



April 8, 2010

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson, Committee on Higher Education
Stake Capital, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement regarding my qualifications to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), representing the state of Hawaii.

Skills and Perspectives in Representing Hawaii

Let me begin by commenting on some of the skills and perspectives that I would bring to the commission. Throughout my 40 year career in Higher Education, I have worked with students from across the globe, both at public and private institutions, on the East Coast and the West Coast, and in Europe, North America, the Pacific and Asia. For example, I have taught as a faculty member at Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of Utah, INSEAD (a business school in Fontainebleau, France), and most recently at BYU-Hawaii. I have also held leadership and administrative positions at Harvard, Stanford and BYU-Hawaii.

At these institutions I have been involved in multicultural environments with classes typically composed of a broad mix of students from a variety of backgrounds, and many of them representing their families as first generation university students. From 2003 to 2006 I had the opportunity to develop, teach and lead a program that trained over 400 faculty members from the top 20 Universities in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Such experience will be useful in contributing to the goal that WCET has to continue to facilitate dialogue and partnership opportunities between China Open Resources for Education (CORE) and the higher education institutions of WICHE.

I've also had the opportunity to work closely with employers in all of these countries regarding the needs and opportunities they have within their organizations for students completing degrees and other programs offered by higher education. Indeed one of the major goals of WICHE is to improve the leverage that additional education can have on economic opportunities. Having worked extensively with a wide range of employers, I recognize the importance of aligning the programs and curriculum of higher education with the needs of society and the economy.

One final perspective I would highlight is the desire to be of service to these wonderful young people. I entered the teaching profession because I view it as a place where a real difference can be made. Our young people need the help and guidance that will provide them with the greatest opportunities for growth and to realize their own potential. The many resources and initiatives that WICHE is involved in – whether the Leadership Forums, the information and advisory exchanges, or specific programs like the State Scholars Initiative (SSI) designed to encourage

high school students to take a rigorous course of study – are all aimed at providing greater opportunities for our young people through education. That’s a cause I have a lifetime commitment to.

Let me also add that while I am only in my third year as President of BYU-Hawaii, my wife and I have traveled extensively throughout Hawaii and all of the Pacific, meeting with alumni, parents, and prospective students. We also teach a class each fall and I have the opportunity to be a guest lecturer in a wide range of classes on our campus. Hawaii is indeed a unique and wonderful setting for higher education, but with its own unique set of opportunities and challenges. I believe I could represent those effectively and productively if I were to have the opportunity to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Top Priority Issues

I firmly believe that the key goal needs to be providing greater (and more affordable) access to higher education for all students. And the education we provide access to needs to be engaging, relevant and foundational in the sense that it needs to prepare students for a lifetime of contributing and learning. One of the areas of great opportunity is to increase the use of direct e-learning programs. This might include helping high school students take university level courses that will strengthen their preparation for higher education, while complementing and extending their accomplishments in high school. It also would include the use of blended learning methods to help accommodate those who are working part time or full time while taking higher education classes. And it would include helping those in the workforce to continue building on their foundation of learning, throughout their careers.

Other issues that are also significant and need to be addressed by WICHE are fairness and transparency in allocating resources across competing needs, increasing the success rates in degree attainment, and assisting students with the transition into the full time workforce and then in continuing to increase their abilities to contribute to society.

Expanding Hawaii’s Involvement in WICHE

The opportunities that I see for expanding Hawaii’s involvement in WICHE are of two types. First is in gaining greater benefit from the programs already in place. For example, the Internet Course Exchange (ICE) has some significant implications for students from Hawaii as they access programs and courses of study that may not be available here in Hawaii, as well as attracting students from elsewhere who would benefit from some of our courses and programs. As individual institutions wrestle with their own economics challenges, our students continue to need access to a full ranges of courses and expertise. Helping students and higher education institutions in Hawaii understand what currently exists with WICHE and how to take advantage of it is a challenge we need to effectively address.

The second type of opportunity for expanding Hawaii’s involvement in WICHE will come from listening and learning from the other states and institutions involved and identifying opportunities to leverage those on behalf of students in Hawaii. Approaches of this type might include everything from helping to connect our institutions and key departments with those

found at other institutions, finding ways to apply the insight and expertise of the considerable staff and volunteers at WICHE, and by being involved in selected initiatives that will be of significant benefit to Hawaii's efforts at higher education.

Specific Programs of Relevance to Hawaii

Part of the assignment of any member of the commission is to continue to look for opportunities to better understand the needs of those he or she represents and the areas of greatest leverage in addressing those needs. Thus while I wouldn't presume to know all of the specific programs of relevance to Hawaii, I would hope to learn those quickly. From my experience in higher education and my understanding of WICHE, there are at least three areas I would want to address at the outset of such an assignment.

First is that of policy and research relating to higher education. One of the strengths of WICHE is in tracking these areas both nationally and across the individual member states that make up WICHE. We can all benefit by learning from the experience and approach of others. And the professional staff at WICHE can lend their expertise in a number of important policy and research areas.

Second is in program sharing, which involves both understanding and then communicating effectively to constituent groups. It also involves helping those who would benefit to connect with others. One of the things I've always appreciated about higher education is that while we might compete on the playing field, the vast majority of those involved see it as a collaborative effort among caring colleagues and peers.

The third area I'd want to address is that of undergraduate and graduate exchanges. When based on accurate information and expectations, such exchanges can enrich the educational experiences of all those involved. I am aware that in this past year, students from Hawaii and their families saved \$12.2 million in tuition by participating in WICHE's Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), one of three student access programs. By utilizing these exchanges in areas ranging from dentistry and optometry to pharmacy and veterinary medicine, this not only benefits our students and their families, but we are able to conserve limited resources to focus and deepen our institutions' offerings in other important areas of study.

Ways the Legislature Might Increase Participation in WICHE

One of the areas that WICHE has sought to address is the challenge that busy legislators and their constituents have of understanding the complex and often difficult-to-balance mix of higher education appropriations, tuition, and financial aid issues. WICHE has developed and offers a number of tools that can assist in better understanding the value and impact of various initiatives and laws. For example WICHE has a project aimed at informing news media, especially state house and higher education reporters, and others about these issues as a part of its efforts to increase student access and success.

The Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC), a group of state legislators from the West, also works to inform the WICHE Executive Committee and staff about significant legislative issues

related to higher education. They provide input on WICHE initiatives, and they advise staff on programs and participant considerations related to WICHE's policy forums. The focus of such efforts on the key issues facing higher education in the Western states and their legislatures is of significant value.

But I would be quick to add that like many of the other areas of WICHE activity, it will be through active involvement as a commissioner and working with the other commissioners that even greater opportunities will be identified and pursued. Like higher education itself, this is an effort at ongoing learning in order to gain even great benefits for the students of Hawaii.

Please let me know if there is additional information I can provide that would be helpful to your Committee on Higher Education in its deliberations. I look forward to meeting with you on Tuesday afternoon, April 13th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven C. Wheelwright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Steven C. Wheelwright
Brigham Young University - Hawaii

Dear Senator's and Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for the chance to support the recommendation of Dr. Steven Wheelwright to serve the state of Hawaii on the WICHE commission.

I have been involved in education as a student, faculty member and administrator in four of the WICHE states. I have seen how various states take advantage of the opportunities that are provided by this resource. I believe the state of Hawaii could benefit from utilizing these resources to help educate the students of Hawaii. I also believe President Steven Wheelwright would provide the leadership necessary to help in this effort.

President Wheelwright has had decades of experience in higher education and has numerous contacts that could benefit the young people of Hawaii. He is kind, energetic, wise and resourceful. He listens well and has the best interest of others as the core of his relationship when working with others. I could continue on and on, but in respect of your time I would conclude by stating that President Steven Wheelwright can and should be used to help in higher education in this capacity at this time.

Mahalo,

Dr. Max L. Checketts

Academic Vice President, Brigham Young University - Hawaii

April 9, 2010

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Higher Education Committee

Dear Committee Members:

RE: TESTIMONIAL ON BEHALF OF STEVEN CHARLES WHEELWRIGHT
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FOR CONFIRMATION TO WICHE
GM 436; April 13, 2010; 1:15 p.m.

I am writing on behalf of Steven C. Wheelwright in regard to his nomination to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. I have known Steven C. Wheelwright for 30 years and give him my highest recommendation to become one of the Hawaii representatives on WICHE.

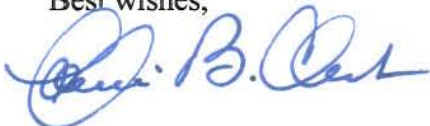
Steve has a distinguished academic career in both scholarship and teaching. He is a truly world-class teacher. He has published widely. He is influential in both academic and business circles and has now had a remarkable tenure as president of BYU-Hawaii. In anything that has to do with higher education, Steve Wheelwright is fabulous. He is a great board member and a great consultant.

When I served as dean of Harvard Business School, Steve was a senior associate dean with responsibility for the MBA program and faculty planning and development. At that time he also served as chairman for Harvard Business School publishing.

Steve is outstanding in every dimension that people care about in their leaders. This will be an outstanding appointment that will be a great credit to the state of Hawaii and to the institutions of higher education.

I wholeheartedly and without reservation endorse Steve Wheelwright's nomination and confirmation. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Best wishes,



Kim B. Clark
President

To Whom It May Concern:

I heartily support the nomination of Dr. Steven C. Wheelwright as the Hawaii representative on WICHE.

Dr. Wheelwright, who is in his third year as President of Brigham Young University-Hawaii, received his MBA and Ph.D. degrees at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. During his long academic career, he taught at INSEAD, a business school in France, the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and the Harvard Business School, where he also served as a Senior Associate Dean in charge of the MBA program, faculty planning and development, and most recently as Chairman of HBS Publishing.

He is a world-recognized academician and researcher in the areas of managerial problem-solving and forecasting future business trends. He has written several books with colleagues including *Strategic Management of Technology and Innovation; Operations, Strategy, and Technology – Pursuing the Competitive Edge; Dynamic Manufacturing: Creating the Learning Organization;* and *Revolutionizing Product Development.*

Dr. Wheelwright is regularly involved with students at BYU-Hawaii, from presiding at weekly campus devotions to teaching courses. In addition, he is active in the local and island business and civic communities, representing BYU-Hawaii on a number of city, county, regional, and state coordination efforts.

Dr. Wheelwright has a great knowledge of Hawaii's higher educational system and would represent our State quite well on the WICHE Board. Again, I heartily support Dr. Wheelwright's nomination.

Sincerely,

Chatt G. Wright
President
Hawai'i Pacific University



NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Office of the President

April 11, 2010

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
State Senator and Chair of the Higher Education Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I write to submit testimony on behalf of Dr. Steven Charles Wheelwright, relative to consideration and confirmation of his nomination to represent the State of Hawaii on the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE).

I give my complete and unqualified endorsement of Dr. Wheelwright to serve in this capacity and to represent the needs, interests and perspectives of the State of Hawaii, its residents and its higher education community. I urge you and your fellow committee members to give his nomination the fullest possible consideration.

By way of introduction, I currently serve as President and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), another of the nation's four interstate higher education compacts and the New England equivalent to WICHE.

During my seven years of work with NEBHE, I have had regular opportunities to work closely with the senior staff of WICHE, including its president, David Longanecker. Consequently, I know much about their work and priorities.

Accordingly, I can confidently state that Dr. Wheelwright will be an effective and valued WICHE Commissioner, benefiting both the organization and the State of Hawaii.

I have known Dr. Wheelwright for over 15 years through professional and community involvements. He is the product of public higher education in the Western states. From that outstanding education foundation he has gone on to achieve the highest levels of academic rank, honor and leadership.

In addition to being an internationally recognized scholar, he has many years of experience in leading complex academic institutions through periods of change. His unique combination of academic, administrative and policy experience are unmatched.

I am confident that he will contribute valuable advice to WICHE leadership and will find opportunities to leverage the vast policy and program resources of WICHE to the benefit and advantage of Hawaii's governor, legislators and higher education leaders.

While he currently leads an independent institution of higher education, he will be fully capable of, and committed to, working and advocating on behalf of all of Hawaii's diverse colleges and universities and their students. I know him as one who consistently rises above background, party or ideology to work in good faith with other people to accomplish important tasks and expand the public good.

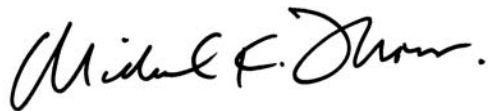
Typical of his considerable leadership skills, Dr. Wheelwright will play a collaborative role in engaging Hawaii's key stakeholders from government, business and education in addressing the key issues considered by WICHE: higher education's role as an engine of economic growth; innovative policies to expand college readiness, access and success; expanding opportunity for adult and returning students; innovative uses of technology to expand learning and degree attainment; efficient and sustainable public investments in higher education; effective tuition and student aid policies; and collaborations for cost savings and improved performance.

In sum, Dr. Wheelwright is precisely the type of leader that Hawaii and WICHE need at this critical time to help address the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in its essential roles of promoting social mobility, economic prosperity and a democratic society.

If I can be of further assistance on this matter, please feel free to contact my office at: 617-357-9620, x128 or mthomas@nebhe.org.

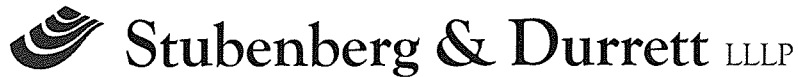
Thank you for your consideration and your leadership on behalf of higher education and the good citizens of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Michael K. Thomas
President & CEO
New England Board of Higher Education

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Jonathan S. Durrett
jdurrett@stubenbergdurrett.com

April 12, 2010

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Senator Chair
Committee in Higher Education
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM436/Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Gubernatorial Nominee, Steven Charles Wheelwright, for term to expire 6/30/2014

Dear Senator Tokuda and Honorable Committee Members:

I am submitting this testimony in support of the confirmation of **Steven Charles Wheelwright** to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education ("WICHE").

I was extremely pleased to learn that the Governor had appointed Dr. Wheelwright to serve on this important higher education commission. Based on Dr. Wheelwright's extensive background and training in higher education, he will not only be a superb addition to the commission but also an able advocate for Hawaii's unique interest as a participant in WICHE.

I first met Dr. Wheelwright some 2½ years ago just prior to his being installed as President of Brigham Young University-Hawaii ("BYU-H"). I had worked with BYU-H for over 20 years as its legal counsel and was anxious to learn of his perspectives and aspirations for the university.

While it was clear that his research and academic background qualified him imminently for the position as President of BYU-Hawaii, I was anxious to learn and appraise his sensitivity to deal with the unique cultures and attributes of our Island home. Having worked and counseled with Dr. Wheelwright over the past 2½ years, I can say that he is one of those rare individuals who is able to combine superior academic qualifications with instinctive human relation skills for the benefit of whatever organization he leads.

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Senator Chair
Committee in Higher Education
April 12, 2010
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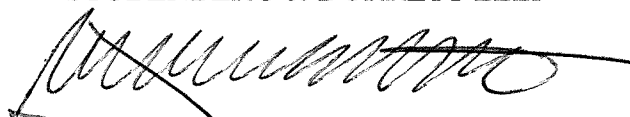
Accordingly, it is clear to me that Dr. Wheelwright's influence will be of great benefit to the State of Hawaii as he serves on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Furthermore, he will undoubtedly be able to leverage his service on this commission to the expansion of educational opportunities for Hawaii's young people in their pursuit of higher education.

For these reasons, I urge your swift confirmation of Dr. Steven Charles Wheelwright as a member of WICHE.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Dr. Wheelwright's behalf.

Very truly yours,

STUBENBERG & DURRETT LLLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan S. Durrett', written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan S. Durrett

JSD/btk

From: Jack Hoag [hoagy@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 11:25 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Subject: GM 436 - Steven C. Wheelwright

To: The Hawaii State Senate Committee on Higher Education, hearing of April 13, 2010, 1:15 PM, Conference Room 329

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

Subject: GM 436: consultation and confirmation of Dr. Steven C. Wheelwright to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

My name is John A. Hoag, retired President of First Hawaiian Bank and a former two term member of the University of Hawaii board of Regents

(1974-1978 & 1995-1999). I respectfully submit my strong recommendation on behalf of Brigham Young University President Wheelwright to serve as a

WICHE representative from Hawaii.

I have worked with Dr. Wheelwright from the time of his appointment to the BYUH Laie Campus. His outstanding academic reputation preceded him

and it was a great privilege to know that an educator of his stature would lead this outstanding university. I have spent a significant amount of time with

him in campus planning and related land issues. I have observed his devotion to elevating the educational experience of a wide range of students from

diverse cultures throughout Asia, Polynesia, Hawaii and the mainland United States. He has demonstrated a keen understanding of the needs of young

students and a vision for academic excellence as well as the need to nurture the whole individual. His concerns are not only for academic achievement,

they include the development of good character and ethics in an ever changing society. Under his leadership, BYUH continues to progress in very high

rankings among the many western U. S. colleges and universities.

I am sorry I cannot personally appear before the Higher Education Committee as my wife is undergoing surgery at the same time of the hearing. I would

be pleased to answer any questions at another time should the Committer so desire.

Respectfully, John A. Hoag, 818 Moaniala St., Honolulu, HI, 96821 (808) 389-4927

From: Max Purcell [poualae@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:29 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Subject: Stephen C. Wheelwright's Nomination to WICHE

Talofa Lava,

I am writing in support of Steven C. Wheelwright's nomination GM436 for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). This hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 329 at the State Capitol on 415 South Beretania Street in the Senate, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2010 Committee on Higher Education chaired by Jill N. Tokuda.

Allow me to introduce myself first. My name is Max Purcell and I am of Samoan-German descent. I hold the talking chief title Poualae of the Tuiletufuga/Letaa Clan of Apia, Samoa. I have lived in Laie 36 years. I am married to Carolyn Momilani Kawelo Purcell and we have 3 daughters. I am very active in community affairs. For the last 14 years I have been in charge of community policing in my town and am one of the founders of the Laie Crime Task Force. I was a vice-president for 11 years with the Laie Community Association Board (LCA). I served as the PTSA President, SCBM Chairman and the SCC Chairman for Laie Elementary School. I am a board member of Malama Ohana, an organization consisting of leaders from Ko'olauloa (Kaaawa to Waimea), which was formed under the auspices of the Queen Emma Foundation. I served as a bishop in the Mormon Church from 1994 to 1998 and presently a member of the stake presidency of the Laie Hawaii North Stake. I work as the Recorder/Business Manager for the Laie Hawaii Temple.

Steven Wheelwright is not only a very educated and capable man but more importantly he is a man of integrity. I know this from personal experience. I have been acquainted with him since he moved to Hawaii and his personality, his style of leadership and his understanding of people has impressed me tremendously.

The transformation that is occurring at BYU-Hawaii where it will eventually be considered one of the top schools in the nation is a credit to his efforts. I thought once that it was not possible for someone who had spent many years on the East

Coast, at an esteemed institution such as Harvard, to come to a small country town on the North Shore of Oahu, in such a significant position as the president of BYU-Hawaii, and be able to fit in. That was until I met President Wheelwright. He has proven to me that it can be done because he has adjusted remarkably well and fast. I believe it has to do with his genuine love of people and his desire to do his very best at every assignment. BYU-Hawaii and Laie have become better because of him and his dear wife. Please give him an opportunity to also use his skills, his talents, his education and his humanity to benefit the good people of this great state that we all love.

If I can be of further assistance don't hesitate to let me know.
My cellular phone number is (808) 225-5301.

Fa'afetai,
Max Purcell