

GM 590

Testimony -

MICHELLE TAGORDA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Current Referral: HRE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony of

Representative Isaac W. Choy, Chair

Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Submitting Comments to the Consideration and Confirmation of the following nominees:

Mr. Stanford Yuen
Ms. Lee Putnam
Mr. Jeffrey Portnoy
Ms. Michelle Tagorda

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide comments on the selection of these individuals to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. I have not met or interviewed any of these candidates.

The University of Hawaii is currently in a situation which will require management expertise. Article X Section 6 of our Hawaii State Constitution states: *"The board shall also have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operations of the University."* Further, HRS 304A-321 (b), Independent Audit Committee; established; powers; duties states: *"The independent audit committee shall consist of at least three but not more than five members who shall be appointed by the chairperson of the Board of Regents..."* *"The independent audit committee shall include one or more individuals with financial expertise."*

I believe the **financial expertise** required for membership on the audit committee should include the following skill set and experience:

1. Ability to read financial statements and management comments.
2. Ability to understand the state of Hawaii and University of Hawaii budgeting scheme.
3. Ability to understand and evaluate the financial information given to the board by management.
4. Ability to recognize and understand enterprise risk management.

I would request that the committee question each candidate to see if the candidate meets the qualifications for the audit committee, evaluate the composition of the current board, and determine if future or current selections meet the requirements of this statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Manoa • University • Punahou • Moiliili
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 404, Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8475 / Email: repchoy@capitol.hawaii.gov

GM 590
APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Senate Committee on Higher Education

Public Hearing – March 25, 2014
3:30pm., State Capitol, Conference Room 414

By
Jay Maddock, Ph.D.

I am writing to **support** the appointment of Michele Tagorda to the Board of Regents.

I am a professor of public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and have served as director of the Office of Public Health Studies since 2006. I have known Michelle since last summer. She is a graduate student enrolled in our department and is hired as a graduate assistant to advise students interested in enrolling in our new undergraduate program.

In short, Michelle is everything that is good about UH. She is the valedictorian from Kea'au that stayed in the UH system to go to school. She spent her undergraduate career advising other students in the health sciences and she has been a huge asset to our program in the first year of graduate school. Michelle is extremely bright, but also tremendously friendly. Every time I see her it makes me smile. She is committed to improving the health of the people of Hawaii and to seeing other students succeed at UH. I don't think you could mind a better student representative for the Board of Regents. She will make us all proud.

March 20, 2014

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

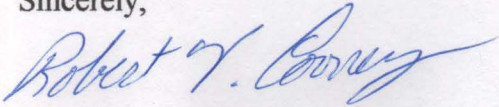
This testimony is in support of Ms. Michelle Tagorda's nomination as a student member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Her experience, personality, and abilities are such that I am compelled to write the strongest letter of recommendation possible on her behalf. As the Chair of the Undergraduate Program in Public Health, I have worked closely with Michelle in the past year and am continually impressed at her amazing insight, enthusiasm, and hard work ethic. I have been a faculty member at UH for nearly 30 years and have never previously come across a student in possession of so many of the qualities that are essential for an effective student regent as Michelle and I urge you to confirm her nomination as a student member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Michelle uniquely has experience from many vantage points at UH that will serve her well on the Board. Not only has she successfully navigated the undergraduate experience at UH to graduate with distinction, she has also served as an advisor to other students to help them achieve their potential at UH. She currently is a graduate student in the Masters in Public Health Program, which provides her with unique insight into the other half of education in a research university. Her experience with the travails of getting through UH and knowledge of the advising infrastructure at UH has been invaluable in assisting us with the launch of our new undergraduate program in Public Health. She also currently serves as a graduate assistant in our department with full responsibility for developing and manning our undergraduate student advising office. In this capacity she has done a remarkable job that has greatly benefitted the faculty and students, as the program gets under way. I have been constantly impressed with her intelligence and insight and rely on her extensively, both for her knowledge of the system and her hard work. Her rare ability to speak up without hesitation and take on any task with enthusiasm and diligence has been essential to the success of our program planning.

She is without question the most articulate student I have come across at UH and also one of the nicest. Her personality and enthusiasm are unmatched and she would be an incredible addition to the Board of Regents. She would be an impassioned and enlightened spokesperson for both the undergraduate and graduate student perspectives at UH. Her experiences as an outer island student attending UN Manoa, her attendance as both an undergraduate and graduate student at UH, her experience working with faculty and staff at UH in the advising process, and her extensive community involvement are important experiences that are matched by very few

students at UH and these experiences will serve her well on the Board. In my experience over the years many student members of the Board of Regents have appeared reticent to speak up or take an independent stand on behalf of the students they represent. I am supremely confident of Michelle's ability to have a more appropriate and proactive role on the Board and provide a critical perspective that has been lacking in past years. She is a remarkable young woman and it is with supreme confidence that I recommend her to you as a candidate for student regent. I have no doubt she will bring distinction to the Board and the community she serves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert V. Cooney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert V, Cooney, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Undergraduate Chair
Office of Public Health Studies
1960 East-West Road
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 24, 2014

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Denise Nakaoka, Manoa Peer Advisor Supervisor
University of Hawaii at Manoa

SUBJECT: **GM 590: Michelle Tagorda, Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit this testimonial in support of Michelle Tagorda, nominee for the student seat of the Board of Regents.

As a faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), I have been working with college students for 23 years in various capacities as an academic advisor, class instructor, and program supervisor. Over the course of my career, I have interacted with approximately 50,000+ students. While there have been many who have shown great promise academically, Michelle Tagorda stands head and shoulders above the crowd due to her combination of intelligence, compassion, integrity, and drive.

Michelle serves as the Program Assistant for the Manoa Peer Advisor (MPA) Program. This program typically attracts high achieving students who are interested in learning about UHM academic policies and degree requirements so they may help their peers successfully navigate their college experience and graduate in a timely manner.

Michelle has been a valuable asset to the MPA program. She has demonstrated incredible initiative, forethought, planning, and insight when interacting with the students and Supervisors of the MPA program. She has also shown great strength in anticipating the needs of a group, offering viable solutions to issues and concerns, and mentoring students who are in need of extra guidance and care.

I have talked with Michelle on several occasions about her nomination to the Board of Regents. She has spoken eloquently about her desire to build public awareness regarding the top notch quality of the student body and the excellence achieved from UH programs.

She is a proud student of the University of Hawaii and wants to instill this pride in others who many not be as familiar with the good work that continues to occur throughout the UH system.

I wholeheartedly support Michelle Tagorda as a nominee to the Board of Regents. She is passionate, earnest, genuine, and true. She is the perfect choice to represent the UH student body.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions (nakaoka@hawaii.edu; 956-4274).

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2014

Committee on Higher Learning

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

**Testimony in Strong Support of Michelle Asprer Tagorda's Appointment as a Member of
the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii**

HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

My name is Angelique K. Solomon. I am a Faculty Specialist in the Office of Student Affairs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I was excited to learn that Ms. Michelle Asprer Tagorda was nominated by Governor Abercrombie to be a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii.

I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Tagorda during her time as a peer mentor in the Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. We collaborated together to organize high school visits for students determined on entering careers in the health professions. Ms. Tagorda was instrumental in providing information about academic programs available on campus geared toward healthcare careers and services available to high school students interested in attending the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She also provided small group advising sessions during these campus visits highlighting the challenges of being successful at the college level, yet providing them with the knowledge that a college education is available to everyone.

Ms. Tagorda is an example of perseverance, dedication and hard work. She impressed me with her keen sense of responsibility to her academic, employment and civic obligations always working collaboratively with others to complete the task at hand in a timely and efficient manner.

I believe Ms. Tagorda will bring a diverse, student perspective to the Board of Regents. I am in strong support of the appointment of Ms. Michelle Asprer Tagorda to the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Angelique K. Solomon, Faculty Specialist
Office of Student Affairs
Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campus Road, QLCSS 413
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Denise Nelson-Hurwitz, PhD



2442 Tusitala St. Apt 219 • Honolulu, HI 96822 • Phone: (808) 754-5288
E-Mail: denisene@hawaii.edu

Date: March 23, 2014

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Hawai'i State Capital, Conference Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senators:

I am writing in strong support of Ms. Michelle Tagorda's confirmation as University of Hawai'i (UH) Board of Regents Student Regent. I have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Ms. Tagorda for the past three years, both as a peer advisor and senior peer advisor at the UH Manoa Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center, and later as the undergraduate advisor for the UH Manoa Office of Public Health Studies. As a doctoral student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and later as the recruitment advisor for the Office of Public Health Studies, I have worked with Ms. Tagorda during many recruitment events over the past three years and have worked closely with her during the past eight months to develop and publicize our new B.A. Public Health degree. In all the time I have known and worked with Ms. Tagorda she has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and maturity, and has proved to have an intimate knowledge and understanding of the University of Hawai'i system.

Ms. Tagorda has also maintained an excellent rapport with her student peers and has earned a reputation as an empathetic listener, thoughtful collaborator, and an effective leader. She has held several leadership positions throughout the University of Hawai'i at Manoa system, both as a leader in student groups (e.g. Mortar Board National Honor Society, UH Manoa Campus Center Board, and Health Behavior Change Research Workgroup Student Chapter) and as a student representative in professional organizations (e.g. Hawai'i Public Health Association).

It has been a pleasure and a great honor to work with Ms. Michelle Tagorda over the past three years. I have seen her work tirelessly and advocate passionately for student causes. Her professionalism, maturity, dedication, and strong rapport with fellow UH students would be of tremendous benefit to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. As such, I strongly support Ms. Tagorda's confirmation as University of Hawai'i Student Regent. On a personal note, as a lifetime resident of the State of Hawai'i and as an alumnus of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (BA 2007, MS 2009, PhD 2013), I believe Ms. Tagorda would be a strong leader, and that the University of Hawai'i would greatly benefit from her service.

Sincerely,

DCNH3/23/14

Denise C. Nelson-Hurwitz, PhD
Assistant Professor & Recruitment Advisor, Office of Public Health Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

March 24, 2014

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate District 11
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: For consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi,

I would like to provide this written testimony to affirm the nomination of Ms. Michelle Togorda for the student seat on the Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i. I have collaborated with Ms. Tagorda while she assisted students in the Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center. I have found her to be highly motivated, prepared, and committed to the betterment of students and systems that impact their educational experiences.

I believe her intent to support the UH System and higher education in strengthening community linkages and opportunities for students will be bolstered by her familiarity with the system as a student and as a beginning professional. Her involvement with community-based research and health related projects demonstrates her commitment to servicing the people of our State. She reflects a promising professional future as she completes her master's degree in Public Health.

She has my full support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Mari Ono, MSW
Director of Student Services
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

March 25, 2014

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Nancy S. Partika, Assistant Specialist,
JABSOM & OPHS, University of Hawaii at Manoa

SUBJECT: **GM 590: Michelle Tagorda, Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I am pleased to be testifying today on behalf of Ms. Michelle Tagorda, who has been nominated as the student representative for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. While representing all University of Hawaii diverse student interests would be a daunting task to anyone, I believe that Michelle is an excellent candidate and that she is up to the challenge.

Michelle was raised on the Big Island of Hawaii, and has been a student leader and a high achiever since her high school days. She has an impressive background in student government and student services at the high school and college levels, as well as performing an array of community services. Her academic work at UH since fall of 2008 has been outstanding, resulting in her being on the Dean's List several times. She has been very involved in several U.H. health research projects and has also excelled at providing other U.H. undergraduate students with advising for pre-health and pre-law, and more recently, for public health.

Michelle was in my PH 430 (Health Policy and Management) course last spring 2013, and she impressed me with her bright and inquiring approach to the issues we addressed. Michelle is quickly able to connect information and concepts and is always adding to the sum total of the knowledge base. She is a very positive person by nature, communicates well with her peers and others, and generally stood out in this class as a person who will do well in whatever she chooses to undertake in the future.

Michelle now serves as one of our student representatives in the Board of the Hawaii Public Health Association, and she is actively engaged as a full board member in the process. Knowing Michelle and her capacity to contribute to any endeavor she takes on, I recommend her to be confirmed as the student representative on the U.H. Board of Regents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify before you today on this exceptional nominee.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU
CARMILLE LIM
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH
MARILYN LEE
JUDY KERN

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

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DHS.HSCSW@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 24, 2014

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

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the
Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, GM 590

The Commission supports the confirmation of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. The Commission strongly believes that gender equity in all decision making arenas broadens the depth and diversity of the collective conversation on important issues affecting students, faculty, and staff members.

Ms. Tagorda has been an active campus leader and mentor working with incoming freshman and as a peer advisor to students with diverse and varied backgrounds. Throughout her undergraduate career, she remained active in volunteer and extracurricular activities, while maintaining her status on the Dean's List. She strongly believes in breaking down barriers to higher education and increasing access to higher education. We support her confirmation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Higher Education

The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

The Hon. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM590

Submitted by Hawaii Primary Care Association

March 25, 2014, 3:30 pm, Room 414

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **strongly supports** the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. As an extension of our commitment to alleviating social determinants, the HPCA created a documentary entitled to *Ola*, meant to educate and raise awareness about these issues in Hawaii.

Ms. Tagorda has been instrumental in her efforts to support *Ola*, and the work with social determinants in general. She has always expressed a recognition in the social factors that affect and communities, volunteering her support to the project, a collaboration with the Department of Health, by working to develop a toolkit to help further educate individuals on this important topic.

Ms. Tagorda is an enthusiastic and active member of the public health community that will no doubt bring the same level of dedication to the Board of Regents. As another social determinant of health, Ms. Tagorda possesses an equal passion for education and the vital position it takes in the health and well-being of the state. As a tireless worker and innovative thinker, she will be an asset to the board in every way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Michelle Tagorda's consideration to the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii.



March 23, 2014

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Dr. Robert Hirokawa, President, Hawaii Public Health Association

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT - GM 590: Michelle Tagorda, Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I am pleased to testify on behalf of Ms. Michelle Tagorda, who has been nominated as the student representative for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) represents a membership of over 600 students, professionals, and practitioners in the field of public health from various disciplines statewide. HPHA's mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy, and our vision is health equity in Hawai'i and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges.

Michelle is an exceptional young woman who is currently working towards her master's in public health degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In her current role as one of two student representatives on the HPHA Board, Michelle has attended our Board meetings and participated in discussions as a full voting member, served on the planning committee for National Public Health Week, and also participated in our recent strategic planning event. Michelle is very collaborative within HPHA and responsive to Board issues. She will be representing Hawaii's public health students in an upcoming American Public Health Association panel in November.

Michelle has been a full partner in our efforts to address public health issues since she joined our Board in September 2013. I speak for our entire Board in recommending her to be confirmed as the Student Representative on the UH Board of Regents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Michelle Tagorda's nomination.

Filipino American Citizens League

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 414

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee Members: Sen. David Y. Ige, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, **Required parameters are missing or incorrect.**, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Sen. Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair; and Senate Committee Members:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, we are very proud to strongly support GM 590. The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

During these troubling economic times and the persistent stalemate and failure in Congress to uplift the status of minority and underserved communities in America, FAFL is disturbed about the declining numbers of Filipino, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in higher education, particularly in medicine and law. With the confirmation of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents, we hope that she will add to the rigorous governance oversight necessary to address these disparities and more.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Filipino American Citizen's League to support Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Michelle Tagorda. Please consider voting yes to her confirmation.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 414

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To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee Members: Sen. David Y. Ige, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations
Region 12

Dear Hon. Sen. Taniguchi, Chair; Hon. Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair; and Hon. Senate Committee Members:

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports this bill. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA strongly supports Gov. Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the UH Board of Regents. I have had the pleasure to work with her in my former position as Student Life Coordinator at the UH Campus Center. Through her student leadership positions on the Campus Center Board, she has gained considerable knowledge and experience in navigating through UH policies, budgets, and procedures, which will aid in helping her to address the complex policies and decision making that will benefit all students statewide. NaFFAA Region 12 extends our appreciation to you for hearing this bill and considering approval of her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair
NaFFAA Region XII



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 414

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair and Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee Members: Sen. David Y. Ige, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Helena Manzano, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Dear Hon. Sen. Taniguchi, Chair; Hon. Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair; and Hon. Senate Committee Members:

My name is Helena Manzano, vice president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly supports Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

With her extensive student body leadership, she will represent students' needs throughout the UH System fairly and competently. Coming from the island of Hawai'i, Ms. Tagorda also brings the perspectives and sensibilities of access issues for student achievement. We are confident in her ability to make significant contributions in the challenging and austere times facing the University of Hawai'i.

The Coalition extends our gratitude to you for hearing this measure, and urge you to consider the confirmation of Ms. Tagorda.

Respectfully,

Helena Manzano, MSW, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

NAMI, P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 414

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee Members: Sen. David Y. Ige, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, Founder and President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

Dear Hon. Sen. Taniguchi, Chair; Hon. Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair; and Hon. Senate Committee Members:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for Gov. Neil Abercrombie's nomination to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

We believe that Michelle Tagorda's student leadership experience in UH Campus Center Board matters, her consistent academic performance on the Deans List, and her scholarly work in health disparities among youth through the UH Public Health Sciences Dept. MPH program prepares her to represent the needs of students on the Board of Regents. She will be an asset and will serve as a positive role model to students.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide our full community support to you for its passage.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 414

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Committee Members: Sen. David Y. Ige, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran,
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, AANCART Hawai'i Principal Investigator
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campus Rd. QLCSS Rm. 413, Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Hon. Sen. Taniguchi, Chair; Hon. Sen. Kahele, Vice Chair; and Hon. Senate Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to reduce cancer health disparities among Asian Americans through research, education and training. AANCART Hawai'i is an integral part of a consortium of universities through sub-awards from parent institution University of California-Davis Cancer Center.

We are proud to support the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the UH Board of Regents. She will not only bring students' views to the governance table, but also the lens of social determinants to public health in deliberating the best interests for student achievement, and the critical role of a transparent higher education presence and accountability in the communities served by the UH System. Her experience in conducting needs assessments will serve the BOR well in its committee work. We are grateful that Ms. Tagorda's talents, time, critical thinking and analytic skills will enhance the important work of the UH Board of Regents. The University of Hawai'i will be represented very well by her outstanding character and community service.

Thank you for the opportunity to support her nomination, and for your consideration of her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
AANCART Hawai'i Principal Investigator

Matthew A. Nagato
PO Box 22607
Honolulu, HI 96823

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Hon. Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of GM590
March 25, 2014, 3:30pm, Room 414**

Aloha:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Her numerous academic achievements - including multiple honor society memberships and repeated rankings on the dean's list at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa - are paralleled by Ms. Tagorda's outstanding leadership and service to the community.

At a time when we need strong, vibrant, and intelligent leaders to engage the challenges of our society, Ms. Tagorda has answered that call repeatedly through her collaborative research and professional career. Her strong interest in improving the health of Hawai'i's communities demonstrates the essential empathy, foresight and compassion required of effective public servants.

There is little doubt that someone with her credentials, drive, and vision would be an asset to the Board of Regents, the broader University system, and all the communities affected by the persistent improvement of our educational system.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Tagorda's nomination.

/s

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: makino@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM590 on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 8:30:17 AM

GM590

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megumi Makino-Kanehiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am writing in support of Michelle Tagorda's nomination to serve as the student representative on the Board of Regents. Michelle serves as program assistant for the Manoa Peer Advisors (MPA) Program. I am one of four supervisors for that program. I have worked with student workers and peer advisors for over 14 years. Michelle is exceptional and I am convinced that she will really make a difference in the world. Michelle has repeatedly impressed me with her strong work ethic, her caring and her passion to improve UHM and help her fellow students. Michelle has many of the skills that great leaders possess. 1. As she demonstrated in high school student body government, and at UHM's Campus Center Board, Michelle has the ability to rise to the top of any organization. This is because she is dedicated, hardworking and has exceptional interpersonal skills. Not only that, she is able to influence and encourage others. I have seen her successfully mentor our peer advisor leaders to succeed and grow to achieve the best of their potential, as well. 2. She also has the vision required to achieve great things. She understands the issues because she cares enough to do thorough research and, more importantly, really listen to others. She is able to think about the issues critically, yet she is incredibly thoughtful and positive, always focusing on students' success. 3. She offers a unique perspective. Coming from a small town on the Big Island, her understanding of the issues and her approach to them is both collaborative and thoughtful. As the first female student regent, she would serve as an important role model for all future student regents. Michelle Tagorda has my highest recommendation and I believe that she would be an outstanding student regent for the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Sincerely Yours, Megumi Makino-Kanehiro
Director of Advising, Office of Undergraduate Education Director, Manoa Advising Center University of Hawaii at Manoa Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services
101 2600 Campus Road Honolulu, HI 96822

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: npb@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM590 on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM*
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 9:01:38 AM

GM590

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikolas Bonifacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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GM590 : Testimony in support of Michelle Tagorda's Nomination

Aloha!

My name is Ivan Chik and I am currently a medical student at the John A. Burn's School of Medicine, as well as a two-time alumnus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing to strongly support Michelle Tagorda's nomination for the student regent position (**GM590**). In addition to her enthusiasm and pride for the UH system, Michelle's extra-curricular involvement, area of study (Master's of Public Health), and work experience have all added to her strength as a nominee and why I feel she would make a great representative on behalf of the students in the UH system.

A few notable experiences include:

1. As an undergraduate, Michelle was heavily involved with the student council government, **Campus Center Board (CCB)**, and served as **President** during a large transition period when major construction was being implemented for Campus Center.
2. As a current **Master's of Public Health student**, she is learning how to critically examine and evaluate issues affecting large communities, and how to take a systematic approach in addressing different problems, which include things like accessing different resources, creating interventions, and educating the public on important topics.
3. She has also worked as an **academic advisor** for over three years at UH Manoa and is *still* advising students. This experience, in my opinion, is the **most valuable** and what makes Michelle a very strong candidate for this position. As an advisor, she has worked with hundreds of students over the years, **listening to their concerns, creating academic plans, and guiding students** so that they can achieve their goals. Furthermore, her years of experience as an academic advisor has provided Michelle with a background on a range of **key issues affecting students and the UH system** from class availability, tuition, campus resources, and advising, to commuting and safety.

Anyone who becomes a student regent must have a strong leadership background (point 1), be able to evaluate a problem on different levels and offer insight into possible solutions (point 2), and finally, be able to communicate with students and represent our views of key issues (point 3). Michelle has demonstrated these abilities, and brings many other experiences to the table as well.

I enthusiastically recommended Michelle Tagorda for the student regent position.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan Chik

March 25, 2014

The Senate
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 414
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi, Senator Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Committee:

I submit the following testimony ***in support of the appointment of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii***. During the two years I have known Ms. Tagorda as a fellow student, undergraduate and graduate classmate, she has demonstrated the qualities and temperament necessary to serve as a student representative on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

It is in the capacities of the academic and extracurricular environments that I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Tagorda. As an undergraduate student, I was aware of her position as a student advisor at our Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center (PAC); having been a fellow pre-medical student, I understand the knowledge that one must possess in the act of enhancing students' journey through their undergraduate years. She has carried this knowledge and expertise with her into graduate school as a Masters in Public Health student, and continues to assist students as they transition into graduate school.

Ms. Tagorda possesses a gentle and kind spirit that makes her approachable and able to hear students' concerns; importantly, she combines this demeanor with the intention and assertiveness required to advocate for our needs and represent our voice. Seeing that Michelle has the humility, integrity, intelligence, and consideration needed to best represent students of the university, I support Ms. Tagorda's nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Jessica Fabrigas
University of Hawaii Masters in Public Health Candidate

Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

To the Honorable Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Senator Gilbert Kahele, and the Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Andrew Itsuno, I am a third year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a former president of the Campus Center Board, and a former president of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai`i.

I am submitting testimony today to ask that the Committee on Higher Education confirm the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i.

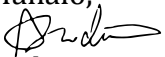
I have had the privilege and honor of working with Michelle while I was on the Campus Center Board. I have always been impressed with Michelle's ability to mobilize students under one shared vision – the vision to make the University of Hawai`i one of the best universities in the nation. Her leadership and vision played an integral part in helping see through the University of Hawai`i at Manoa's Campus Center Recreation Center Project. The recreation center, which will open on April 11, 2014, will vastly improve student life at the University of Hawai`i. The project would not have come this far without Michelle's leadership and guidance during her time on the Campus Center Board.

I am confident that as a regent, Michelle will successfully represent the voice of the students of the University of Hawai`i system. During the time I worked with Michelle, I was able to witness her tireless advocacy on behalf of the students at the University of Hawaii. She is calm and approachable. Students would always come up and talk to her and she would always make the time to listen to their concerns. At Campus Center Board meetings, Michelle would constantly generate solutions to address student needs and to create a more nurturing learning environment for the students. And what is a better indicator of leadership than a person who consistently strives to create solutions?

Not only is Michelle a student advocate, however, Michelle, who became the president of the Campus Center Board, has the experience of successfully working with the Board of Regents, administrators, staff, and faculty members of the University of Hawai`i. Watching Michelle, I have always been impressed with her ability to bring students and staff together to accomplish project's that would positively impact the University of Hawai`i.

Michelle is a solid leader who will help the University of Hawai`i move forward.

Thus, I ask that the Committee on Higher Education confirm the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i.

Mahalo,

Andrew Itsuno

March 25, 2014

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Mark Tagorda,
Student, University of Hawaii at Mānoa

SUBJECT: GM 590: Michelle Tagorda, Nominee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

I am writing in strong support for Michelle Tagorda as the student regent of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I can attest to Michelle's strong family values, work ethic, and passion. Since high school she has been very driven and had been actively engaged in student government and community service. Balancing her academics, extracurricular activities, and personal life has been a skill I've witnessed her achieve. Her passion for this university is evident and resulted in her convincing me to transfer to pursue my undergraduate studies at the College of Engineering, which I will be graduating from, this May. She helped acclimate me to the university in navigating through campus resources, engagement opportunities, and also professional preparation. Her selfless character to always keep others in mind is something she shares with anyone she encounters, whether it is family, friends, colleagues, advisees, and any who needs a helping hand. She truly cares about the students and in ensuring the community can be proud of the education that the university provides. I humbly ask that you please consider Michelle Tagorda as the next student regent.

Thank you,

Mark Tagorda

Tuesday – March, 25 2014 – 3:30 PM
Conference Room 414

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert, Vice Chair

From: That Nam Tran “Sony” Ton, medical student
University of Hawai`i-Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Re: GM 590
Testimony Supporting the consideration and confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i

I am That Nam Tran “Sony” Ton—a former UH-Manoa alumnus/Regents Scholar and current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I have the great privilege of writing a supportive testimony for Michelle Tagorda’s nomination to serve on the UH Board of Regents. I have known and worked with Michelle in various capacities as a co-worker and colleague throughout my tenure at UH-Manoa. Aside from her academic achievements in the health sciences, I have been able to witness her commitments to serving higher education while being her supervisor at the Pre-Health/Pre-Law Advising Center (PAC) and her fellow board member of the Campus Center Board (CCB).

PAC is a student-run peer advising office that provides free academic advising to any current/former/prospective student who wants to pursue health and law careers. As a peer advisor, the competencies rely not only on the detailed processes of applying to each program, but also breadth of all degree programs to accommodate a student’s educational pathway. As her supervisor, I can attest to her strong abilities to actively listen and cooperate with her advisees, as well as to demonstrate flexibility in serving her students’ needs. She has empowered many students to utilize the available university resources and to work towards being independent in their career planning. It has pleased me to learn that she later served as a PAC supervisor, and subsequently serving as a graduate assistant to drive the academic advising engine of the Office of Public Health’s programs.

CCB is a chartered student organization that serves as a policy making and programming board for the UH Manoa Campus Center. She served pivotal roles in promoting the current initiative to renovate and expand the Campus Center (i.e. the new upper campus recreational center). It was clearly evident that she served on the board to best represent the student body’s position with campus programming and recreation—actively being engaged in the board meetings and participating in board initiatives/functions. I was glad to know that she maintained continuity between

students, university leadership, and state leadership to enable the current renovation/expansion project to proceed towards completion.

Michelle Tagorda will be the ideal complement as a student member on the Board of Regents. Her breadth of knowledge regarding the academic curriculum and her history as an engaged student leader both epitomize the level and quality of experience that I desire for a nominee to represent my needs as a current student. She will be a beneficial asset to the board's diversity and to the student body she will serve.

March 24, 2014

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

To the Honorable Senator Taniguchi,

RE: Letter of Support for University of Hawaii Board of Regents Nominee Michelle Tagorda

I am writing in support of Michelle Targorda's nomination to the University Of Hawai'i Board Of Regents.

I have known Michelle since her recruitment as a member into the Campus Center Board, a chartered student organization at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the fall of 2009. I was the lead advisor for the Campus Center Board and the Campus Center Director who worked closely with the board on a regular basis. Although I am no longer the lead advisor for the Campus Center Board, I still advise the Campus Relations committee of the Campus Center Board of which Michelle is the committee chair. I am also a licensed social worker with 10 years experience in therapeutic foster care in the state of Hawai'i during my employment with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. I have been at the University of Hawai'i for the last 10 years as a faculty specialist at the Office of Student Life and Development.

Michelle has held various leadership positions with the Campus Center Board, including President, Secretary and President Elect. As the President of the Campus Center Board, she was responsible for ensuring that board members were diligent in making decisions that were consistent with the Board's charter and that decisions represented their constituents' needs. She was also responsible for ensuring that initiatives by past boards were attended to while still pursuing purposeful new ventures. This includes the Campus Center Renovation and Expansion Project which is a multi-phased renewal of the UH Manoa student union, the inclusion of recreation services and foodservices as part of the student union services, and the implementation and funding of the Manoa One Card Program which has system-wide implication.

Michelle has taken advantage of using the student governance platform of the Campus Center Board to gain valuable leadership skills and experiences. During her tenure with the Campus Center Board, she participated in lobbying for funds and support from the state legislature for the Campus Center Renovation and Expansion Project, she partnered with other student organizations to bring about programs. She has not shied away from difficult and controversial issues and has pursued them with integrity. Her leadership ability is one that is blossoming as she develops increasing confidence in her own judgments and values. In her current position as Secretary on the Board, she has taken on a more mentorship role. It is obvious that she has matured in her thinking and presentation, and in doing so, has developed a sense of responsibility to teach, support and guide students who have come after her. This is a delight to see – her transformation as a student leader in her community.

Michelle is a warm and personable individual who is often seen reaching out to others. She is facilitative by nature and is always willing to listen and to make concessions for the greater good. However, she is

also one who is diligent and demonstrates self-discipline. I have not known another student who works as hard as Michelle. She has the tenacity to make things happen even if it has to be done a few times over. She is “out there” modeling for others and rallying to make things happen. She is not only a critical thinker but a principled thinker who is interested in others.

I have had the privilege of observing Michelle develop as a student leader. It is because of her ability to self-reflect and to try new behaviors and new attitudes that make her a well rounded student. I can see her making strides as a young professional in the field of public health. She is interested and passionate about the plights of others and about how policy drives accountability. She has been chair to various committees both within the Campus Center Board and in other co-curricular experiences and these opportunities have helped define her interests and appreciation for structure, planning and outcomes.

While Michelle is a very busy student, she has successfully balanced her academic, co-curricular and personal responsibilities. In addition, she has practically funded her education on her own because of her tenacity and intelligence.

I whole heartedly recommend Michelle to the Board of Regents. She will be of value to this University because not only does she care and love this institution, but she has had the experience and desire to shape it for the future. I am confident that she will be an invaluable individual who can have profound impact on this community. Thank you for the opportunity to support Michelle. Please contact me if you have questions at 956-4832.

Sincerely,

Sarah Yap, LSW
sarahyap@hawaii.edu

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you as a friend and fellow Campus Center Board member of Ms. Michelle Tagorda to express my support for her appointment to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Ms. Tagorda has taken on major leadership roles with Campus Center Board. She is always actively engaged in multiple facets within the organization whether it's planning events/logistical work, creating/formulating policies for the Campus Center Complex or crafting and analyzing budget reports. It has truly been a pleasure working along side an individual that brings an A+ attitude and work ethic to whatever undertaking/project is being worked on.

I strongly support Ms. Tagorda's appointment to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii based upon her knowledge, skills and passion for making a difference. She will be a true asset to the University of Hawaii System.

Sincerely,

Martin Deabler

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chairman Higher Education Committee
Senate District 11
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Gilbert Kahele
Senate District 1
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators,

My name is Rich Kodama, former president of the Campus Center Board (CCB) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I am a 2011 graduate from UHM and would like to submit testimony on behalf of Michelle Tagorda for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents' student regent seat.

Michelle has served on the CCB since November of 2009. She was asked by the membership committee to be a member because of her strong desire to better the student experience at UH Manoa. In her years there, she gained much experience in learning how to become a leader as well as how to manage the many aspects of the Campus Center Complex that goes unseen to the average student such as its budget and policies. Michelle also served as secretary and president of the CCB.

Michelle is a very positive and solution-oriented individual who will definitely be a great addition to the Board of Regents. In addition to her passion to help the University of Hawaii succeed, she will be a great listener for the students, and she will work her hardest to help improve our UH System.

I strongly recommend Michelle Tagorda to be nominated as the student regent for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. It is my expectation that she will serve as an excellent student representative who will work with everyone to better our great university.

Best Regards,

Rich T. Kodama

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: jeffrey.acido@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM590 on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 3:23:19 PM

GM590

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for HRE on Mar 25, 2014 15:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Acido	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Higher Ed. Committee, I am a graduate student at UH-Manoa and a resident of Kalihi. I am in full support of Michelle Tagorda as our student representative to the Board of Regents. I have heard her speak to the issues concerning Hawaii and the University and I am very impressed at her keen sense of the complexity of running a large organization such at the University of Hawaii. I am moved by her passionate commitment to serve students who are most least represented in the university. Her roots in the Hawaii Island has allowed her to gain a better understanding of the life of our people. Her roots as working class filipina will help her navigate the constant negotiations of making decisions at such a high level. Michelle is more than capable of taking on such role, her vision and heart, will help us move towards the direction of a sustainable UH and one that will serve the people of Hawaii. I believe she will be the First Filipina to hold the student regent position. Upon your confirmation, she will trail a blaze for us, for those seeking to make a difference, for those who were born to immigrant parents, and to those who grew up in the humble rural parts of Hawaii. I hope you see the greatness and brilliance of this young woman. All she wants to do is serve the people that have taught her to love and be loved--for the people of Hawaii. Mahalo for allowing me the chance to speak to the beautiful character of Michelle Tagorda, Jeffrey Tangonan Acido

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Agnes Malate

P.O. Box 61068 • Honolulu, HI 96839 • armalate@yahoo.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 590

Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,
Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA,
for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Senate Committee on Higher Education

March 25, 2014, 3:30 pm
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 414

To: Honorable Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Committee on Higher Education Members: Sen. David Ige,
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Jill Tokuda

From: Agnes Malate, MEd

My name is Agnes Malate and I wholeheartedly support Michelle Tagorda's nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I first met and worked with Michelle in my capacity as director of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on joint outreach projects to high school and college students interested in pursuing a health career. She is an outstanding student who excels academically and has demonstrated her passion for community service.

Michelle has taken full advantage of what the public education system has to offer to advance her dreams of obtaining a college degree and utilizing it to help others do the same. Her experience working as a peer advisor while she was an undergraduate student fueled her desire to help others navigate what is sometimes a complex road to graduation. She knows the challenges the students face and also is familiar with the services and strategies that will help them succeed.

Michelle is bright, articulate, and has a keen appreciation for the opportunities that a college education can provide and will provide an important perspective from the point of view of a student and as a citizen and future leader of our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I hope you will give Michelle Tagorda's nomination your full consideration for I am confident that she will make an excellent Regent.

To Senator Brian Taniguchi and the Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Michael Magaoay and I am submitting testimony in support for Michelle Tagorda for the student Board of Regents position.

I am a former president of the Campus Center Board at UH Manoa and had the privilege of working with Michelle for three years. As a member of the Membership committee during my sophomore year, I recommended to her to join Campus Center Board. From her application to acceptance of being a member, she has been very beneficial to the program. From the first meeting, she showed initiative, compassion, and a fire to help her fellow students at UH Manoa. During my last year as President, Michelle was voted as President-Elect for the following term. This final year was a big step forward for Campus Center Board. She displayed confidence in taking a leadership role, and was very active in getting our Campus Center Renovation and Expansion product moving.

Michelle would be a great addition to the Board of Regents, her charismatic attitude and compassion for students are her best qualities.

Thank you for your reading,
Michael Magaoay

Summer K. Lee

March 24, 2014

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chairman Higher Education Committee
Senatorial District 11
Hawaii State Capitol Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Gilbert Kahele
Senatorial District 1
Hawaii State Capital Room 213
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators,

As someone who has worked closely with Ms. Michelle Tagorda for the last 5 years, I was happy to know that she was up for consideration to join the esteemed University of Hawaii Board of Regents (BOR). It is my opinion that Ms. Tagorda would be an excellent addition to the BOR and has an excellent skill-set that would serve the BOR's mission and objectives.

I have worked and continue to work with Ms. Tagorda in her capacity as a member of the Campus Center Board (CCB). Serving as a member of the CCB has taught her the necessary skills of being a policy creator and advocate for her constituents. She has also had extensive experience in seeing how a multi-million dollar budget is created and managed via the CCB's extensive fiscal operations. Also, she has gained further leadership skills by serving on the Executive Committee of the CCB. Many of those years she served as CCB President.

Ms. Tagorda is a hard-working young woman of exceptional moral character who I know will always put the needs of the students first. While there is always a learning curve for those who are new to a leadership position, I feel Ms. Tagorda's experience with the CCB gives her a unique insight into policy governance that would be a real asset to the BOR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Summer K. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Summer K. Lee

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senate Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi,

I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Michelle Torgoda's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I had the pleasure of knowing Michelle for the past few years as her advisor and mentor.

In the role that I serve, I observed Michelle in a variety of situations. From our initial acquaintance here at the University, Michelle has shown outstanding organizational skills, an overwhelming willingness to learn, a commitment and devotion to our organization and the students of the University of Hawaii, and the ability to relate to a diverse group of people. Michelle's continuous effort to seek out ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization has been a tremendous asset to our Department, the University, community, and all of its constituents. Her display of patience when working with fellow students, board members, and co-workers has been outstanding. Michelle has very strong collaborative skills and will continue to be an asset to any venue she is involved in. She has a special ability to lead others to work together towards a common goal.

Michelle has continued her commitment and devotion to the University and its constituents during the past few years by continuing to serve on the Campus Center Board.

It has been a pleasure knowing Michelle Torgoda. Her dependability, core values, work ethic, communication skills and enthusiasm has served the University of Hawaii and its constituents with distinction. Michelle Torgoda is a worthy applicant for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I strongly support her nomination for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (808) 956-4815 or carlf@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,

Carl H. Furutani
University of Hawaii Student Life and Development

Thursday, March 20, 2014

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Matthew Nagata, University of Hawai`i at Mānoa – Undergraduate Student

SUBJECT: GM 590, Recommendation of Michelle Tagorda for BOR

Dear Honorable Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice-Chairperson Kahele, and respected members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Matthew Nagata; I am currently in my third year as an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. I strongly recommend Michelle Tagorda for the BOR student position.

During my first year at Mānoa, I had the opportunity to get to know Michelle while working with her on the Campus Center Board (CCB). One of the first things that stood out to me about Michelle was her commitment to serving her fellow peers. The following year, Michelle was CCB President and with her encouragement, I ran for, and was elected President-Elect. While serving on the CCB, Michelle served as a mentor and role model for me; helping me develop into the leader that I am today.

During the time that I have known Michelle, she has always held herself to the highest level of integrity. As President, she held members accountable, modeled proper behavior, facilitated global thinking, and always practiced responsible decision making. If confirmed as the BOR Student Member, I'm sure that Michelle would continue demonstrating these admirable traits.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this recommendation for Michelle Tagorda. I truly believe that Michelle would represent the students, including myself, of the University of Hawaii System well.

TESTIMONY
OF
MICHELLE A. TAGORDA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
March 25, 2014

G.M. 590

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE A. TAGORDA, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a candidate for this very important position, as the student representative of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Growing up on the Big Island of Hawai'i, in the rural district of Puna, I was blessed with hard working parents who believed in providing the best they could for their children. I was born of Philippine immigrant parents, from whom I learned the strong values of hard work and humility. My parents use to always tell my brother and me that the most important thing that they could give us was an education, and that they could rest easy knowing that we gained the skills to not only survive, but to live as productive contributors to our society. It was through my experiences attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where I learned about my passion for service and advocacy to give back to my community.

The University of Hawai'i system with each of its 10 campuses respectively plays an integral part in the development of students. Students are able to find their passion through the various programs, degrees and majors and through campus engagement opportunities. Each campus is unique in providing students the opportunities to excel and ultimately become part of the state's workforce. For students in underserved communities access is definitely a barrier. I am forever thankful to my educators, coaches, and mentors in the small town of Kea'au, who supported me on my way to college. Unfortunately, many may not have the same opportunity and I would like to be a voice for them to ensure that they too may be able to savor the fruits of what higher education can provide. Barriers also exist for students currently attending college and by having the student perspective about issues across the campuses, I wish to advocate on behalf of their needs.

I truly believe in what the UH System and higher education can do for our community in opening doors and opportunities for students thus allowing our state's local workforce to grow. My wish to be part of the BOR is based on my investment and pride in our UH System knowing students can receive quality education and succeed in their heart's desires.

In closing, I want to thank the Governor for having the confidence in nominating me during this selection process. Thank you also to the senate higher education committee for the wonderful work you do, not only for the University, but also for our entire educational system. Lastly, I would like to thank the many supporters who provided testimony and who are here today in support for my appointment including my professors, advisors, mentors, colleagues, classmates, friends, and family.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify as a candidate for the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Mahalo,

Michelle Tagorda