

# **GM 630**

## **Testimony**

Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the  
University of Hawai'i

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the  
University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
**RAYNARD SOON**, for a term to expire 6-30-2017



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Thursday, March 7, 2013, 2:45 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol

Testimony of  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

GM 630  
Consideration and Confirmation of Raynard Soon  
To the Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to nominate Raynard Soon to Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. His term will end on 6/30/2017.

Raynard Soon has worked as a planning professional since 1972. Soon has degrees in City and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii at Mano, and a Masters of City Planning from Harvard University. He has a range of expertise from strategic public policy planning to land management and infrastructure financing.

Presently, Soon works as a private consultant. In recent projects he has contributed to the Analysis of Pertinent Hawaii-based Evacuation Information, and Hurricane and Tsunami Evacuation Behavioral Studies. Soon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board of Directors RCUH; his planning expertise will support the research, and long-term development efforts of the University of Hawaii, as well as the state in general.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you confirm Raynard Soon to Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

1477 Halekoa Dr.  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
February 5, 2013

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Higher Education Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 219  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

Governor Abercrombie has nominated **Ray Soon** to serve on the Board of Directors of the UH Research Corporation. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for his nomination.

I have known Ray for about twenty-five years. We are both active in the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association. We have also served together for about seven years on the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. In addition, we've spent countless hours discussing planning issues in Hawaii, planning education and local strategies for promoting research and economic development.

RCUH's mission is to support research, development and training at UH and in the state. Ray is exceptionally well qualified to further the RCUH mission. He is an expert researcher himself with extensive private sector experience. He has high-level management experience in state government, the non-profit sector and business. More important, he combines a capacity for vision with the sort of practical wisdom of how to make things happen that is all too rare.

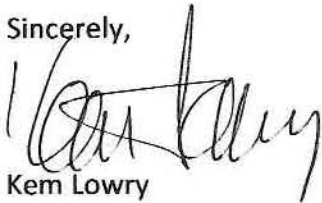
My experience with Ray on the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center Advisory Council is relevant to his potential role on the RCUH Board of Directors. Ray and I first served at a time when the Advisory Council had a quite active oversight role in the financial administration, program management and evaluation of Children Center programs and projects. Ray served as chair of the Finance committee that was responsible for oversight of funding for program activities. I chaired the evaluation committee. Ray was intensely interested in the design and administration of Children Center programs at a time when the Center was focusing more on community development. When we met with administrators and staff around the state, Ray would ask thoughtful questions that helped illuminate project intentions, the strengths of the links between knowledge and action, and the variety of ways to assess program success and effectiveness. What is most memorable to me is his skill in asking questions that might have been regarded as "tough" or "difficult" if asked by others. He so obviously cares so much about QLCC and its mission, the staff and their intentions and the children QLCC serves that his questions

always seem to elevate the discussion and inspire reflection and thoughtful deliberation. He is an ideal board member: committed to the mission, eager to learn more about what the organization is doing and attentive to how we assess the strengths and weaknesses of what the organization is doing.

Some of Ray's private section work involves the development and application of new technologies. This work requires knowledge of applied engineering, finance, business applications and Hawaii's regulatory environment. This sort of knowledge is directly relevant to RCUH's work of facilitating and managing grants and contracts for UH.

As a recently retired UH faculty member, I am delighted that the governor has nominated someone with Ray's knowledge, skills, passion and commitment to the university and the community. He's an excellent candidate. I hope you and your Senate colleagues confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kem Lowry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kem" being more prominent and the last name "Lowry" following in a similar style.

Kem Lowry

Emeritus Professor

Urban and Regional Planning,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

March 1, 2013

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chairman of the Higher Education Committee  
Senate District 11  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 219

Re: GM630: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYNARD SOON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

As a constituent and strong supporter of higher education, I strongly support GM630 confirming Raynard Soon to the Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

I have worked with Mr. Soon and know him to be of outstanding character and quality values. In everything that he does Mr. Soon acts in the best interest of the people of the State of Hawai'i. In addition Mr. Soon has extensive experience in research, business and government: the perfect foundation to be a superior Board Member.

I thank you for your support of the people of Manoa and the State. I strongly encourage you to pass GM630.

Sincerely,



Faith Sereno Rex  
President

2836 Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 1, 2013

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education

Re: GM 630

It gives me great pleasure to forward this testimony on behalf of Raynard Soon for your consideration to the Board of Directors of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. I have known Ray "since small kid time", right through Kalani High School and attending the University of Hawaii to the present time.

You will find no one with a more suitable background and lifelong experiences than Ray for RCUH. His Masters of Urban Design from Harvard University prepared him well for his early government service culminating with his tenure as director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He has also run his own very successful business enterprises and has served on many boards of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

But I think my number one reason for my confidence that he'll be a great RCUH board member is that Ray has a long track record of being both an effective leader and a strong advocate for both prevailing opinion and minority voices whether it be over Native Hawaiian, political, environmental, educational, or social-cultural issues. He provides reasoned passionate arguments without being strident or offensive. In addition, he LISTENS!

I know how deeply loyal Ray feels about the University of Hawaii and public education in general. He still bleeds red for Kalani and green for UH. He still attends many UH games and closely follows developments at all levels of the University. And I am absolutely sure that he will look at this as an opportunity to give back to the institution and to the State.

Please approve this nomination to the RCUH. It will be a positive step in insuring the viability of the RCUH and the University in general as well as steering both institutions toward serving the best interests of Hawaii's people.

Mahalo,

Dr. Allen Awaya  
UH BEd 1972, EdD 2005