

# GM587

# Testimony

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):

TESTIMONY OF  
RANDOLPH G. MOORE  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 10, 2016  
G.M. 587

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee Wayne Higaki for a term to expire June 30, 2021

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Wayne Higaki to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I am speaking for myself a chair of the Board of Regents. The regents as a body do not take positions on the nomination of individuals for the Board.

Wayne Higaki is completing a one-year term as regent. He was appointed last year to the position vacated when Regent Carl Carlson resigned in 2014. During this brief time he has been an active, interested, and thoughtful member of the Board. He is currently a member of three Board committees: academic and student affairs, budget and finance, and independent audit, where he has been a quick learner. His attendance has been very consistent, despite the challenges of traveling from West Hawaii, with the longest travel times and least convenient travel schedules to board and committee meetings.

I strongly encourage your recommendation to the full Senate of his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Michael T. McEnerney**

MBA, JD, CPA/ABV/CFF, ASA, CVA

1100 Ward Suite 720

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

808-5203-0462

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Hawaii State Senate

Hearing March 10, 2016  
GM 587  
Confirmation of Wayne Higaki  
UH Board of Regents  
Term to Expire 06/30/2021

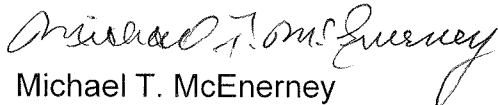
Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Higher Education and the Arts Committee:

My name is Michael T. McEnerney. At about this time last year I had the honor of appearing before your committee on my own nomination to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am writing today in strong support of the appointment of Wayne Higaki for a full five year term on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Regent Higaki was an interim appointment starting in May 2015 to serve a term expiring June 30, 2016.

My term began on July 1, 2015. I have found the comments and observations of Regent Higaki to be both insightful and informative. His past experience in administration has provided helpful background. I would strongly encourage his appointment to a full five year term.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McEnerney  
Regent Honolulu to 06/30/2020

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lputnam45@yahoo.com](mailto:lputnam45@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM587 on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 4:02:33 AM

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**GM587**

Submitted on: 3/8/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Putnam	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Wayne Higaki has been a conscientious member of the Board of Regents. His thoughtful insights have helped to clarify issues and move toward better outcomes. I look forward to having him as a continuing colleague and strongly support the confirmation of Wayne Higaki for appointment to the Board of Regents.

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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ASHFORD + WRISTON  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

BENJAMIN A. KUDO  
Telephone: (808) 539-0400  
Fax: (808) 533-4945  
[bkudo@awlaw.com](mailto:bkudo@awlaw.com)

March 7, 2016

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Benjamin A. Kudo  
Ashford & Wriston  
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM-587 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI - **SUPPORT**.  
Hearing date: Thursday, March 10, 2016  
Hearing time: 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and support of your Committee on the nomination of Mr. Wayne Higaki as a Regent for the University of Hawai'i. Mr. Higaki is a considerate and intelligent person who has carried out his responsibilities as a Regent for the last year. We ask that he be allowed to continue in that role.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON

  
Benjamin A. Kudo 

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 131 / Honolulu, HI 96810

STREET ADDRESS

First Hawaiian Center / 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 / Honolulu, HI 96813  
T 808.539.0400 / F 808.533.4945 / E [atty@awlaw.com](mailto:atty@awlaw.com) / [www.ashfordwriston.com](http://www.ashfordwriston.com)

TESTIMONY OF CORALIE MATAYOSHI IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
WAYNE HIGAKI, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM 587)

March 10, 2016, 1:30pm, Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Wayne Higaki to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Since joining the Board of Regents in May 2015, Wayne has been a “quick study,” diligently studying the volumes of materials and participating in Board discussions. He even attends meetings of committees which he is not a member of, just to get up to speed with the challenging issues we are facing. As Chair of the Personnel Committee, I have appreciated Wayne’s attendance, questions and comments. He also serves on the Budget & Finance Committee with me, where he is a thoughtful participant.

Wayne’s business acumen is welcomed, as we strive towards greater efficiency and accountability in the University system. His dedication to the community, especially the Big Island, is evidenced by his participation on the many Board and Councils on which he serves.

We are very lucky to have Wayne Higaki on the Board of Regents. I especially appreciate the time it takes for neighbor island Regents like Wayne to travel for meetings, particularly from Kona where flights are few and far between.

I am pleased to testify on his behalf and urge his speedy confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mizunob001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mizunob001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM587 on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:44:42 AM

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**GM587**

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barry Mizuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Wayne Higaki for several years, having served with him on the Mayor's Task Force for Health on the Big Island. Wayne is very knowledgeable and hard-working. His business mind will help the BOR making critical decisions. Please confirm Mr. Higaki.

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Dear Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,

This is written to convey my support for the reappointment of Wayne Higaki to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I have served on the board with Mr. Higaki since his interim appointment. His involvement on the commission indicates he is attentive, diligent, and hardworking. He is pleasant and collaborative in his relationships with the other regents and therefore, is an effective member of the board.

He presently is assigned to three important committees: the academic and student affairs committee, the budget and finance committee and the independent audit committee

His other statewide and Hawaii Island engagements are the type of valuable experiences a member of a representative board of regents like ours should have.

I believe Mr. Higaki would continue to be an exemplary member of the board and sincerely endorse his reappointment. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Simeon Acoba





**March 10, 2016 at 1:30 PM**  
**Conference Room 224**

**Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts**

To: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi

From: George Greene  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 587, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Wayne Higaki**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** the nomination of Mr. Wayne Higaki to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Mr. Higaki has shown his commitment to serving the people of Hawaii for many decades through his various roles at North Hawaii Community Hospital. He has proven his ability as a leader, helming a number of important projects at the facility that have provided great benefits to his community. We were very fortunate to have Mr. Higaki serve as a member of our Government Relations Committee, where he helped our association develop and advocate for legislation.

Without reserve, we would ask for your committee's support of Mr. Higaki's nomination to the Board of Regents. His commitment to serving the North Hawaii community and his extensive leadership experience are evidence that he will be a well-qualified and excellent addition to the Board of Regents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our support of Mr. Higaki's nomination.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 587**

Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** GM 587, which is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mr. Higaki currently serves on the Board of Regents' Budget & Finance, Academic & Student Affairs and Independent Audit Committees and has contributed positively as a regent. His commitment is evidenced by maintaining perfect attendance at board and committee meetings despite the challenges of interisland travel.

Mr. Higaki's values of community stewardship are exemplified in his years of service on local boards and as a member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils. He also served as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development and healthcare initiatives are two crucial components that impact Hawaii's ability to grow a vibrant economy. Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With your positive confirmation, Mr. Higaki's background and experience can continue to be an asset for the Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.

From: [Clyde T. Oshiro](#)  
To: [HFA Testimony](#)  
Cc: [Wayne Higaki](#)  
Subject: Support Wayne Higaki to BOR UH  
Date: Friday, March 04, 2016 3:24:10 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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CLYDE T. OSHIRO  
Certified Public Accountant  
319 Kinoole Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: (808) 935-0885 Fax: (808) 961-5881 e-mail: [oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net)

March 4, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 587, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,


Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important body.

Mr. Higaki currently serves on the Board of Regents' Budget & Finance, Academic & Student Affairs and Independent Audit Committees and has contributed positively as a regent. His commitment is evidenced by maintaining perfect attendance at board and committee meetings despite the challenges of interisland travel.

Mr. Higaki's values of community stewardship are exemplified in his years of service on local boards and as a member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils. He also served as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. I had served on the HCWIB when Wayne was Chairman of the Board and find that he displayed significant administrative skills and a commitment to our island community. His experience with workforce development and healthcare initiatives are two crucial components that impact Hawaii's ability to grow a vibrant economy. Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With your positive confirmation, Mr. Higaki's background and experience can continue to be an asset for the Board of Regents.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii System would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Clyde T. Oshiro, CPA



Marilynn Hata  
1329 Lusitana Street, Ste. 106  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 4, 2016

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 587, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

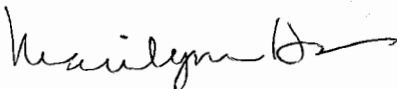
Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important body.

Mr. Higaki currently serves on the Board of Regents' Budget & Finance, Academic & Student Affairs and Independent Audit Committees and has contributed positively as a regent. His commitment is evidenced by maintaining perfect attendance at board and committee meetings despite the challenges of interisland travel.

Mr. Higaki's values of community stewardship are exemplified in his years of service on local boards and as a member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils. He also served as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development and healthcare initiatives are two crucial components that impact Hawaii's ability to grow a vibrant economy. Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With your positive confirmation, Mr. Higaki's background and experience can continue to be an asset for the Board of Regents.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Marilynn Hata, MBA

## Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Hawaii State Capitol,  
Conference Room 224

March 10, 2016 at 1:30 pm

### **GM 587, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **VERY STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Wayne S. Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

My name is Marilyn A. Matsunaga and I am here to voice my personal support of this nominee. My professional background includes serving as the Executive Director of the Oahu Workforce Investment Board. I also am the former State Administrator of the Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency.

I know Mr. Higaki best in these two areas – health care and workforce development. These two crucial arenas impact Hawaii's ability to grow our economy and provide a great future for generations to come. They both are key elements in Hawaii's Innovation economy.

The "Hawaii Innovation Assets Report" commissioned by the Hawaii Business Roundtable states that "(t)he economy of Hawaii is currently highly dependent on the tourism sector and military spending. Working with the business community, research and innovation has been identified as a third sector to be developed. As the largest research enterprise in the state, UH is essential to achieving this."

Mr. Higaki has the proven skills to help UH in its development of this third sector. He has real world expertise in the healthcare industry, which is built on innovations like telemedicine, clinical trials and national relationships, and workforce development initiatives which seek to ensure that business opportunities will be strengthened by having job seekers here that have the skills needed for success, will help bridge the worlds of business with education to grow our economy.

He is the former chairperson of the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board. This Board, established by the federal Workforce Investment Act and now the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, focuses on connecting the business community with the education industry. One of the biggest concerns of businesses across the nation is that graduates are not "work ready" and that educational institutions are often times out-of-touch

with the needs of business. Mr. Higaki has worked tirelessly on Hawaii Island to create strong linkages between the two. Because of his effectiveness, his peers voted him to serve as their Chairperson.

Mr. Higaki's ability to analyze complex and at times highly emotional issues with a fair-minded outlook are exemplified in his years of service on the statewide and local councils of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). SHPDA reviews major proposals that impact healthcare services and facilities statewide. Mr. Higaki consistently provided well-reasoned and fact based analysis of proposals that came before SHPDA. He saw the long term needs of the community and not just the immediate apparent popularity of a fancy presentation.

A product of the University of Hawaii's Community College System, Mr. Higaki started work as a frontline employee in a radiology business and through hard work rose to his current position as the Chief Development Officer of the North Hawaii Community Hospital.

Born and raised in Honoka'a, he is a truly a local boy who grew up to serve his community with humble dignity.

Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With background in both these areas, Mr. Higaki will be a valuable and strongly principled member of the Board of Regents.

Thank you for your thoughtful and supportive consideration.

From: [Robert Merson](#)  
To: [SEA Testimony](#)  
Subject: Testimony in support of Wayne Higaki  
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 6:15:29 AM

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Aloha,  
Here is my letter of support for Wayne Higaki's reappointment to the UH Board of Regents.  
Mahalo  
Bob



March 10, 2016

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 587, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important body.

Mr. Higaki currently serves on the Board of Regents' Budget & Finance, Academic & Student Affairs and Independent Audit Committees and has contributed positively as a regent. His commitment is evidenced by maintaining perfect attendance at board and committee meetings despite the challenges of interisland travel.

Mr. Higaki's values of community stewardship are exemplified in his years of service on local boards and as a member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils. He also served as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development and healthcare initiatives are two crucial components that impact Hawaii's ability to grow a vibrant economy. Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With your positive confirmation, Mr. Higaki's background and experience can continue to be an asset for the Board of Regents.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Mosen

Trustee, The Queen's Health Systems

Trustee, North Hawaii Community Hospital

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [romala@yahoo.com](mailto:romala@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM587 on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 11:37:30 AM

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**GM587**

Submitted on: 3/3/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Romala Radcliffe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ross@current-events.com](mailto:ross@current-events.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM587 on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:24:20 AM

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**GM587**

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Wayne Higaki experience on many boards and commissions serves our community well and he will be an asset to the Board of Regents. He currently serves on the Board of Regents and he is committed to helping our state improve access to higher education for all students.

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**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [amy\\_agbayani@yahoo.com](mailto:amy_agbayani@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM587 on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 5:19:45 PM

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**GM587**

Submitted on: 3/8/2016

Testimony for HEA on Mar 10, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
amy agbayani	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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