

GM748

Testimony

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Regents Of The University Of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Report Title: Board Of Regents Of The University Of Hawai'i

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 5, 2016

G.M. 748 – SUBMITTING FOR
CONSIDERATION TO THE BOARD OF
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE BRANDON
MARC HIGA

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Brandon Marc Higa to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Higa currently attends the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, where he is pursuing his Juris Doctor degree. Prior to his studies at UH, Mr. Higa graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. and M.A. degree in International Relations. Mr. Higa has dedicated much of his professional career to helping secure over \$60 million for Kapiolani Community College and UH consortium partners, where he currently serves as a Grants Development Specialist at KCC and Lead Consortium Grant Writer at the UH Office of the Vice President for Community Colleges, and previously as a Grant Writer for the Culinary Institute of the Pacific. Additionally, as a member of Bargaining Unit 08, Mr. Higa has diligently served as an HGEA union steward since 2013.

Mr. Higa also holds numerous leadership positions including Chair of the Kapiolani Community College Staff Council, President of the Student Bar Association, a member of the Pacific Post-Secondary Education Council, as well as a delegate to the Japan Council Tomodachi Initiative. With his extensive academic and professional background and his continual willingness to help improve the University of Hawaii in numerous capacities, we believe Mr. Higa will be an exceptional addition to the Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our unequivocal support for Brandon Marc Higa's confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

From: [amy_agbayani](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: Fw: HEA 4/5/16 @1:30 support GM748 Brandon Marc Higa from HFCR/Agbayani
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 3:56:15 PM

Testimony in support of GM 748: BRANDON MARC HIGA to the UH Board of Regents

Senate Committee on Higher Education & the Arts

April 5, 2016 @ 1:30

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. Brian Taniguchi and members of the Committee

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani , co-chair of the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights and I am providing testimony in strong support of BRANDON MARC HIGA'S nomination to the UH Board of Regents. I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen and co-chair of HFCR and not in my capacity as a tenured faculty member at UH Manoa. HFCR supports individuals, programs and policies that promote equal access and social justice. Mr. Higa has worked for equal educational opportunities for low income and other student groups. I am very grateful to read the many accomplishments of Mr. Higa, particularly his success in obtaining small grants (e.g. from my office Student, Equity, Excellence and Diversity) as well as multimillion dollar federal grants for UH Community Colleges. He clearly is rooted in Hawai'i and has international East Asian language and area studies expertise. He will be a very valuable addition to the BOR because of his knowledge of the various campuses and academic experiences as a student at UH and at a private California university. I am confident he will be an outstanding student regent because he has a track record of leadership and service on campus and in the state.

HRCR strongly supports Mr. Higa to the student seat of the UH BOR.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
KAPI'OLANI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kalāualani (Native Hawaiian Council)

Lā 31 o Malaki MH 2016

Kenekoa Brian T. Taniguchi, Alaka'i
Ke Kōmike 'Imi Na'auao me Ka Hana No'eau
Ko Hawai'i Aupuni 'Aha Kenekoa
Kapikala Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GM748 – No ka hō'oiā iā BRANDON MARC HIGA – KĀKO'O i ka Papa o Nā Kahu Kula o ke Kulanui, he moho mai ke kia'āina mai.

Lā Ho'olono: Pō'alua, lā 5 'Apelila MH2016
Wā Ho'olono: 1:30 awakea.
Lumi Hālāwai 224

Aloha mai e Kenekoa Brian T. Taniguchi,

He Leka Kāko'o na Brandon Marc Higa

E 'olu'olu, e 'ae mai iā mākou i wahi manawa e hō'ike aku iā 'oukou i ko mākou kāko'o le'a iā **Brandon Marc Higa** no ke kūlana Kahu Kula. I kēia manawa nō, 'o Brandon Marc Higa ke alaka'i o ka Hui Po'e Kōkua a he hoa hana 'o ia na mākou. 'O mākou nō 'o Kalāualani ('Aha Hawai'i), Kenekoa Kumu, me ka 'Aha'ōlelo Haumāna, nā Hui Ho'omalū 'ekolu o ke Kula Nui Kaiāulu 'o Kapi'olani, i ho'ākāka 'ia ma nā palapala o ka Papa o Nā Kahu Kula o Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i.

'Ili'ili Hāpai Pōhaku 'Alā Ho'oka'a

'A'ole nō i 'ike nui 'ia, akā he mea nui nō no ka mālama 'ia o ka pōhaku o ho'oka'a iho.

Ua haku 'ia ia 'ōlelo no'eau ma luna a'e e mākou 'ekolu i wehewehe a i hō'ike i ke 'ano kūpono o Brandon Marc Higa. 'Oiai mākou i kama'aina ai iā Mika Higa mai ka wā mua āna i ho'omaka ai ma ke Kula Nui Kaiāulu 'o Kapi'olani ma ke 'ano he mea kākau palapala noi kālā. 'O kekahi, ua kama'aina iā ia i ka wā a mākou i hana like a alu like ai ma ke kākau 'ia a loa'a i ka palapala noi kālā 'o ia ho'i 'o Title III ma 'Okakopa M.H. 2015. I ia manawa mākou i ho'okama'aina ai i kona 'ano he pono, he na'auao kū hohonu, he ho'okō, a he hō'eu'eu a hō'olu'olu.



'Ili'ili

Iā 'oe e nānā a'e ai i kahi pōhaku nui e noho hiehie ai ma luna o ka nu'u, kaka'ikahi nō ka 'ike 'ia o ka 'ili'ili e mālama 'ia ka ho'oka'a 'ana iho o ka pōhaku mai luna iho o ka nu'u. Pēlā pū nō ka hana a Mika Higa, 'a'ole nō e 'ike 'ia akā na'e, he mea nui nō kāna hana. Nāna nō e mālama i ka mākia a Mō'iwahine Kapi'olani me ko Ke Kula Nui, 'o ia ho'i "Kūlia I ka Nu'u". Me ka 'ole o kāna hana, 'a'ole nō e hiki i ke Kula Nui ke noho ha'aheo me ka ho'ohanohano i ka nui o kāna mau ho'okō. Iā mākou i hana like ai me Mika Higa ma ka palapala noi kālā, ua 'ike 'ia akula kāna hana miki'oi, hikiwawe, a maiau wale ma ka hō'ili'ili 'ike, hō'ili'ili kākō'o kumuhana, me ka hō'ili'ili mana'o o ka

'Aha Hawai'i me nā haumāna Hawai'i. Me ka mākaukau 'o ia i komo pū ai i nā hālāwai a pau i mālama 'ia me nā haumāna, kumu, kākō'o me nā alaka'i o ke kula. I nā manawa i hele ai ka 'Aha Hawai'i a ulukū ka no'ono'o, na Mika Higa i ho'omana'o mai iā mākou e ho'omau i ka hana. A eia hou, ua hō'eu'eu a ho'omana'o 'o ia iā mākou i ka pahuhope o ka hana, 'o ia ho'i, i lilo ke Kula Nui Kaiāulu i lā'ana maika'i o nā Kula Nui Kākō'o 'Ōiwi. 'O ka hōpena, ua loa'a iho nō ka palapala noi kālā i hilo 'ia me nā leo he ho'okahi haneli a 'oi.

Hāpai

Ke kipa aku 'oe i ke ke'ena hana a Mika Higa, no'ono'o ihola 'oe, he kākau'ōlelo paha 'o ia no ke ke'ena. Aia nō 'oe a wehe i ka puka o mua o ko Ke Kula Nui Ke'ena Kākō'o, aloha aku 'oe iā Mika Higa me kona leo heahea. No kāna hana mai kekahi pahu ke'ena li'ili'i, 'a'ole paha 'oe i no'ono'o i ka mea nui o kāna i hana ai a e hana ai no ke Kula Nui me nā Kula Nui a pau, koe aku ia kou 'ike maka 'ana i ka papa ho'okō āna. 'O Mika Higa nō ke hāpai a ho'oki'eki'e nei ka hana maika'i o kona ke'ena.

Ma ka Hā'ulelau 2015, ua koho 'ia 'o Mika Higa e kona mau hoa hana e lilo i Alaka'i no ke Kahu Kula. I loko nō o 'elua, 'ekolu paha mahina, ua lilo ke Kahu Kula i luapele ho'okumu 'āina. Ma mua na'e, he wahi luapele ka'oko. He wahi lā'ana nō, ma 'Okakopa o nēia makahiki, ua kono 'ia nā alaka'i o nā Hui Ho'omalū 'Ekolu e hō'ike aku i nā 'ano papahana like 'ole o nā Hui Ho'omalū 'Ekolu. Iā mākou i hō'ea aku ai i ka hālāwai, he 60 a 'oi mau lālā i komo pū ai i ka hanana.

He ha'aha'a, he akahai, a he kākō'o maoli nō 'o Mika Higa. Mai mana'o 'oe he mau 'ano nāwaliwali. He mau 'ano kēia a Mika Higa i koho ai e hele mua ai ma mua o kona 'ike na'auao me kona ikaika lua 'ole i ka 'oia'i'o.

Pōhaku 'Alā

E like nō me ka hō'omo'omo 'ia o nā pōhaku 'alā e ka wai kahe o ka lani, Ma o nā 'ano hana 'ike kū hohonu like 'ole i lilo ai o Mika Higa i pōhaku 'alā i mākaukau a kūloa'a, e lilo i kanaka kahu kula e



ho'omākaukau ai i mea'ai na kākou a pau ma ke Kula Nui, ke Aupuni, me ka Honua e 'ai ai.

Ua 'ike maka 'i'o nō mākou i ke 'ano kōkua na'auao a Mika Higa e ho'ohana ai ke a'o aku a kōkua aku i kona mau hoa hana. 'O ka mea nui o kona kākou o me kona kōkua 'o ia ho'i, e ho'omana i kona hoa hana e kū'oko'a, e no'ono'o ma waho aku o nā palena a pau. Ua 'ike iho i ia alahahele iā mākou e kākou ana i ka mo'o'ōlelo o ka palapala noi kālā, a 'oiai 'a'ole i ho'okō 'ia nā mana'o a pau o kākou, ua haku 'ia 'o Mika Higa i mo'o'ōlelo i 'ike mākou a pau i kūpono na mākou a pau.

Ho'oka'a

Hilina'i nō mākou a pau loa, me Brandon Marc Higa ma ke 'ano he lālā 'o Nā Kahu Kula o Ke Kula Nui o Hawai'i, e loli a huli ana nō ke alahahele e hehi kapua'i ai Nā Kahu Kula. 'A'ole nō e pono ke Kula Nui e huli aku ma waho o ko Hawai'i kaiāulu e ho'opiha ai i nā kūlana alaka'i, e ho'okō i nā pahuhope i ho'olālā 'ia e ke Kula Nui o Hawai'i ma ko lākou Papa Ho'olālā 2015-2021, a e lilo i Kula Nui Kāko'o 'Ōiwi. Kūpa'a mākou ma hope o Mika Higa, he kanaka lako 'ike me ia 'ike ana 'o ia e ho'omana aku ai i ko mākou kaiāulu pono'i e no'ono'o kūpono, e no'ono'o nui, a e ho'okumu i ka 'ike hou me ka 'ike kahiko. 'O ia iholo ka mea nele o nēia honua. E like me kā Grace Boggs, he Alaka'i Pono Kīwila a he mea kākou o ka puke *The Next America Revolution: Sustainable Activism in the Twenty-First Century*, i kākou iho ai, "We are the leaders we are looking for."

Kāko'o ma hope mākou iā Brandon Marc Higa me kona lilo 'ana i Kahu Kula ma ka Papa o Nā Kahu Kula o Ke Kula Nui o Hawai'i. E 'ike ana 'oe i nā 'ano a pau a kākou e huli aku ai i ke alakai: hana nui, na'auao, koho kūpono, ho'opaipai kākou, mōakāka kona kuleana iā ia iho a iā ha'i nō ho'i, ka ho'olohe, a he kanaka ho'oikaika kahua. Ua loa'a iho nō ka 'ike e ho'okō i nā pahuhope a pau i ho'okumu 'ia e lilo i Kula Nui Kāko'o 'Ōiwi a me ke Kula Nui 'O'i Loa a puni ka honua. Ke hāpai aku nei mākou iā 'ouhou, iā 'Ili'ili Hāpai Pōhaku 'Alā Ho'oka'a 'o ia ho'i, 'o Brandon Marc Higa, he kākou ho'ololi a ho'omaika'i i ka nohona, he alaka'i ho'oikaika kahua.

Pūlima 'ia ma kēia lā _____ 31 _____ mahina _____ Malaki _____ makahiki _____ 2016 _____.



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Kalāualani (Native Hawaiian Council)

March 31, 2016

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Hawai'i State Senate
State Capital
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**GM748 - Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA - SUPPORT**

Hearing date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Hearing Time: 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Aloha mai Senator Brian T. Taniguchi,

Letter of Support for Brandon Marc Higa

Kalāualani (Native Hawaiian Council), Faculty Senate, and Student Congress the three Authorized Governance Organizations (AGO) of Kapi'olani Community College, as defined by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents policies would like to take this opportunity to steadfastly support our colleague **Brandon Marc Higa's** candidacy as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. Brandon Marc Higa is the Staff Council Chair of the College's fourth AGO and a fellow colleague.

'Ili'ili Hāpai Pōhaku 'Alā Ho'oka'a

The Pebble that Stops the Rock from Rolling

*Though unnoticeable he keeps the rock from rolling down the hill.
A leader who provides stability.*

Kalāualani, Faculty Senate, and Student Congress composed the aforementioned 'ōlelo no'eau (proverb) to describe the characteristics of Brandon Marc Higa. Many of us on the three councils have known Mr. Higa since he started as a grants specialist at Kapi'olani Community College. Others have come to know the integrity, intelligence, commitment, and motivation that Mr. Higa exudes in every facet of his work within the past eight months as he helped Kalāualani and the Student Success Council with the successful writing and securing of the Title III grant awarded to the College in October of 2015.



‘Ili‘ili: pebble, small stone, to gather, collect, glean, assemble.

When viewing a magnificent boulder or rock situated on the top of a nu‘u (summit), many times, if not ever, no one notices the small pebble that keeps the rock from rolling down the summit. Mr. Higa, though unnoticeable, is the pebble that allows our College with the motto “Kūlia I Ka Nu‘u” (Strive for the Highest) to sit proudly at the summit and be recognized for all of its various accomplishments. Having the opportunity to work with Mr. Higa on the Title III grant, we noticed how prompt and detailed oriented he was in gathering information, collecting meaningful and pertinent data, and assembling not only the Council’s thoughts but also the Native Hawaiian students’ thoughts into a cohesive and relevant narrative. The task of including all of the voices was especially challenging for the Council because we wanted to ensure that we were receiving as much input as possible. Mr. Higa attended all meetings that were held with students, faculty, staff, and administrators. While there were times when the Council was quite overwhelmed, Mr. Higa constantly reminded us of the importance of listening to everyone who wanted to be heard and continuing the work that needed to be done. More importantly, he constantly reminded us of the goal which was to ensure that the College be a good example of a Model Indigenous Serving Institution. The final result was a successful Title III grant that included over a hundred voices.

Hāpai: to carry, bear, elevate, lift; to support, as another’s testimony; to encourage.

If you were to visit Mr. Higa at his office, you would think that he was the clerical aide/secretary for the office. As soon as you open the front door to the College’s Office for Institutional Effectiveness, you will be greeted by the ever-hospitable Mr. Higa, and because he works out of a cubicle, you may not notice the important work that Mr. Higa has done and continues to do for the College and the UH System unless you were privy to his long list of achievements. Mr. Higa is really the person who carries and elevates the success of the entire office.

In fall 2015, Mr. Higa was elected by his fellow colleagues to be the Chair of Staff Council. Within just a few months, Staff Council has moved from being relatively dormant to becoming an active volcano. An example of this was in October of this year, the Chairs of Kalāualani, Faculty Senate, and Student Congress were invited to provide a brief update to the constituents of Staff Council regarding the Authorized Governance Organizations (AGO) present activities. To our pleasant surprise, there were more than 60 members in attendance.

Mr. Higa is very humble, uplifting, and supportive. These characteristics should not be taken as weaknesses. Rather, they are characteristics that he has chosen to precede his intellect, wisdom, and integrity.

Pōhaku ‘Alā: Dense water worn volcanic stone, as used for poi pounders, adzes, hula stones.



Similar to water worn volcanic stones, Mr. Higa, through his extensive experiences, has been molded into a Pōhaku 'Alā that is ready and well-equipped into becoming a molder of change and a tool to create food for all in the University System, state, and world to partake.

We have noticed the wisdom-filled approach that Mr. Higa employs when educating his fellow colleagues. His approach seeks to empower freedom to be creative, to be visionary, and to see everything "outside of the box." His approach was evident while writing the narrative for the Title III grant, and although everyone's ideas may not have made it into the grant, Mr. Higa was able to create an inclusive narrative that everyone felt a part of.

Ho'oka'a: To turn, roll, braid. Manage, well versed, skilled.

We believe that with Brandon Marc Higa as a Regent for the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, there will be a paradigm shift of how the University of Hawai'i conducts business. The University will no longer need to look outside of their immediate community to fill leadership positions, meet the University of Hawai'i's goals set in their Strategic Plan 2015-2021, or to become a Model Indigenous Serving Institution. We believe that Brandon Marc Higa is well-equipped with the tools that will empower our immediate community to be creative, visionaries, and the creators of new knowledge that the world is in desperate need of. As Grace Boggs, Civil Rights leader and author of *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism in the Twenty-First Century*, wrote, "We are the leaders we are looking for."

We support Brandon Marc Higa's appointment as a Regent on the UH Board of Regents. In him, you will find what we all look for in a leader: dedication, intelligence, motivation, responsibility to himself and others, the ability to observe, and create change. He is imbued with the knowledge necessary to ensure that the University of Hawai'i accomplishes the goals of being a Model Indigenous-Serving Institution as well as being the foremost University across the nation if not the entire world. We present to you 'Ili'ili Hāpai Pōhaku 'Alā Ho'oka'a, Mr. Brandon Marc Higa, a molder of change, a leader who provides stability.

Signed on this 31 day of March year 2016.



Nāwā'akauluaokamehameha Napoleon
Kalāualani Chair
Languages, Linguistics, & Literature Chair
Associate Professor, Hawaiian Language
President's Emerging Leadership Program IV
Native Hawaiian Educator of the Year 2015

Veronica Ogata
Faculty Senate Chair
Student Success Council, Chair
Associate Professor, Education
President's Emerging Leadership Program V
UHCC Leadership Champion
Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching

William Arenivas
Student Congress President

Maria Bautista
Interim-Dean of Arts & Sciences
Professor, Physics

Kapulani Landgraf
Assistant Professor, Art
Curriculum Committee Co-Chair
Kalāualani Communications, Chair

Anna Keola Kaukahi Thomas
Hawaiian Resource Specialist
Wo Learning Champion, Generation XI
Kalāualani Curriculum, Chair

Kahelelaniokahakai Clark
Assistant Professor, Hawaiian Studies
AA Hawaiian Studies Coordinator
Pūko'a Representative

Lisa Kanae
Associate Professor, English
Writing Coordinator
Kalāualani Budget Resource Allocation, Chair

Keolani Noa
STEM Native Hawaiian Coordinator
Summer Bridge Coordinator
Kalāualani, Vice-Chair

Joanne Whitaker
Executive Assistant to Chancellor Leon Richards



Alissa Kashiwada
Non-Credit Registration Manager, OCET
UHCC System Destiny Registration, Fiscal Chair
Staff Council Vice Chair

Michaelyn Nākoa
Coordinator/Counselor
Kapo'oloku Program for Native Hawaiian Students

Lee Ann DeMello
Office Assistant III
Emergency Medical Services

Jamie Sugai
Secretary II
Emergency Medical Services

Herve Collin
Associate Professor, Physics
STEM Director

Dennis Kawaharada
Professor, English

Jennifer Bradley
Financial Aid Manager

Kelli Goya
Pathways Coordinator

Sheldon Tawata
Kuilei Outreach Program Coordinator

Gail Harada
Professor, English

Francis Noji
Professor & Coordinator, ESOL
Chair, LLL Department Personnel Committee

Guy Kellogg
Professor, ESOL



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*
KAPI'OLANI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kalāualani (Native Hawaiian Council)

Janice Yamada
Facilities Scheduler

Mary Inouye
College Advancement Specialist

Eleu Novikoff
TCUP STEM Program Assistant

Keisha Nakamura
PEEC Engineering Outreach Specialist

Rona Kekauoha
Coordinator, Kūlia ma Kapi'olani
Native Hawaiian CTE Project

Sydney Dickerson
Student Support Specialist, Kūlia ma Kapi'olani
Native Hawaiian CTE Project

Rosalie Fernandez
Associate Professor,
Hospitality and Tourism Education

Kawehi Sellers
Assistant Professor,
Hospitality and Tourism Education

Porscha dela Fuente
Instructor, English

Mark Kunimune
Program Director, Emergency Medical Services



ASHFORD + WRISTON
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

BENJAMIN A. KUDO
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April 4, 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 748 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA - **SUPPORT**.
Hearing date: Tuesday, April 5, 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:

It is with great pleasure that I speak in favor of Mr. Brandon Higa's nomination to the Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i. I have personally known Mr. Higa for over 15 years when he was a student intern at my former law firm. Mr. Higa was recognized at that time as a young student who had great potential as a leader. He is now at the William S. Richardson School of Law and will represent the students at the University well.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend without hesitation your favorable consideration of Mr. Brandon Higa for the aforementioned appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON


Benjamin A. Kudo 

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April 4, 2016

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

FROM: Aviam Soifer, Dean and Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i

HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Conf. Room 224

MEASURE NUMBER: GM 748 - Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Brandon Marc Higa

Re: Governor's Message 748, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

First, I want to make it very clear that it is only in my individual capacity that I offer testimony in full support of the confirmation of Brandon Marc Higa to serve as a member on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I do not speak for the William S. Richardson School of Law or for anyone else.

I am pleased to be able to provide a few details as to why I believe Mr. Higa to be an exceptional choice to be the student representative on the Board of Regents. Based on his time here at the Law School and my own interactions with him as his teacher in Constitutional Law I and as his Dean, I can say that Mr. Higa has already proven himself to be an effective leader as well as a self-starter and a very hard worker. He also is strongly committed to the University of Hawai'i and to all its students.

One of many good examples I could cite is that though Mr. Higa is still a first-year student our Evening Part Time Program, Mr. Higa was elected first as a Senator and then as the President of the Student Bar Association—the organization that represents and speaks for the entire student body of the Law School. Needless to say, it is unusual to have a first-year student elected by fellow students for this difficult and important position and even more so when that student is in the small Evening Part Time Program. Further, even before he came to the Law School, Mr. Higa was selected from a very competitive field of applicants to be a 2015- 2016 member of the UH President's Emerging Leaders Program.

Somehow Mr. Higa manages to meet all his commitments, both academic and administrative, and to do so with great effectiveness. He is innovative and always seems keenly aware of student needs and he stands out for his ability to solve problems efficiently while still heeding the social dynamics involved. He is also unusually well-organized, cheerful, and astute, as well as obviously being very hard working. He is employed full-time as a grant development

specialist and he is widely recognized for his success in this challenging field both on behalf Kapi'olani Community College and for UH consortium partners.

Finally, though Mr. Higa is still young, he already has had strikingly broad experience in the community. A graduate of Pearl City High School, his activities stretch, for example, from working full-time as a clarinetist in the Royal Hawaiian band to serving as an administrative aide to Attorney Ben Kudo and as a legislative aide to then-Senator Ige. He also has done extensive work in foreign affairs for the East-West Center and the U.S. Department of State.

In addition to his B.A with honors in International Relations and his M.A. in International Relations from USC, Mr. Higa earned an Advanced Japanese Language Certification from the Stanford University Center for Japanese Language Studies. He is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and of the Iolani Swim Club and UH Maters Swimming.

In summary, Brandon Marc Higa is strikingly accomplished, and I am pleased to urge his confirmation to serve on the UH Board of Regents as the Student Regent from 2016-2018. I do so unequivocally and with great enthusiasm. Please let me know if additional details would be of use or if you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Mahalo and aloha.

**Testimony of
Georgina K. Kawamura
to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
April 5, 2016**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 748

***SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF BRANDON
MARC HIGA TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018.***

Aloha Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

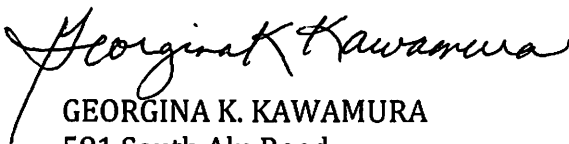
I am writing to support the appointment of Brandon Marc Higa to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

In my current employment, I have the pleasure to collaborate on programs for our respective campuses of the University of Hawai'i Community College System. There are many positive words that can describe Brandon; those that come to my mind are smart, energetic, thoughtful, respectful, articulate, capable, and responsible.

I strongly urge your consideration of the appointment of Brandon Marc Higa to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Mahalo for your time and best to you for a successful Session.

Sincerely,



GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
581 South Alu Road
Wailuku, HI 96793

April 5, 2016

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

Senator Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education
and the Arts

My name is Helen Hamada, I am a staff member at Kapiolani Community
College.

During this past year, I have been working with Mr. Higa on the re-
organization of the Staff Council at Kapiolani CC. I serve as the
Immediate Past Chair and have been very impressed by Mr. Higa's
knowledge of this University of Hawaii System and as a Grants Writing
Specialist. With his assistance, our campus has benefited with his skill
as a Grants Writing Specialist, which in turn benefits students attending
Kapiolani Community College. Mr. Higa truly advocates for the students
and is willing to speak for their concerns.

Before his career began at Kapiolani CC, Mr. Higa graduated from Pearl
City High School, received a BA in International Relations with Honors
as well as a Masters of Arts in International Relations from the
University of Southern California. He received an Advanced Japanese
Language Certification from Stanford University. . Mr. Higa has
returned to school as a student in the William Richardson School of Law.

Brandon Higa has worked at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of
Educational and Cultural Affairs as a Junior Attaché in the US Embassy,
Tokyo, Japan, and as a Foreign Policy Analyst at the National Diet of
Japan. Also, Mr. Higa was a Research Analyst with the East-West Center.

His resumé is attached. I am sure all of you will be impressed with what
Mr. Higa was done thus far in his career. I believe Mr. Brandon Marc
Higa will serve well as an advocate for Students and as a member on this
distinguished Board of Regents.

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

From: Jennifer L. Buffin, Associate Head Coach
Men's and Women's Swimming
University of Hawaii (Manoa)

Re: GM748 - Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

My name is Jennifer Buffin and I am providing testimony in strong support of Brandon Marc Higa's nomination to the Board of Regents. I am providing this testimony as a private citizen although I have been the Associate Head Coach for the University of Hawaii Men's and Women's Swim Team for the last 10 years. I have known Brandon as a community member, a supporter of athletics and strong advocate for the student athletes and students at the University of Hawaii. Brandon has worked in several government and leadership positions within the University system in which he has a proven record of success. Brandon continues to work to better the experience for our students, developing research opportunities and funding and improve programs for Native Hawaiians and help promote the native Hawaiian language. During my interactions with Brandon his is always looking for new and innovative ways to improve all programs including being an advocate for our student athletes. I know that if selected he will bring a wealth of experience to his position as well as work towards solutions that will better the future of the University of Hawaii and our students.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Buffin

April 1, 2016

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Hawaii State Senate
415 S Beretania St
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GM748 - Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA – STRONG SUPPORT

Hearing date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Hearing Time: 1:30 p.m.

Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am writing in support of Brandon Marc Higa's application to the Board of Regents (BOR) at the University of Hawai'i. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Brandon for over five years in his capacity as the Grants Development Specialist at Kap'iolani Community College. Through Brandon's dedication and efforts, the College has obtained over \$40 million in funding in six years from federal, state, and private organizations. His efforts have supported campus and system-wide grant initiatives to meet academic, student, and statewide goals in higher education by ensuring that Kap'iolani Community College was able to obtain a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and Title V designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI). Brandon works tirelessly on behalf of faculty, staff, and students to promote Hawai'i's unique multicultural environment as the grant writer for Title III projects to help meet the benchmarks of a model indigenous-serving institution. His leadership and research skills have been recognized by the system office and Brandon is regularly consulted on consortium grant projects with various departments, colleges, and universities. His writing is concise and impactful; his content is matched by the eloquence through which he is able to communicate complex ideas in an accessible manner. Brandon's work celebrates Hawai'i's diversity and values within the State and the Pacific region by advocating on behalf of projects that support Native Hawaiians, Asians, Pacific Islanders, international students, and students with disabilities. Brandon has worked on different projects in diverse fields and disciplines including the Humanities, STEM, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Social Sciences. He also played a critical role in the recent accreditation of Kap'iolani Community College by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC-WASC).

On a daily basis, Brandon assists with professional development, staff training, and the operation of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OFIE). His organization, leadership, initiative, and outreach efforts on behalf of OFIE have resulted in greater collaboration between faculty, staff, and administration. Brandon's efforts have led to communication and transparency within the institution. Faculty and staff recognize Brandon's invaluable contributions and his commitment to promoting excellence in teaching,

scholarship, and public service. He has created collegial networks of support and trust by encouraging participation in governance at all levels of the institution.

As an experienced administrative professional, Brandon regularly advocates on behalf of staff members at the largest community college in the State of Hawai'i. In 2013, Brandon was nominated by HGEA and voted in unanimously as a Bargaining Unit 08 steward. In this capacity, Brandon has worked to raise morale by providing conflict resolution among staff members and motivating them to become more active in campus and union activities. As an educator and organizer, he monitors collective-bargaining agreements, communicates important information and updates, and supports staff members to create a more equitable and positive workplace environment. At every level of the institution, Brandon is committed to encouraging communication and fostering stronger relationships among staff, faculty, students, and administrators. He embodies the essence of servant-leadership as he consistently puts the needs of others first and helps people to develop and perform at their very best. He is currently participating in the 2015-2016 President's Emerging Leaders Program at the University of Hawai'i as he is recognized by his peers and the institution as a campus and system leader. Recently, he was also elected the Student Body President at William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, winning the support of a diverse constituency of students, faculty, and staff.

Brandon is a consummate professional who is accessible, knowledgeable, and detail-oriented. He is an outstanding writer and researcher and supporter of higher education; his desire to serve on the BOR is a reflection of his life-long trajectory of seeking professional and personal growth to serve the needs of the institution and create a high-performing system. It is without reservation that I strongly recommend Brandon for a position on the BOR. He would make an excellent addition to the board as the entire system will benefit from his talents, skills, and knowledge. If you have any questions regarding the content of this recommendation, please contact me at (808) 271-5083 or at kellinak@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,

Kelli Nakamura

Kelli Y. Nakamura, Ph.D.
History Instructor
Arts & Humanities Department
Kapi'olani Community College
4303 Diamond Head Road, Kalia 210
Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: (808) 734-9420

April 3, 2016

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

Subject: GM748 - Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDON MARC HIGA - SUPPORT

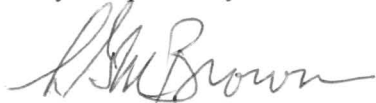
To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi:

This letter is respectfully submitted on behalf of Brandon Marc Higa in support of his nomination as a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I have known Mr. Higa personally for seven years, and I have worked with him on projects in connection with the Hawaii Screen Actors' Guild. For as long as I have known Mr. Higa, I have considered him to be a man of integrity, great professionalism, and a person who consistently displayed sound judgment. Mr. Higa is energetic, enthusiastic, and considerate of others' opinions. He is highly organized, and he is dedicated to complete whatever projects undertaken by him.

In my career, I have been an instructor and a Company Officer at the U.S. Naval Academy. I retired as a Commander from the U.S. Navy after 20 years, and started my next career in higher education teaching English to non-native speakers of English. In all that time, I have learned what honor, courage, commitment, and integrity look like. Mr. Higa is a man who embodies these character traits, and he will represent the board of regents with distinction.

As a retired Navy officer, disabled veteran, and current candidate for a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California, I offer my strongest personal recommendation in support of Mr. Brandon Higa's nomination to the board of regents.

Very Respectfully,



L. G. Michael Brown, Cmdr, USN (Ret.), MAT

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

Regarding: GM748 - Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,

BRANDON MARC HIGA --SUPPORT

Dear Senator Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts;

This is written in support of the nomination of Brandon Marc Higa to be the Student Representative on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I am the Grant Development person at Kauai Community College, and in that capacity I have worked with Brandon for the last three years. I find him exceptionally well-versed, and caring about the University and our students, including the Community Colleges. It is very important to have a Student Representative who understands the full spectrum of education that takes place at UH, from Employment Training to Advanced Graduate Degrees. It is also very important to have a student who has an affinity for the schools and students on the outer islands who do not have (and may not want) the same academic experience as students on an island like Oahu.

On a professional level, Brandon is exceptionally competent and organized but also sharing and willing to work together to create a better opportunity for all of us in the UH System. He is also quite practical, and hard-working.

I think he would be a welcome addition to Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

S. Lyn McNutt
Wailua, Kauai, Hawaii

STANFORD J. FICHTMAN

1820 WAIOLA STREET, #407 • HONOLULU, HAWAII • 96826 • (808) 295-4630 • SJFHAWAII@GMAIL.COM

The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education & The Arts
Twenty-Eighty State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 1:30 p.m hearing

**Testimony in support of consideration of GM 748, Brandon Marc Higa to the University
Of Hawaii Board Of Regents**

Dear Honorable Committee Chair and Members of the Higher Education & The Arts
Committee:

This testimony is in strong support for the Governor's nomination of Mr. Brandon Marc Higa to the University of Hawai'i Board Of Regents. Mr. Higa will bring broad experience to the position that he being considered for. His experience spans the realms of government, education and academics, which will serve the board well once confirmed by the Senate.


My experience with Mr. Higa started when he was a member of the joint Labor Management Task Force at the Hawaii State Department of Labor. In working with him on grants, including the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Act Community Colleges to Career Training ("TAACCCT") program, I appreciated his competence and insight in grant development.

Later, I would become familiar with Mr. Higa's integrity and honesty as I became the Grant Manager of the TAACCCT grant at Kapi'olani Community College. Throughout the time I have known him, he has a keen sense of moral purpose, demonstrates ethical behavior and trustworthiness with others in a professional and personable manner.

Considering his extensive experience both within and outside of the University, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Higa will prove to be a valuable asset to the University through his service on the Board. Therefore, I respectfully request this Senate committee to approve this outstanding candidate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Mr. Higa's behalf.

Best Regards:



Stan Fichtman
Private Citizen
Grant Manager, Kapi'olani Community College
67th President, Hawaii Jaycees (2010)