

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 2:15 PM
To: HEA Testimony
Cc: rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM748 on Apr 5, 2016 13:30PM

LATE

GM748

Submitted on: 4/5/2016

Testimony for HEA on Apr 5, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts: Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Brandon Marc Higa for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Higa over the past year through the Student Bar Association and Law School Government at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Mr. Higa has recently been elected to serve as the President of the Law School Student Body, where he has already helped his colleagues navigate challenging situations, promulgated needed rules for the operations of the student body, and supported colleagues in their own growth. As a Justice on the Judiciary, I have had a front row seat in watching his tremendous leadership skills demonstrated both as his role as a Senator and now as President. He is extremely intelligent, hard working, thorough, and yet thoughtful, humble, and respectful. I also had the experience of watching him demonstrate similar leadership skills in his role at KCC. In this professional context, he brought similar maturity and demanded incredible respect from peers well beyond his own years. He impressed me tremendously, and I found myself learning much from his collaborate yet effective style and approach. Understanding the demands and weighty issues put on the Board of Regents, I am quite confident that Mr. Higa will greatly richen the dialogue and processes of this important board. He has experience from various places within the University community, including a number of different campus and roles, and he has the personality and skill set to be a tremendous asset. I am thankful that he is willing to serve our institutions of higher learning in such a way. Mahalo for the opportunity to support this nomination. Me ke aloha pumehana, Rebecca Justine 'Iolani Soon

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LATE

Hawaii Senate,

I, Joshua Faumuina, hereby submit testimony in enthusiastic support of Brandon Marc Higa's appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

As a full-time student at UH Manoa, I cannot adequately stress the importance of appointing a regent with the skill, experience, and intelligence of Mr. Higa. The University's shortcomings are all too obvious to anyone attending, from its treatment of students as resources to its woefully misguided allocation of funds. A smart, highly qualified appointment to the Board is but the first step in addressing this pressing issue.

During my time at Kapiolani Community College, I experienced fantastic guidance and care from many dedicated members of the faculty and staff, all of whom were, and remain, completely undervalued and mistreated. As a student, it is particularly hurtful to witness the exploitation of one's valued mentors. It is my firm belief Mr. Higa will be a voice for these overlooked educators and staff members on a board that is currently fixated on preserving the status quo and supporting unworthy administrators and their impertinent work.

Since arriving at UH Manoa, I have witnessed the university's shamefully poor treatment of its students. It is abundantly clear the role of learning institution is a distant second to that of a business at UH. One need only look to the state of the inexplicably still active Cancer Center and its stark contrast to the crumbling buildings and labs of the main campus to understand the University's priorities. Amidst constant arbitrary increases of the already inexplicably high tuition and parking rates to meet profit margins, students are left questioning why an institution that handles what funds it already possesses could possibly deserve more.

With a student voice more competent than any preceding him, I believe Mr. Higa can be a true asset to every upstanding student, faculty, and staff member in the UH System. On behalf of everyone who is overlooked and underserved at this fumbling university and its affiliated colleges, I strongly and respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Brandon Marc Higa as the University of Hawaii Student Regent.

Sincerely,

Joshua Daniel Faumuina