

# GM811

## JEFFREY ACIDO

Nomination to the University of  
Hawaii Board of Regents

**Jeffrey Acido, GM811**  
**Responses to Questionnaire**

**1. Why did you decide to apply to serve on the Board of Regents?**

I applied for the Student Regent seat on the Board of Regents in order to serve the needs of the students of the University of Hawai'i. Because the University serves a large body of local students coming primarily the middle and working class who have moderate to low access to education, a social-economic status that I come from, I felt that I could adequately represent and articulate what would be the longings and aspirations of the local students while being open to the needs of the continental and international students. I believe my experiences as a student from Farrington high school, Honolulu Community college, Manoa undergraduate and graduate programs as well as Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California gives me a useful perspective of the aspirations of students, state needs and University resources.

**2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the Board of Regents in regards to University decision-making?**

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Regents as a whole as the primary policy maker and assessing the performance of the President of the University. The Board should be able to determine what is the best economic and social route that will steer the University into a sound future based on a collective of voices. Individually, a regent should summon her or his experience and gather from their particular social-location a viewpoint that will make stronger policies that are enacted. A regent is responsible in voicing out her or his moral, social and philosophical viewpoint in order to add to the dynamism of the decision-making process as to avoid making arbitrary and monolithic policies.

**3. Please identify one short-term and one long-term goal you would have as a Board of Regents member and how you would accomplish these during your term of service.**

In terms of short-term goals, I would like to increase the academic assistance to students that are struggling to meet the academic rigor and demands of a university education—with particular attention to students who are coming from the working-class, Native Hawaiian and immigrant communities, where they are often the first person to attend a university. While the resources to these particular communities have been made available the problem has been getting them to take advantage of it. I believe there are creative ways in which these resources can reach those who need it most.

In terms of long-term goals, I would like to increase student-enrollment in areas that are both geographically and racially/ethnically under-represented areas (Geography: Neighbor islands, Kalihi, Waipahu, Waianae, Waimanalo, Kahuku and other similar areas outside of urban Oahu. Culturally: Indigenous Native Hawaiians, Micronesian, Tongan, Samoan, Filipino, other under-represented groups.). Many of these groups reside in places that are working-class, Hawaiian and immigrant communities, the very same people who struggle to remain in the University.

I would like to support programs at all campuses that addresses these issues related to these communities that is primarily steered by students who come from these experiences. It is a long-term project requiring a dedicated approach to training students who come from these backgrounds to become the lead visionaries and enactors of this program. It will become a sole student led initiative. I will need the Board of Regent's and the student body's support to carry out programmatic elements.

**4. In looking at the University's strategic plan and the goals laid out by President Greenwood for the University system, what particular areas are of interest to you and how will your particular skill set and experience contribute to the progress of the University system?**

*Goal 1: A Transformative Teaching and Learning Environment*

- Increase experiential learning opportunities across the curriculum
- Expand and create transdisciplinary opportunities and programs
- Increase student success
- Expand international study opportunities
- Promote a Hawaiian Place of Learning
- Ensure that quality of teaching is as important as quality of researching, hiring, tenure and promotion

*Goal 3: An Engaged University*

- Promote scholarly work that informs policies and practices that benefit communities
- Expand internships, practica, mentoring, and service learning
- Increase partnerships and sharing of expertise with community organizations
- Increase appreciation and understanding of cultural expression in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific Rim
- Facilitate student leadership and involvement in campus governance

Goals 1 and 3 are what gravitates most of my attention and skill sets. I have been working and developing pedagogical practices that seek to 'transform teaching and learning environment' in order to 'engage' the University with particular communities for a number of years. I have done community/popular-based education that requires a broad knowledge of cultural and multidisciplinary approaches that have served both the international and local student body both in

the continent and Hawaii. These pedagogical engagements have generated innovative ways in promoting culturally based learning that often involves community interaction within and outside of the University. As a result, most of my academic experiences and community engagements have involved partnerships with community organizations that promote a symbiotic relationship between the student and teacher, community and university, and academic and popular forms of knowledge. The skill sets I have learned tackles the issues and complexities outlined in Goals 1 and 3.

**5. What will your approach be in helping to manage and balance the various sources of funding coming to the University?**

The University's annual multi-million dollar budget from federal, state, tuition and private donations must be monitored so that the various requirements are met. The BOR should continue to improve its processes of evaluating the funding requests from the various campuses to determine system wide budget priorities. I intend to carefully read and listen to the University administration's funding requests, expenditure reports and identify areas that I feel are unclear or where there seems to be important and unresolved issues. Although I have not had much experience in budget issues, I feel that working with fellow Regents and listening to the Administration and various stakeholders is the best way to address any policy issue, including funding decisions. I believe that as a Student Regent, I have a special responsibility to look out for opportunities to maintain tuition fees and other policies to make college more affordable.

**6. 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 system should be treated as whole but that that information and attention to the specific campuses must be taken into consideration. The community colleges should be both a feeder into the four-year campuses as well as provide appropriate short-term and two year certifications and technical education. By focusing on the different mission of the community college, baccalaureate, research programs, it is possible to support strong programs and allocate resources to positively affect the University and the state. Ensuring equity of resources for all campuses may require us to take a look at the 'weakest' part of the system and dedicating a number of resources to strengthen it. This may mean that 'equal' is the amount that is needed and not an equal divide of resources. Some campuses will receive more or less, depending on the needed resource. The university is only as strong as its weakest component.

- 7. While the University enjoys a fair amount of autonomy, the Legislature still plays a significant role in regards to funding, policies, and procedures. How do you view the relationship between the University and the Legislature and what factors are critical to ensure an effective and collaborative relationship?**

The relationship between the University and the Legislature is very significant. It should not be the case that either one is stepping on each other, rather they should walk together in harmony towards the health and well-being of our community. It is crucial that the Legislature and the University are aware and involved in the political process and social responsibilities to the education of the islands. While the Legislature has to gather the support of the islands, the University, in turn, show the fruits of that relationship. In order to ensure that effective and collaborative relationship exists, the University and the Legislature needs to constantly aware of their particular responsibilities: The Legislature carefully monitors the operations of the university with regards to funding, policy, and procedures, while the University implements the educational elements and whenever needed should be able to suggest to the Legislature the effects of the funding, policy, and procedures.

- 8. Can you foresee any possible conflict of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Regents? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

No. I do not see any possible conflicts that could arise in my service to the Board of Regents. Considering that my primary status is a UH student it is difficult for me to see any conflict of interest. If there are any I will seek counsel from other governing bodies and the Hawaii State Ethics Commission and follow the recommendation set forth.

**GM811**

**TESTIMONY**



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

March 21, 2012

Committee on Education  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Aloha Senators Tokuga and Kidani:

I would like to offer my highest recommendation for Jeffrey Tangonan Acido for a position on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Jeffrey has been a faculty member in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature (Ilokano Program) since spring 2011. In this time I have observed his passion for teaching, his keen interest in the philosophy of education, and his dedication to community service.

Many of the students who study our Indo-Pacific languages come from working class families and often are the first ones in their families to attend college. Jeffrey has a remarkable ability, honed through several years of community service in California, to connect with these students and their families in a manner that affirms and utilizes their life's reference. Jeffery has lived the experience of being 'at-risk' and 'marginalized' and he has proven his commitment to education and to giving back to Hawaii's heritage communities. This can be seen through his involvement in two local programs, the *Nakem Youth* and *Hawaii Peace and Justice*. These two programs promote cultural education and at the same time advocate for a more just and equitable society.

Jeffrey's experience working with 'at-risk' and 'marginalized' youth in the Bay Area, California has had a big impact in the way he approaches education. He is a person who is oriented to serving the needs of his students and his community. For the past year he has served on a special UHM committee to provide much needed recruitment and retention services for local Hawaiian, Filipino, Samoan, and Micronesian heritage communities. His popular style of teaching and his training in the rigors of the academe (he has a Masters from California and will finish another MA in Asian Studies this May) have worked to provide him with a solid academic and pedagogical foundation and an acute awareness of the issues affecting today's youth.

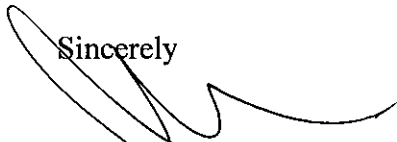
I had the chance to read some of Jeffrey's student evaluations and I am delighted to see that this devoted young educator is able to make such a important and lasting impact on the student's personal and academic life. Here are just two direct comments from the student evaluations of his class:

*"Out of all the years I've been at UHM this class, by far, really pushed me mentally and opened my eyes about my "identity!" Please give Jeff a raise! His procedures in conducting class... is engaging and interactive! I've never cried in a class yet love it at the same time with a passion!"*

*"Jeff was a phenomenal teacher. He would teach us so much in a little amount of time. I learned a lot about pop culture and the ways it has affected my culture and other cultures in society. Excellent class! I recommended all of my friends to take this class because I believe my whole perspective on life changed so much just from this teacher. I hope he will be able to teach more classes in the future because I would love to take another class from him."*

While I cannot personally give him a raise, I can offer my highest recommendation for Jeffrey Acido to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Sincerely



John Mayer, chair IPLL



# UNITE HERE!

## LOCAL 5 HAWAII

*Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Hernando Ramos Tan, President*

*Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President*

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Tuesday, March 27, 2012

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
and Members  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing approximately 10,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organization's strong support of GM 811 and the confirmation of Mr. Jeffrey Acido to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

As a proven and dedicated community leader, our organization has worked closely and has come to know Mr. Acido in the last three years. As the son of a hotel housekeeper and current student at the University of Hawaii, we know that Mr. Acido understands fully the important role our public higher education system plays in bettering the lives of Hawaii's working families.

As a community and youth leader, student, social justice advocate, and strong supporter of Hawaii's public education system, Mr. Acido possesses a unique set of skills and perspectives needed to serve the interests of the University of Hawaii and its students. We are confident that Mr. Acido, if confirmed, will continue to serve in our community's best interest.

We stand in strong support of GM 811 and humbly ask for your Committee's support of Mr. Acido's nomination.

Sincerely,

Cade Watanabe  
Community/Political Organizer



## KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY

(Comprehensive Family Services)

2239 North School Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Phone (808) 791-9418 ♦ Fax (808) 847-6051

March 20, 2012

### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Dear Senators:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Jeffrey Acido to join the Board of Regents at the University of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Acido for the past five years in his role as an active member of the Kalihi community, youth mentor, and cultural liaison to the Ilocano community in Kalihi. He is deeply passionate about learning, about learning to learn, and about the promise of higher education, most especially as it relates to helping to bring forth the promise of community.

He is a budding scholar with a penetrating intelligence, a published author, and an active participant in many facets of community life in Hawaii, including both volunteering for and leading several grassroots community organizations. All of this while being a student at UH Manoa.

Mr. Acido has an easy way of speaking and relating to all kinds of people, and people of all ages, and helping them to bring their stories forward to be shared in community. In this role, he has been especially helpful to our organization, Kokua Kalihi Valley, in making sure that the diverse voices of culture that are the lifeblood of this community are heard, and that the stories are shared and celebrated. He was instrumental in collecting stories of elders in Kalihi Valley and Waipahu in which their stories were published in *Panagtaripato: Parenting Our Stories, Our Stories As Parents*. I am sure this skill would be especially relevant to being a student member of the Board of Regents, in bringing forward the voices and stories of both academic life and the intersection of the University with community.

Mr. Acido is highly qualified for this position, by virtue of his academic rigor, his passion for learning, and his compassion for his fellow man. I hope you will give his appointment your careful consideration.

If I can provide more information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,  
David D Derauf MD MPH  
Executive Director  
Kokua Kalihi Valley



# Hawai'i Peace & Justice

*Nā Pua Ho'āla i ka Pono - The Flowers Awaken in Peace and Justice*

2426 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu,  
Hawai'i 96822  
808.988.6266  
info@hawaiipeaceandjustice.org  
hawaiipeaceandjustice.org

March 23, 2012

Hawaii State Legislature

RE: GM811 Hearing on the nomination of Jeffrey Acido to the U.H. Board of Regents

Aloha kakou;

I am writing on behalf of Jeffrey Acido to recommend his nomination to the Board of Regents. Jeffrey Acido is a member of the Hawai'i Peace and Justice Board of Directors. His skills in working with, focusing, and at the same time humorously relaxing our board members are well known to us. He speaks always from a deep spiritual center and his work with our youth programs reflects this center; it is steadfastly compassionate, creative, and honest. He brings out in his students that search for truth, for being whole, and for finding a way to transform difficulties into courageous actions for healing the communities they live in.

We need, the U.H. Board of Regents needs, more people like Jeffrey Acido.

Mahalo and aloha,

Renie Wong Lindley  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Peace and Justice  
A nonprofit 501(c)3 dedicated to a pono Hawai'i



March 29, 2012

The Esteemed Members of the Committee  
Hawaii State Legislature  
GM 811  
State Capitol

**Letter of Support for  
Jeffrey Acido,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
Board of Regents, University of Hawaii**

This is to express my support for the nomination of Jeffrey Acido as a student regent of the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii.

I have known Jeffrey for many years since 2006 when he was an undergraduate student and who took an undergraduate course under me. Today, he is my student in graduate, and I have the pleasure of guiding him in working for his thesis in the master's program as his adviser.

Since his undergraduate years, Jeffrey and I have worked together for many of our student and community causes. Together we have pursued the same causes for our university students.

For a time, he went to the continental United States to pursue a graduate degree and came back to the University of Hawaii to pursue a second master's degree. For a time, he served as my teaching assistant in order to learn the ropes of teaching and to understand better the concerns of students.

While he was assisting me to teach, we formed a student and youth development community group the aim of which is to tackle the issues of student recruitment and promotion, youth development and capacity building, and cultural advocacy and heritage language promotion among our young.

About two years ago, we put up the Nakem Youth, a youth arm of the Nakem Conferences; the 'conferences' is an international advocacy group that we have put up in 2006 to celebrate the centennial of the coming of the people of the Philippines to Hawaii. The Nakem Youth has since put up programs for youth development work; these programs have been offered both in and outside the university.

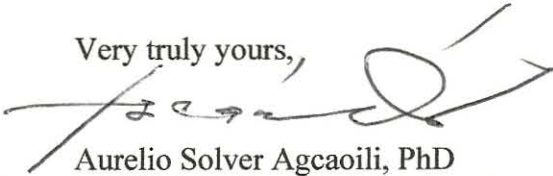
c/o University of Hawaii Ilokano Program, 455 A Spalding Hall, 2540 Maile Way  
Honolulu, HI 96822/ 808 956 8405 / aurelio@hawaii.edu

In 2010, Jeffrey and I partnered in putting together a 'writeshop' for students, and the writeshop eventually produced a bilingual book, the first-ever of its kind in the State of Hawaii; the book, drawn from the testimonies of our young people, narrates of the need for our communities to look into the issues affecting our young, the educational issues that stand in the way of evolving a more educated Hawaii population, and the structural conditions affecting the access of our high school and college students to higher education.

As a student, Jeffrey is never equivocal about these issues. The clarity of his mind about these things—a kind of clarity of understanding that we need among our students—is exactly what we need from someone who represents the students in the policy-making body of the university. Jeffrey's demonstration of a sustained passion for our student causes is exactly the same sustained passion that we need in order to involve our young people in the evolving of our democratic institutions for inclusion, diversity and pluralism, and educational access.

Jeffrey Acido, as my student in both the undergraduate and graduate levels, has consistently shown the way to what a committed student leadership should be. It is in this light that I am giving this testimony in full support of his nomination as a student leader.

Very truly yours,



Aurelio Solver Agcaoili, PhD  
President, Nakem Conferences International &  
Coordinator, University of Hawaii at Manoa Ilokano Program

March 23, 2012

Dear Committee,

I would like to testify in support of Mr. Jeffrey Acido for the position on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. I had the pleasure of watching this young man grow up from his days at Farrington High School as his teacher. Even then as a high school student, Jeffrey had shown a very creative and curious mind which relentlessly sought out answers to his many questions about the world. He pursued his college education and worked his way through college. His experiences as a student at the community colleges and then at the Manoa campus affords him a frame of reference that would benefit the work of the Board. After his master's degree he returned to Hawaii and quickly became very active in his community, Kalihi. He has organized events to impact the lives of this disadvantaged community. Through his experiences, he has had to develop partnerships with many community organizations and his ability to network will be a great asset for the Board.

I feel he is an amazing person who has a perspective that would bring another dimension to the Board. He is in touch with the heart of the community that could use a voice on this body to build opportunities for them to overcome poverty through the educational system. Please allow him this opportunity, he will far exceed your expectations and help to make the University of Hawaii the best higher learning system in this global region.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Vines

Educational Officer

Honolulu District Office

Aloha Committee Members,

I am Jennifer Custodio, a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (American Studies, MA) and currently an education specialist at the Honors Program at UH-Manoa. I write to you in support of Jeffrey Acido as the student representative at the Board of Regents.

I know Jeffrey Acido through several graduate courses that we both enrolled in. I am delighted to know that he will serve in a higher capacity to serve the broader needs of the University.

In all the courses and semesters that I have known him I found his character to be a great example of what a student representative should be—helpful, generous, caring and a staunch advocate for student interests. It was only my second year on the island (coming from California) that I met him, and still he showed me the same kind of care as he would to a local student. His academic and work experience in California showed me that he understood what it meant to think as an islander and as a continental person.

I witnessed his passion for the community both outside and inside the university. It seemed that whatever he did, he did with a great amount of discernment and a thorough understanding of its ramifications. Because of this I know that he will do well as a board of regent.

Please consider him as the next regent for the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Custodio

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** dannyoregan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: danny o'regan  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dannyoregan@gmail.com](mailto:dannyoregan@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

**Comments:**

Jeffrey Acido gets my full support as an outstanding individual with the passion, energy and willingness to succeed.



## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:28 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** sunriseutf@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Rev.Wallace T. Fukunaga  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sunriseutf@gmail.com](mailto:sunriseutf@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

### Comments:

I am writing in support of Jeffrey Acido's nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Jeffrey is a young man with a strong moral character, keen intelligence, deep spirituality and winsome personality. For a person his age his accomplishments are stunning. He has a Master of Religion from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, and will be shortly conferred a Master of Arts from the University of Hawaii. I understand he will be in pursuit of a Ph.D. at UH. He is a passionate and articulate community organizer and currently serves as the Program Director of Nakem Youth, a visionary and vital movement of young people of Philippine descent working towards social justice, community building and personal realization. In that position he edited "Kaban Ban Nuagan", an anthology of writings of the Nakem Youth. Jeffrey has served on the board of the Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii and is currently on the board of Sunrise Ministry Foundation. He will bring to the Board of Regents the critically important perspective and voice of his generation and of one who is able to represent both students and young faculty at the University of Hawaii. I strongly recommend his confirmation.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** glendad@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Glenda Duldulao  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [glendad@hawaii.edu](mailto:glendad@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in full support of Jeff Acido's nomination to the Board of Regents in the University of Hawaii. I have known Jeff for more than three years as a colleague, a friend and a mentor and I am sure that he will be a great asset to the Board. As a classmate, I trust that Jeff will always have the best interest for student of the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Glenda Duldulao

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:08 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** linda@uyehara.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM  
**Attachments:** jeffrey acido.docx

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda Uyehara  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [linda@uyehara.net](mailto:linda@uyehara.net)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

### Comments:

It is with great pleasure I write this letter on behalf of Jeffrey Acido, a young man who I have known since he was a junior in high school (2001). Jeffrey has continued to keep in contact and therefore I have been able to observe him grow and develop into a respectable and conscientious young man.

An amiable person, very approachable and enjoys the camaraderie of others. Jeffrey is an optimistic person, always looking at the positive side of any situation.

It is evident that Jeffrey is passionate of his roots, and is appreciative of the guidance he received through the Career and Technical Student Organization, FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) organization while a high school student. During his senior year, he represented the state of Hawaii at the National Leadership FCCLA conference in Philadelphia, winning a gold medal. He readily testified on behalf of the student organization before the Board of Education- on the value of the organization as part of the curriculum in our public school system. He thrives on service to his community and has volunteered as a judge for our state-wide student competitions.

Jeffrey Acido began his academic career at Honolulu Community College, transferring to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he obtained his bachelor's degree. He flourished at Honolulu Community College, where the college professors were a positive influence on Jeffrey's career goals. He was able to take advantage of the many opportunities provided at the community college level - traveling to foreign countries, and participating in the Student to Student program.

Resourceful, self-reliant and compassionate are words that describe Jeffrey Acido, an excellent candidate to serve on the Board of Regents.

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jessica Austin

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [maarii8@gmail.com](mailto:maarii8@gmail.com)

Submitted on: 3/28/2012

I support Jeffrey Acido's nomination to the Board of Regents. I recommended Mr. Acido to be nominated to the Board of Regents initially when the process had started, and I am pleased to be able to testify in support of Jeffrey today. Jeffrey is a courageous, ethical, dedicated, and highly intelligent person exemplifying the best qualities of students on the University of Hawaii-Manoa campus. I believe Mr. Acido has the best interests of the student body in mind, and I have seen his dedication to the community of Honolulu at large, which means that his dedication to the student body's interests will be very strong. I put my full trust in Mr. Acido's abilities as a representative and leader. He is outgoing and very aware of the issues that students care about such as diversity on campus, our learning experience, student-teacher relationships, and a sense of community for the campus. I believe Jeffrey Acido is the best choice for the student representative on the Board of Regents for the present and the future of UH-Manoa.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:25 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** bcompton@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bethany Compton  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [bcompton@hawaii.edu](mailto:bcompton@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

### Comments:

Due to me being a delegate in the U.H Student Caucus, and having the privilege to be on the Student Advisory Committee, I read all 34 student regent applications. I have several concerns: Only two applicants were submitted to Neil Abercrombie (Jefferey Acido and Mathew Williams). Jeffrey Acido has no student government experience and he is a faculty worker. My current knowledge and understanding is that several applications must be submitted to the Governor, and only two were received by the governors office.

I researched and discovered that U.H has highly qualified students for this position. I believe it is unethical to have a student regent that is also being paid by the university.

Lastly, he has never been in student government. It is important that our student regent is a student advocate. I hope that the Hawaii State legislator recognizes these discrepancies and revoke Jeffrey Acido's proposed appointed position as the University of Hawaii's Student Regent.

## Testimony for GM811

Dear Hearing Committee Persons,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Jeffrey Acido to participate as the Student Representative on the Board of Regents for the University of Hawai'i. I have had the complete privilege to meet Jeffrey in 2010 through my work as a community organizer for UNITE HERE Local 5. First witnessing Jeffrey's work as an organizer for Nakem Youth and later as a trainer at the AFSC Rise Up camp focused on youth and his passion for empowerment.

I have also had the honor to work with Jeffrey on projects for Local 5's student program and our Hotel Workers Rising Campaign. Our collaboration was focused around Local 5's student workshop on social and economic justice, social change, leadership, and organizing created for university students. Jeffrey brings a very focused and driven commitment to youth empowerment and strives to create an environment for each participant to build a stronger analysis of themselves and their social circumstances so as to motivate and activate them to build a better future for themselves and their community. Jeffrey is a passionate, creative, intelligent, and motivated leader. He demonstrated his talent in his work for Local 5's Hotel Workers Rising Campaign. Jeffrey worked with UH Manoa students to organize a street theatre performance and had hotel workers participate in the play. Jeffrey used art and creativity in a way that was truly powerful and meaningful for that day's strike but also the greater movement for social justice. In my experience, his passion for a holistic understanding of one's self and creative mind is unparalleled. I believe that Jeffrey is a strong advocate for education and will be the best representative for the voice of the student body.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Ballesteros  
UNITE HERE Local 5 Community/Political Organizer  
UH Manoa Alumni



March 30, 2012

TO: The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Conference Room 225, March 30, 2012 at 1:15 PM

FROM: Anjali Nath, Graduate Student Organization (GSO) President  
[ANath@hawaii.edu](mailto:ANath@hawaii.edu) (email)

Testimony for GM 811 – STRONG SUPPORT

JEFFREY ACIDO has been nominated as a potential member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, and I am pleased to write him the most enthusiastic endorsement of which I am capable. Mr. Acido and I have only known one another for the past two years, yet this short time span has been highly productive in terms of my assessment of his intellectual prospects and community attainments. I believe that I know him about as well as anyone else does here at UH Mānoa. Moreover, I am confident that he will be an outstanding regent who will spend his professional tenure pursuing interests and activities that will make you and your colleagues proud of him.

During the time of our acquaintance, Jeffrey Acido and I have taken one Political Science graduate course together. Through this venue and others, I have seen many professors, students, and community members amazed at Jeffrey's diligent work ethic, creativity in problem-solving, and eloquence. Academically, I have found Jeffrey to be both intellectually impressive and pragmatic. Personally, I have rarely found graduate student's writings, presentations, and thought as moving and precise as Jeffrey's. Next, I have consulted with Jeffrey about matters related to UHM's GSO, knowing that I could rely upon his fair judgement and great knowledge of student interests across the university. His critiques and feedback are always both gentle and rigorous. Finally, I have had the pleasure of sustained conversation with Jeffrey about the topic of public education within the past two years. His pedagogic commitments, both inside and outside of academia, as a student, educator, and community member are admirable. On the basis of these interactions and the delightfully stimulating conversations they inspired, I can easily place him in the **top 1%** of graduate students I have ever met, at the University of Hawai'i or any other domestic or international institution of learning. Indeed, I know of no other graduate student that would be better equipped to serve on the Board than Jeffrey.

In sum, Mr. Acido's potential is virtually unlimited. He possesses all the intellectual, professional and character traits he needs to become a regent of the first rank. I am glad to have met him and wish there was more I could do to help him along his path in life. I have no doubt that he will make the same impression on you should you confirm his nomination.

Kind regards,

Anjali L. Nath  
President, Graduate Student Organization (GSO)  
Degree Fellow, East-West Center  
Ph.D. Student, Department of Political Science  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** sdinion@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM811 on 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 3/30/2012 1:15:00 PM GM811

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steve Dinion  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sdinion@mac.com](mailto:sdinion@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 3/30/2012

### Comments:

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Steve Dinion, and I am a musician and music educator who is active in the labor and peace movements and LGBT community.

As a member of the community who cares deeply about our public university system, I would like to express my strong support for Jeffrey Acido's nomination to the Board of Regents. I have worked with Jeff for several years and have found him to be a person of the highest integrity and commitment. His passion for education and learning, and his care and concern for students, continue to inspire me. I feel confident that the students and the entire university system will benefit from his voice on the Board.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Jeffrey Acido's nomination.

Mahalo.