

**RALPH S. INOUE CO LTD**  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

500 Alakawa St., #220E  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

T: 808.839.9002  
F: 808.833.5971

License No. ABC-457  
Founded in 1962

April 17, 2017

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR KAIALI'I KAHELE, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBJECT: **GM 779** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BENJAMIN KUDO** for a term to expire 06-30-2022

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 18, 2017  
TIME: 1:30 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 414

The Honorable Senator Kahele and Members of the Committee:

Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd. (RSI) and I personally **strongly support** the confirmation of **Benjamin Kudo, Esq.** as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i (UH). I have had the privilege of knowing and working with **Dr. Kudo** for a number of years now in the areas of land use planning and higher education, most recently as a current UH regent. Though he had all the attributes of an expert in higher education with the impressive list of degrees mostly from UH, he went out of his way to continue to educate himself in the areas of construction in order to help with the serious deferred maintenance problems that faced the UH when first appointed. Though he and other UH regents and facilities staff have made amazing progress, I believe he feels the work is not done. He is sorely needed to ensure the groundwork they have laid is solidified to bring the facilities at UH back to the condition a first rate university deserves. That said, what I value most from the privilege of knowing **Dr. Kudo** is that he is simply a good person at heart to be around. He uses his extensive knowledge of higher education not to dictate but to work collaboratively with others to get information from all perspectives before acting. He is a listener and problem solver, not a dictator. I understand he is also a great jazz musician. I am pleased that he has agreed to continue serving the UH as a regent.

RSI (and I personally) strongly support the confirmation of **Benjamin Kudo** as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion of **Ben**.

Sincerely,

RALPH S. INOUE CO., LTD.

Lance M. Inouye  
President & CEO

LMI:ma

# SanHi Government Strategies

a limited liability law partnership

Gary M. Slovin  
Mihoko E. Ito  
R. Brian Tsujimura

c/o Ashford & Wriston • 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 539-0400  
[governmentaffairs@awlaw.com](mailto:governmentaffairs@awlaw.com)

[gslovin@awlaw.com](mailto:gslovin@awlaw.com)  
[mito@awlaw.com](mailto:mito@awlaw.com)  
[rtsujimura@awlaw.com](mailto:rtsujimura@awlaw.com)

DATE: April 14, 2017

TO: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele  
Chair, Committee on Higher Education  
*Submitted Via Capitol Website*

RE: **GM 779 – Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Benjamin Kudo**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Conference Room: 414**

---

Dear Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

I am Rick Tsujimura and I am writing on behalf of myself and my partners, Gary Slovin and Mihoko Ito, in **support** of the nomination of Benjamin A. Kudo to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii (BOR).

Ben and I have known each other for decades. I have always known him to be a man of honor and integrity. In these days a rare commodity. Our friendship may influence my opinion of him, but I can without trepidation or hesitation state to this committee that he is well-qualified to be retained on the BOR. For those of you who have worked with Ben, you know he is a tireless advocate for those institutions with which he is involved. It is true for the University of Hawaii. He has served on the BOR when there were issues about deferred maintenance and funding of the institution. I know he has tried to remedy some of these issues; some he could not. But I know Ben gave all of these issues his all. He is that kind of person.

It is easy to want to be on a board or commission; but it is definitely a challenge to resolve and address issues facing such an institution. Ben has been unafraid and in some instances bold in what he has tried to accomplish. He comes with a long history as a lecturer and professor; as well as Ph.D. candidate and recipient. He knows the University, its students and its faculty. It is this rounded experience which makes him well-suited.

We heartily ask for your approval of his nomination.

---

Gary M. Slovin  
Mihoko E. Ito  
R. Brian Tsujimura  
C. Mike Kido  
Tiffany N. Yajima  
Matthew W. Tsujimura

**Testimony in support of GM 779:  
Benjamin Kudo to the Board of Regents**  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
April 18, 2017 @ 1:30pm  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Committee Members

Testimony submitted by Amy Agbayani, chair  
FILIPINO-AMERICAN ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

The Filipino-American Advocacy Network (FAN) is committed to equal access, non-discrimination and social justice for Filipinos and other groups. Filipinos are among groups underrepresented at UH, professions and decision-making boards and commissions. FAN supports the re-appointment of Regent Ben Kudo.

I am very impressed with his academic credentials (engineering, business and law) and broad professional and community experience. He has extensive experience addressing a variety of governmental policies, higher education issues and working with non-profit and business groups. Dr. Kudo has a proven excellent track record working collaboratively and effectively as a policy maker. I would also like to thank him for his service as legal counsel to JACL Hawai'i and his consistent support for policies for equal access and community empowerment.

I strongly endorse Regent Kudo and thank him for his past and future service in support of UH.

TESTIMONY OF JAN SULLIVAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
BENJAMIN KUDO, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM 779)  
April 18, 2017 1:30pm, Conference Room 414

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Ben Kudo to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have had the opportunity to work with Regent Kudo for nearly five years on the Board of Regents. I can attest to the fact that Ben has been a fearless advocate for the University – someone that is not afraid to tackle difficult issues - no matter how challenging or unpopular they may be.

Ben has brought a wealth of practical experience to our board. His sharp intellect and passion for the University have been extremely valuable and have helped to add another dimension to the capabilities of the board.

Ben is a dedicated public servant and demonstrates his commitment to the community through the many non-profit boards that he has served on. He dedicates the time and effort that it takes to fully participate on this board, while juggling a full time job and other commitments. This past year he agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the board and took on the additional responsibilities and time commitment that has been required of board leadership.

Our board was seriously impacted by the financial disclosure law and experienced many mid-term resignations. As a result, normal board continuity for this complex institution was severely disrupted. We need to maintain continuity on the board, and Ben's continued service will also help to stabilize the board.

It has been a pleasure to serve with Regent Kudo, and I sincerely request your support in allowing him to continue his tenure on the Board of Regents.

Regent Kudo has served the University with distinction and commitment and I ask that you give your full consideration to his desire to continue that service.

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

April 18, 2017  
G.M. 779

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee Benjamin Kudo for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Chair Kahele and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Benjamin Kudo to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

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

Dr. Kudo is completing a five-year term an at-large regent. He has been an active, interested, conscientious, and productive member of the Board. He is currently a vice chair of the Board, chairs the Board's budget and finance committee, is vice chair of the research and innovation committee, and is a member of the planning and facilities committee. In prior years he has chaired the independent audit committee and the planning and facilities committee and is one of the members of the Board who could be considered having "financial expertise," a statutory requirement of at least one of the members of the independent audit committee. His attendance has been consistent and his participation has been constructive.

The University of Hawaii is a large and complex organization. It takes more than one year for new regents to "get up to speed." The board and the University would benefit by Dr. Kudo's continued participation and contributions as a regent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jesse K. Souki  
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 13, 2017

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I **strongly support** the nomination and reappointment of Regent Benjamin A. Kudo for the at-large seat on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii (UH).

I make this recommendation with the pride of a UH Manoa undergraduate and graduate alumni, the concern of a parent who wants UH to continue to be a serious option for Hawaii's high school graduates, and the knowledge of Mr. Kudo's expertise having worked under his tutelage as an associate attorney at the law firm formerly known as Imanaka Kudo & Fujimoto.

Mr. Kudo's work in the area of land use law is well known and respected. So much so, that one of his former clients endowed the Benjamin A. Kudo, Chair of Law (designated in the areas of land use, environmental and administrative law) at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. These skills are important to the future of UH.

Under Hawaii's Constitution, UH has title to its real property and the Board of Regents play a significant role in how those resources are developed and used for the benefit of the institution and people it serves. Current infrastructure investments by the City and State provide unique opportunities for UH to better serve students and faculty through strategic investments in its real property assets. There is also much to be done about the challenges UH currently faces in the areas of maintenance and operation of its real property assets. The expertise and guidance that Mr. Kudo brings to the table is more important than ever.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Souki', written in a cursive style.

Jesse K. Souki

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 414  
by Brandon Marc Higa (as current law student)

**GM779 – Gubernatorial Appointment of Mr. Benjamin Kudo  
to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents At-large Seat**

Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Kidani and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in strong support of GM779** pertaining to Governor David Y. Ige's appointment of Mr. Benjamin Kudo to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents At-Large Seat.

I am writing in my capacity as a current law student and President Emeritus of the Student Bar Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I have personally known Mr. Kudo for over 15 years when I was an undergraduate student intern at Mr. Kudo's former law firm. Mr. Kudo was the mentor who exposed me to the legal profession for the first time. As a fellow musician who decided not to pursue music as a career, I respected and admired Mr. Kudo's holistic approach to law and the many community organizations he is involved with. He is well-respected for his wisdom and steadfast commitment to sound governance practices.

As a current student, I am confident in Mr. Kudo's perspective regarding the value of higher education and life-long learning. At the end of my summer internship with Mr. Kudo, inspired me to pursue non-traditional experiences that would enrich my perspective toward my chosen discipline. I have since followed his sound words of advice in law school and believe the University would continue to benefit from his expertise and perspective.

I wholeheartedly recommend your favorable consideration of Mr. Benjamin Kudo for re-appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

s/Brandon Marc Higa  
President Emeritus, Student Bar Association  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
Entering Class of 2015

TESTIMONY OF CORALIE MATAYOSHI IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
BENJAMIN KUDO, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM 779)  
April 18, 2017 1:30pm, Conference Room 414

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

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

My appointment as a Regent in 2011, one year before Ben, afforded me the unique opportunity to work very closely with him for 4 years. Ben possesses a rare combination of intellect, passion, conscientiousness, and pragmatism to help the University of Hawaii be the best it can be, for the betterment of our State and all of its people.

Ben has been a staunch advocate for greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the conduct of University affairs. He is extremely thoughtful, demonstrates great moral courage, and always votes his conscience. Ben is the Regent who proposed a building moratorium to ensure that we don't add to the burgeoning problem of deferred maintenance. He also proposed the adoption of a resolution calling for more strategic academic planning and facilities utilization. You can always count on Ben to ask probing questions on tough issues that need to be aired in public.

Ben has used his financial and legal acumen to lead key Board committees such as Independent Audit and Planning & Facilities. He has pressed for more financial accountability and has played a significant role in a number of complex real estate transactions. Ben also led a task force to help strengthen the University's relationship with lawmakers by having Regents make personal visits to provide updates and answer questions.

I have worked with many business and community leaders, and I can tell you that Ben is one of the best and brightest that I have had the pleasure of working with.

We are extremely lucky to have Ben on the Board of Regents, and I personally applaud his dedication and sacrifice. I only regret not being able to attend the hearing to lend added support for Ben. I am honored to offer testimony on his behalf and urge his speedy confirmation.



**Michael T. McEnerney**

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

1100 Ward Suite 720  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

808-5203-0462

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Senate

Hearing April 18, 2017  
GM 779  
Confirmation of Benjamin Kudo  
UH Board of Regents  
Term to Expire 06/30/2022

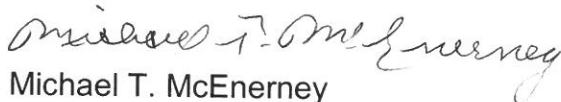
Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Higher Education and the Arts Committee:

My name is Michael T. McEnerney. I am completing my second full year as a Regent from Honolulu. I am writing today in strong support of the appointment of Benjamin Kudo for a five year term on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I would be there in person but for the fact that the 18<sup>th</sup> is the final federal due date for individual and other returns.

My term began on July 1, 2015. Regent Kudo has acted in many of the board's leadership positions such as Vice Chair and Chair of the Independent Audit Committee, Budget and Finance among others and has served on task forces. He has been more than willing to take on difficult and challenging tasks and to bring cogent conclusions back to the Board. On several occasions his knowledge of past board actions has provided valuable insights for the Board. Although I do not always agree with his conclusions he has always been a gracious adversary considering whatever points I have raised.

He brings a very important knowledge and talents to the board and it is my hope that you will confirm him for a full five year term.

Sincerely,



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

Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lee Putnam and I have the honor of being a UH Regent since July 2014. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony for Dr. Benjamin Kudo.

Regent Kudo has been a forceful and influential member of the Board during an extremely challenging period for the University, marked by very public controversies, difficult resource decisions, and changing leadership among executives. He brings critically needed knowledge and experience and a valuable perspective, which he expresses clearly even when he knows it is a minority opinion. The Board's deliberations are strengthened by his participation.

Regent Kudo's efforts have been especially significant in shaping the strategic direction for addressing the enormous backlog of deferred maintenance, a problem which had been neglected for decades because it seemed unsolvable. The University is at last moving to insure that students and faculty have access to appropriate modern facilities required to support quality instructional and research programs. There is a long way to go and it will be invaluable to have Regent Kudo helping to guide the way. Further, as the Board works with administration to reshape the 21st century institution, Regent Kudo will provide expertise on developing public/private partnerships, crucial to fulfilling our mission and achieving our aspirations.

I believe that Regent Kudo gave a lot of thought to taking on another five year term and I am very glad that he is willing to make this commitment. I know that he will fulfill his responsibilities judiciously and sincerely. I strongly support this appointment.