

LATE
GM 712



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Tuesday, April 2, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Room 414

Testimony of
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Governor's Messages 711, 712, 713, and 714

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of **Eugene Bal III, Barry Mizuno and Randolph Moore** to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii (UH) for the following terms:

	<u>Term Ending</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Eugene Bal, III	6/30/2018	Maui County
Barry Mizuno	6/30/2018	Hawaii County
Randolph Moore	6/30/2013	At-Large
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I believe that the UH 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. After the Senate's Special Committee on Accountability Report and follow up action by the Regents, more than ever before, UH Regents must exercise leadership, wise policy judgment, and keen oversight of the strategic direction and operations of the university system.

In making appointments for the UH Regents, I considered the individual qualities—personal and professional—of the candidates presented by the Regents Candidate Advisory Council, 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.

Eugene Bal, III (GM711) is being appointed for a five year term to represent Maui County. Bal leads the Maui High Performance Computing Center and has been Executive Director for 16 of the Center's 19 year history. Previously, Bal served for 25 years in the U.S. Navy where he managed large scale project and flew combat missions. Bal has served the community as part of the National Science Foundation National Visiting Committee for the National Center of Excellence in High Performance Computing Technology, Hawaii Community Foundation Board of Governors, Maui Economic Development Board, and Maui County Mayor's Advisory Committee.

Barry Mizuno (GM712) is being appointment to a five year term to represent Hawaii County. Previously, in 2012, the Senate confirmed his appointment as a Regent to fill a mid-term vacancy. Mizuno, a CPA, retired last year from BTM LLC, a private energy consulting firm, and had previously led Puna Geothermal Venture for 19 years. Mizuno's experience includes Finance Director and Managing Director of Hawaii County Government, and finance, audit and management positions at Hamakua Sugar Company, Inc., TheoDavies, and Hawaiian Electric Company. Mizuno's community service includes Hospice of Hilo capital campaign, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, High Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority. On the UH Board of Regents, Mizuno serves as chair of the Planning and Facilities Committee, vice-chair of the Committee on University Audits, and a member of the Committees on Community Colleges and on Budget and Finance.

Randolph Moore is being appointed for an interim seat expiring June 30, 2013 because of the vacancy created by Michael Dahilig's resignation (GM713), as well as for a full five year term (GM714). Moore has served a long and varied career in the Peace Corps, in business at Castle and Cooke, Molokai Ranch, and Kaneohe Ranch, and in education as a special education mathematics teacher at Central Middle School and Assistant Superintendent at the Hawaii Department of Education. Moore has extensive board experience serving on boards of community-based organizations and businesses including Hanahauoli School, Punahou School, and Hawaii Pacific University and on government boards and commissions including Hawaii Strategic Development Corporation, and Governor Ariyoshi's Economic Advisory Task Force.

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