



April 13, 2010

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair and
Members of the COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

From: Ann S. Freed, Legislative Chair

RE: Governors Messages 377, 378, and 379

The Hawai'i Democratic Women's Caucus writes in opposition to the nominations for University of Hawai'i Regents. While these men may be well-educated individuals with fine intentions we are concerned about the extreme imbalance on the Board of Regents.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus does not support these nominations. In a university system whose staff is 51.6% women and whose students are 57% women, women need to have representation at the highest level. It is absurd that of 15 regents, only one is a woman. We need a board of regents that encourages gender equity in our University.

This past February the Regents Advisory Council sent the Governor the names of seven candidates, including three women. She announced two appointments, both men. She still had the opportunity to choose one woman from the student candidate list, but that did not happen.

To those who say that appointments should consider the "best qualified" regardless of gender, we remind them that our democracy is based on diversity and equal representation. In addition since most women in high places are over-qualified for their jobs having been required to do better than their male counterparts in order to even be considered. We sincerely doubt that qualified women could not be found, and are very concerned that these appointments have an element of political patronage.

On behalf of the women and girls of Hawai'i we urge the committee to hold these appointments and ask the governor to re-evaluate her choices. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair Legislative Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i Women's Caucus



LATE

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
1:15 p.m.

GM 377, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MATTHEW R. WILLIAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

GM 378, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHUCK Y. GEE, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

GM 379, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONALD D. MONTGOMERY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is J.N. Musto, Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly. I apologize for the delay in getting this testimony to the Committee. However, I feel that it is essential that I testify regarding the nominees for confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

First of all, UHPA did not support the changes that brought about the process by which regent nominees are vetted and sent to the Governor and brought to Senate for confirmation. We so testified at the time. UHPA has not been invited to participate in the process as the exclusive representative of the faculty of the University of Hawaii. That being said, as a fundamental principle, there should be the ethnic and gender diversity of these islands represented in the composition of the Board. We believe that there are qualified citizens of all ethnicities and gender, capable and willing to serve as regents. Therefore, it is disturbing that the Governor's nominees would result in the Board of Regents having only one female on a Board of fifteen.

Certainly, there are many factors to be considered when making recommendations. In this regard, we support the continuation of Dr. Chuck Gee on the Board of Regents. Dr. Gee has been a strong voice in helping the Board understand the uniqueness of the University of Hawaii, and leading in this approval of policies for the successful governance of the institution. In matters of diversity, the Board of Regents need to have individuals experienced in the management of higher education. In this manner, Dr. Gee fills this important gap.

Except for biographies and comments, UHPA has had no direct contact with either Mr. Williams or Mr. Montgomery. It is noteworthy that since the inception of a designated position for

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive · Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 · Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

GM 377
GM 378
GM 379



April 13, 2010
Page 2

students, no woman has been nominated to serve that role. We are very aware that in addition to Mr. Montgomery, Ms. Saedene Ota also came through the nomination process and her name was submitted to Governor Lingle. Governor Lingle chose Mr. Montgomery whose published editorial comments in the past have indicated that he may find the statutory provisions for faculty unionization antithetical to his executive management style. To this degree, it is unclear how he would function as a regent with respect to its relationship with UHPA.

We encourage the Senate to consider all of its options, holding up a template that includes many factors that should be applied to each as an individual and to the composition of the Board of Regents composition in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J.N. Musto".

J.N. Musto, Ph.D.
Executive Director