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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 18, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair of the Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Ms. Saedene K. Ota to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Dear Ms. Tokuda,

I write in support of Ms. Saedene K. Ota, owner of Sae Design and Maui Thing, for her nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Ms. Ota has a record of strong leadership as a small business owner in the marketing industry. As the owner and creative director of Sae Design, she helped many local businesses and non-profits to expand. Ms. Ota's work with her clients led to recognition both statewide and nationally. She has been recognized by the prestigious Pele Awards, receiving 18 awards and two Best of Shows, and was commended by the U.S. Small Business Administration, which selected her as a 2005 Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Ms. Ota has been a tireless advocate for improving the quality of life for residents of Maui. She is an active member of A Keiki's Dream, the Maui Economic Development Board, and the Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation. Her work, however, has not been limited to these organizations. Ms. Ota has consistently offered her design services to organizations throughout Maui, including Maui Community College and Maui Youth & Family Services.

Ms. Ota's capable management of her businesses and her public service within the Maui community underscores her qualifications. I recommend Ms. Ota to you and ask that you give her nomination your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress
2nd District - Hawaii