

# GM749

# Testimony

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 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 AND THE ARTS

April 5, 2016  
G.M. 749

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee Michelle Tagorda 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 Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I regret a prior commitment at Windward Community College will keep me from appearing in person at your confirmation hearing for her.

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.

Michelle Tagorda is completing a two-year term as the student regent. She has been an active, interested, and conscientious member of the Board. She is currently a member of three Board committees: academic and student affairs, of which she is the vice chair, budget and finance, and intercollegiate athletics. Her attendance has been consistent and her participation has been constructive. As student regent, she has met with student organizations on a regular basis to solicit student perspectives on Board issues, and she has relayed these to the Board in an appropriate manner.

I have every confidence, based on her performance as the student regent, that she will continue to be an active and thoughtful regent and strongly encourage your recommendation to the full Senate of her confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.



April 1, 2016

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
The Senate  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM749 – TESTIMONY OF JAN SULLIVAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
MICHELLE TAGORDA, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF REGENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong and heartfelt support for the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

As a student regent, Michelle was a strong advocate for the student population at the University of Hawaii. She is a thoughtful person and would do her homework, evaluate the issues, and take the time that was required to make good decisions.

She dedicated the time and effort to reach out to the various student organizations and communities on key issues. She helped to shape and move forward key agenda items that directly affect student interests. She spoke up to provide her perspective on important issues, such as tuition, that directly affected her constituents.

I was very happy to see Michelle being nominated to serve for a five year term. She will be a productive member of the Board and as a recent graduate and former student regent, will bring a good perspective and balance to the Board. I am confident that she will continue to advocate for students, and will be an active participant on the Board.

Michelle will be one of the few women on this Board. Women need better representation on the Board and retaining Michelle's tenure on the Board is very important to the few remaining women that are on the Board!

Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued support for the University.

Sincerely,

OCEANIT

By   
Jan Sullivan  
Executive Vice President, COO

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bisInd1@aol.com](mailto:bisInd1@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 5, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 3:38:50 PM

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**GM749**

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne S. Higaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ms. Targoda has demonstrated good judgement, careful consideration and steady focus as a student regent the last 2 years. I fully support her nomination as a regular regent and hope you will provide a positive confirmation.

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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TESTIMONY OF CORALIE MATAYOSHI IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
MICHELLE TAGORDA, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM 749)

April 5, 2016, 1:30pm, Conference Room 224

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

I am on the mainland and unable to attend the hearing, but wanted to express my strong support for the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have served alongside of Michelle during her two years as a student Regent, and find her to be diligent, inquisitive, and passionate about making a positive contribution to the University. She attends meetings of committees which she is not a member of, just to get up to speed with the challenging issues we are facing. She has served in leadership positions on committees related to student affairs, and regularly meets with student leaders and student organizations so that she can better understand their concerns and represent their views.

Michelle's connection with the University as a graduate student and now being employed in the bridge program to help students assimilate, is a big plus for the Board of Regents. She brings a unique perspective that helps us better understand problems from the student and University standpoint.

We are very lucky to have Michelle on the Board of Regents. I am pleased to testify on her behalf and urge her speedy confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**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 April 5, 2016  
GM 749  
Confirmation of Michelle Tagorda  
UH Board of Regents  
Term to Expire 06/30/2021

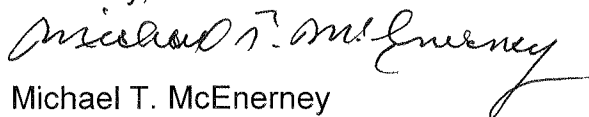
Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Higher Education and the Arts Committee:

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 Michelle Tagorda for a five year term on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

My term began on July 1, 2015. Michelle was then the student regent in her second year. It was quickly apparent she had a strong understanding of the relationship between the interests and needs of the student and the University of Hawaii. She was very active in student government and could bring this valuable perspective to the Board in academic affairs and programs. This will enhance the practical and essential role of the University of Hawaii System. Her continued involvement as a five year appointee will be a valuable benefit for us all.

I strongly support her appointment to a full 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 GM749 on Apr 5, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 04, 2016 8:34:04 AM

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**GM749**

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

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

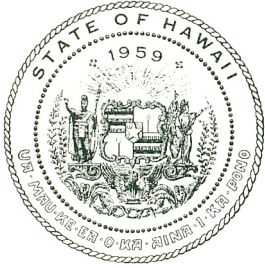
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Putnam	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Michelle Tagorda is exceptionally talented and personable. Since becoming a Regent in July 2014, her contributions to our deliberations have been well considered and well expressed. She is serving this year as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs, which I chair, and I have found her insights invaluable. She is conscientious in attending meetings and following up on pending issues. I strongly support the appointment of Michelle Tagorda to a full five-year term as a Regent.

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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HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA  
CYD HOFFELD  
JUDY KERN  
MARILYN LEE  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director  
Cathy Betts

Email:  
[Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov](mailto:Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov)

Visit us at:  
[humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/)

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

April 5, 2016

**Testimony in Support of GM 749**

**To:** Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

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

**Re:** Testimony in Support of GM 749, Michelle Tagorda

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I write in support of GM 749, for the consideration and confirmation of Michelle Tagorda to the Board of Regents. Ms. Tagorda currently serves on the Board of Regents and has extensive experience in policy governance, public health, and issues affecting students on college campuses. She has a keen sense of social justice and is diligent and ethical in her work on the Board of Regents. The Commission supports her confirmation. Thank you for this opportunity.



**From:** [amy\\_agbayani](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Michelle Tagorda](#)  
**Subject:** HEA 4/5/16 @1:30 support GM749 Tagorda from HFCR/Agbayani  
**Date:** Sunday, April 03, 2016 3:24:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM749 Tagorda](#)

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## **Testimony in support of GM 749: Michelle Tagorda 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](mailto: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 MICHELLE TAGORDA'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. I have had many opportunities to observe Ms. Tagorda's competence, dedication and leadership in her work as a current Regent, in her work as a junior professional at UH Manoa and in various community organizations. She has a proven track record of accomplishments and will continue to make a contribution as a hard working, independent and thoughtful member of the BOR. She is committed to equal educational opportunity, social justice and scholarship. She understands the importance of the University of Hawai'i to the lives of students and the future of Hawai'i.

In my professional and community work, I am involved in efforts to gain equity for under-represented groups, such as women and Filipinos. Women students are the majority at UH and most campuses in the United States but women continue to be underrepresented among faculty, staff, administrator, BOR at UH and most campuses in the United States. The Filipino community is the second largest ethnic group in the state and the public schools but continue to be underrepresented among UH students, faculty, staff, administrators and the BOR. With the confirmation and re-appointment of Michelle Tagorda, the 15 member BOR will have three women and two Filipinos. Appointing talented women and talented Filipinos is not only fair but will strengthen the Board's effectiveness and meet UH's commitment to equity, excellence and inclusiveness.

I also want to take this public opportunity to thank Ms. Tagorda for her expertise and service to our students and state. HRCR strongly supports Ms. Tagorda to the UH

BOR.



## *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 749**

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 224

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 6-30-2021.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Members of Senate Committee on HEA:  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom

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

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

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 are proud and appreciative of Michelle Tagorda's service on the UH Board of Regents in her previous appointment and are confident that she will continue to be a voice of reason and inquiry to safeguard the interests of students and all the assets of the UH system.

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 749

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 224

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 6-30-2021.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Members of Senate Committee on HEA: Sen. Mike Gabbard,  
Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, **Required parameters are missing or incorrect.**, Sen.  
Sam Slom

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

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

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 the 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. We are proud of her prior service and contributions as UH Board of Regent. NaFFAA Region 12 extends our appreciation to you for hearing this bill and considering approval of her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair

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c/o NaFFAA Region 12, 91-803 Oaniani Street, Kapolei, HI 96707

Rouel Velasco, Chair · Charlene Cuaresma, Vice Chair · Jake Manegdeg, Treasurer · Jason Espero, Secretary

NaFFAA Region XII



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 749**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 224

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 6-30-2021.

To: To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Members of Senate Committee on HEA: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele,  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, 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 Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

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 play a critical role to bring transparency and accountability of higher education to the students and 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

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pamantasan Executive Council

DATE: April 4, 2016

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

FROM: Christine Quemuel   
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Executive Council

RE: **Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 749**  
**Hearing date: Wednesday, April 5, 2016, 1:30pm**

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Higher Education hearing in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 749, and the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state.

Ms. Tagorda has proven herself to be a very skilled, fair, and competent leader during her current term on the Board of Regents, where she has served as the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Co-Chair of Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and Co-Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. In addition, she was a member of a range of different committees and groups for the board. Ms. Tagorda's leadership extends beyond her experience on the Board, and she has been active with organizations like NASPA, the nation's leading student affairs professional organization. She has also been very involved in local public health efforts, both on campus and in the community, which has enabled her to remain firmly grounded and connected to communities in Hawai'i.

Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i, the largest immigrant group, and the largest Asian ancestry group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education. It is critically important to have a regent like Ms. Tagorda, to ensure that there is representation and voice for this underserved community. In addition, Ms. Tagorda grew up on Hawai'i Island, which makes her particularly sensitive to issues of fair representation throughout the University system and the state.

We thank the Governor for this important nomination and for his continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities, like Filipinos in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly support GM 749 and the nomination of Michelle Tagorda to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Pamantasan Council members:

Amy Agbayani, Director, Student & Community Diversity Partnerships, UH Mānoa  
Aurelio Agcaoili, Ilokano Languages and Literatures, UH Mānoa  
Patricio Abinales, Director, Center for Philippine Studies, UH Mānoa  
Erica Balbag-Gerard, Academic Counselor, Honolulu Community College  
Jason Cifra, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Hawai'i Community College  
Leon Florendo, Counselor, Leeward Community College, Waianae Campus  
Rodney Jubilado, Philippine Studies, UH Hilo  
Roderick Labrador, Ethnic Studies, UH Mānoa  
Ernest Niki Libarios, Jr., Academic Advisor College of Education, UH Mānoa  
Raymund Liongson, Philippine Studies, Leeward Community College  
Pua Palmeira, Counselor, Kaua'i Community College  
Christine Quemuel, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, UH Mānoa  
Marnelli Ulep, Business Capstone Coordinator, UH West O'ahu

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 749

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Conference Room 224

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 6-30-2021.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Members of Senate Committee on HEA: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Kaiiali'i Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, we are very proud to strongly support GM 749. 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.

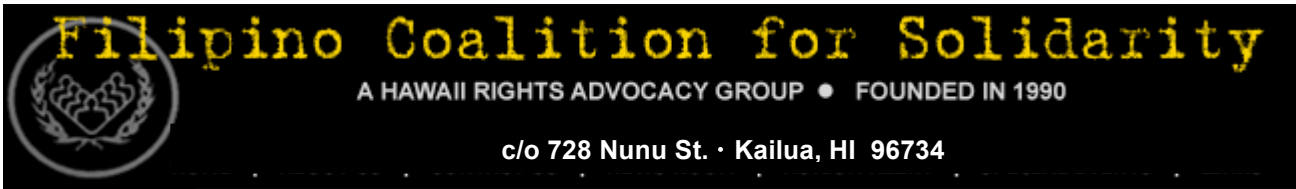
During these troubling economic times and the persistent stalemate and failure in Congress to uplift the status of minority and underserved communities in America, FACL is disturbed about the declining numbers of Filipino, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in higher education, particularly 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 hearing this bill and for the opportunity to support Michelle Tagorda's nomination to the UH Board of Regents. Please consider voting yes to her confirmation.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League





**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 749**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
April 5, 2016, 1:30 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

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 6-30-2021.

To: Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Members of Senate Committee on HEA: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Kaiiali'i Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jovanie de la Cruz, Member, Board of Directors, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Dear Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz, member, Board of Directors of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly supports gubernatorial nominee 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.

We are confident that Ms. Tagorda, in her previous UH BOR term, has demonstrated her leadership qualities, competence, and ability to work well with the other Regents. She will continue to make significant contributions that will serve all students fairly, and look after the best interests of the UH system during these challenging and austere times for 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,

Jovanie de la Cruz  
Board of Directors Member  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



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)

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 749 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA - **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:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and support of your Committee on the nomination of Ms. Michelle Tagorda as a Regent for the University of Hawai'i. Ms. Tagorda is a diligent, honest and intelligent person who has carried out her responsibilities as a Regent for the last year as the designated student regent. We ask that she be allowed to continue in that role as a permanent regent.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm her 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)

# Agnes Malate

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P.O. Box 61626 • Honolulu, HI 96839 • armalate@yahoo.com

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 749

Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE TAGORDA,  
for a term to expire 6-30-2021.

### Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 5, 2016, 1:30 pm  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**To:** Honorable Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts Members: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Sen. Michelle Kidani, and Sen. Sam Slom

**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 (UH). I first became acquainted with Michelle when she was an undergraduate peer adviser and we worked on joint outreach projects to encourage high school and college students to pursue careers in the health field. Today, she is my colleague and serves as the Coordinator for the Summer Bridge Academic and Enrichment Program. The Summer Bridge is a federally-funded project of the UH Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) that I direct.

I am honored to write this letter in support of Michelle for she represents the best in Hawai'i's youth and what makes our state unique and special. For Michelle, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees have been more than an intellectual endeavor. Central to everything that she does is her deep-seated appreciation and love for family and community. She is compassionate, humble, and a person of high integrity.

Michelle was the valedictorian of her Ke'eau High School graduating class and is a proud product of Hawai'i's public educational system. 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 understands the challenges students face and has strived to do her part as a Student Regent to improving the "social, economic, and environmental well-being of current and future generations."

Michelle is bright, articulate, and open-minded. She provides an important perspective from the point of view of a young professional, leader of our state, and a resident of Hawai'i island. 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.

April 4, 2016

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 as her advisor, mentor, and friend.

In the role that I serve, I have observed Michelle in a variety of situations. From our initial acquaintance, 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 serving as the Student Regent on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. She has held fast to her core values and continues to support and make decisions that are for the betterment of the University and its students.

It has been a pleasure knowing Michelle. 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  
Associate Director, Student Recreation Services

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dylanarm@hawaii.edu](mailto:dylanarm@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 5, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 10:59:48 PM

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**GM749**

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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