,



Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor



*Kāhi Mōhala*  
*Behavioral Health*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

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April 7, 2010

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 587-7215  
Fax: 587-7220  
E-mail: [sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Mr. Matthew Williams for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents student seat. As the Chief Nurse Officer for Kāhi Mōhala Behavioral Health, I know Mr. Williams from his role as a registered nurse, and have quickly realized that he is a key asset to our nursing team.

Matthew's position, by its very nature, places him in a leadership role. He works as a Charge Nurse with children and adolescents overseeing a patient load as large as 18 patients and a staff of three to four paraprofessionals. In the short time that I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Williams, he has demonstrated leadership skills outside his traditional role.

To illustrate, Mr. Williams approached me to discuss his observations regarding a communication gap between the organization's nursing leadership and the daily operational staff. During our meeting, Mr. Williams presented a PowerPoint presentation to clearly present his understanding of the problem. His presentation was based on an academic literature review, interviews with employees, and knowledge obtained through professional networking with behavioral health leaders. I was surprised and impressed by his initiative. Mr. Williams suggested a solution to the problem, a Shared Governance Council. He has since initiated the Council and they are working diligently to improve the patient care we deliver and our work processes.

In addition, due to Mr. William's willingness to take on additional responsibilities and his commitment to the success of the hospital, he has been asked to participate in quality improvement committees. To have an individual who has only been working with the hospital for six months take on these responsibilities demonstrates his ability to quickly overcome a learning curve and take personal responsibility for the success of the



organization. He continues to work diligently to make the hospital a better place for patients and employees alike.

During the time I have known Mr. Williams, he has distinguished himself as a conscientious and energetic new graduate nurse with interest in leadership and management. I have enormous respect for and value his leadership skills, and have been immensely pleased to work with him. Mr. Williams will bring to the Board of Regents an energetic work ethic as well as an interest in scholarly research and program development. I highly value his attention to detail, personal initiative, and commitment to the success of the organization.

Should Mr. William's be selected for this student seat, the Board of Regents will greatly benefit from Mr. William's talents. He will provide to the Board an energetic drive, a strong ability to network, intelligence, integrity, genuineness, and a commitment to the development of the University.

I strongly urge you to carefully consider Mr. Williams who is, quite simply, an asset to any team.

Respectfully,



Midge Blandamer, MSN, PMHCNS-BC, CNE-A  
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**LATE**

Hawai'i  
Women's  
Political  
Caucus

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Alice Tucker  
Director

A State Chapter of the  
National Women's  
Political Caucus

DATE: April 13, 2010

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members

FROM: Faye Kennedy, President  
Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus (HWPC)

RE: GM 377 Matthew Williams  
GM 378 Chuck Gee  
GM 379 Ronald Montgomery

**Tuesday, 4/13/10 Room 329 1:15 p.m.**

The Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus (HWPC) is very concerned and disappointed that Governor Lingle has nominated three men to serve on the UH Board of Regents at a time when fourteen of the fifteen regents are already men.

We find it shocking that our governor has shown so little regard for gender equity and diversity when there are so many qualified women available. The fact that she is the first female to hold this office in Hawai'i makes these nominations even more mystifying and disturbing. As there are more women than men enrolled in the UH system, this compounds the affront to our sense of fair play.

The HWPC is a multi-partisan organization committed to increasing the numbers of qualified women to elected and appointed offices and bettering the lives of women, families and marginalized groups. We consider education at every level to be fundamental to our mission.

While we are not commenting on any of the male nominees under consideration today, we appreciate the opportunity to express our very serious concerns about the lack of balance and gender equity reflected in these nominations.

April 7, 2010

Dear members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Megan Chock, and I have served with Matt Williams on the University of Hawaii Student Caucus for the past academic year. I have been in student government for four years at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and have come to appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to be a student leader. I believe that Matt understands how the University of Hawaii system works and will represent student interests to the best of his ability. I feel that he appreciates the University of Hawaii system, and although he is busy being a graduate student and a new father, he has shown that he is also dedicated to student government. His experience working with Caucus and as a member of GSO provides him with a good perspective and understanding of how students at the University of Hawaii think and feel.

I feel optimistic that if Matt Williams is appointed to the student regent position, he will make a strong effort to stay connected with the students. This communication has been a little lacking in recent years, and I hope that with Matt's appointment, a better connection between the student regent and the student leaders will be sustained.

I support Matt Williams' appointment to the Board of Regents student seat and would like to see him take this position to better represent student opinion and help to forge a stronger relationship between the Board of Regents and the University of Hawaii students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [mmpchock@hawaii.edu](mailto:mmpchock@hawaii.edu).

Yours truly,

Megan Chock  
Secretary and Facilities and Budget chairperson, University of Hawaii Student Caucus  
Senator-at-Large, ASUH

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to write about my classmate Matt Williams. I have the pleasure of attending the University of Hawaii MBA program with Matt. He is respected by all of his peers because of his altruism and motivation. Matt is a superb team player but will make his intelligent and insightful ideas known. His willingness to help both in and out of classroom leaves his kindness unmatched. The passion he applies to all aspects of his life is inspiring and he will do a great job in any setting. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak about an exceptional human being. If you would like me to expand please contact me anytime.

Sincerely,  
Casey Hewes  
454-7381  
hewes@hawaii.edu

Testimony supporting GM 377

Jeffrey Rich

President, Graduate Student Organization, UH Mānoa

Dear Higher Education Committee Members-

I am writing to support the appointment of Matthew Williams to the Board of Regents. I am familiar with Matt through his diligent work on behalf of the graduate students at UH Manoa. I asked Matt to continue serving as the representative for graduate students at UH Manoa on the UH Student Caucus. Matt was recommended by the previous president of GSO, Keith Sakuda, due to his previous service as Caucus representative. Matt gladly agreed to continue serving and was appointed Vice-chair of UH Student Caucus at the beginning of this academic year's student caucus sessions in October.

Matt has worked hard to keep GSO informed about important matters relevant to graduate students at UH Manoa while representing their interests on UH student caucus and representing UH students in the Hawai'i legislature. Matt's continued work in student caucus has provided him with valuable experience that will no doubt aid him as he continues to serve the University of Hawai'i community in the future. I can definitely recommend him for a position on the Board of Regents.

Thank You,  
Jeff Rich

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**From:** Michael Sado [masado@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2010 1:46 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** GM377 Tuesday 4/13 at 1:15 pm, room 329

I want to submit my full support to Matt Williams for his appointment to the UH Board of Regents. I feel he will be an excellent choice and will provide very valuable and insightful points of view.

Thank You!

Michael A. Sado  
ASUH-HawCC Vice President  
UHSC Neighbor Island At-Large

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**From:** Ho'omano Pakele [djkeino@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2010 3:06 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 13 B.O.R. Student Regent Nominee

Aloha Members of the Higher Education Committee,

I would like to testify in favor of Matthew Williams nomination for B.O.R. Student Regent. Working with the U.H. Student Caucus Executive Council for the past two years as 2008-2009 Secretary/Data Director and 2009-2010 Executive Chair I have worked closely with Matt and have much faith in his ability to fill the Student Regent seat with respect and dignity. Being able to see his passion as a UH Student Caucus Delegate and working towards the improvement of the UH System together with our fellow delegates, I trust that as the B.O.R. Student Regent, Matt will be a very powerful asset. I fully support the nomination for Matthew Williams as the B.O.R. Student Regent. Aloha,  
--Ho'omano Pakele

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University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student Association  
President 09-10

University of Hawai'i Student Caucus  
Executive Chair 09-10

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