



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, March 30, 2012, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Governor's Messages 811, 812, 815, and 816

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

I am pleased to support the confirmation of **Jeffrey Acido, Carl Carlson, Barry Mizuno, and Tom Shigemoto** to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii for the following terms:

	<u>Term Ending</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jeffrey Acido	6/30/2014	Student
Carl Carlson	6/30/2016	Hawaii County
Barry Mizuno	6/30/2013	Hawaii County
Tom Shigemoto	6/30/2017	Kauai County

In addition, I appointed John Dean (City and County of Honolulu) and Benjamin Kudo (At-Large) from among candidates presented by the Regents Candidate Advisory Council. On March 28, 2012, the Senate Education Committee voted to advise and consent on Dean and Kudo.

I believe that the University of Hawaii system is the single most underutilized public resource in Hawaii. UH contributes to and plays a leadership role in every element of improving Hawaii. The UH Regents provide vital leadership to ensure that college is accessible and affordable for students on all islands, support the entrepreneurial professor, facilitate innovation and technology transfer, support renovation, support premier education and research projects, and improve student success.

In making appointments for the UH Regents, I considered the individual qualities—personal and professional—of the candidates, as well as how the appointees would balance the board in terms of their experience, skill sets or perspectives. The Board of Regents' balance among the members is important to fulfill the Board's charge to govern and steward public higher education. These appointees bring their experience and expertise to the Board of Regents by providing diverse perspectives and experience necessary to guide the UH to benefit the State and UH students.

Jeffrey Acido (GM 811) has been appointed to represent students on the Board of Regents. Acido is an example of the UH providing opportunities for Hawaii's residents. Acido is a graduate student in Asian Studies who will receive his MA this spring; Acido has applied to a PhD program at UH. Acido emigrated from Ilocos Norte, Philippines to Kalihi at the age of 6. After graduating from Farrington High School, Acido attended Honolulu Community College, completed a study abroad program offered by Kapiolani Community College, and earned his BA at University of Hawaii at Manoa. As a graduate student, Acido is an instructor and assistant researcher, and he promotes college to Hawaii's students underrepresented in higher education.

Carl Carlson (GM812) is being reappointed to represent Hawaii County on the Board of Regents. Currently, Carlson serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Regents. Carlson is founder of Hu'ehu'e Ventures, LLC, a firm providing real estate consulting and agricultural property management. Carlson's experience includes property management, business, corporate board service, and non-profit boards.

Barry Mizuno (GM815) is seeking confirmation as a Regent representing Hawaii County. He was appointed earlier to an interim Regent position. Mizuno, a CPA, leads BTM LLC, a private energy consulting firm and led Puna Geothermal Venture for 19 years. Mizuno's experience includes Finance Director and Managing Director of Hawaii County Government, Hospice of Hilo capital campaign, and Hawaii Island Beacon Community.

Tom Shigemoto (GM816) has been appointed to represent Kauai County on the Board of Regents. A graduate of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Shigemoto is a lifelong resident of Kauai. He is a long time Vice President of Planning at Alexander and Baldwin Properties, Inc. where he is involved with development on Kauai. His community involvement includes Kauai High School Foundation and Kauai Red Cross. Shigemoto is a 1971 graduate of University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support the confirmation of all appointees. I look forward to working with them to advance public higher education and the interests of the State of Hawaii.