

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Higher Education
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

Subject: Gubernatorial Nominee to the University Board of Regents

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support the confirmation of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

As the former Fire Chief for the County of Kauai, Robert Westerman earned a reputation as a highly professional and competent administrator for the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). During his leadership at the KFD, the department obtained a multimillion dollar federal grant for 15 additional fire fighter positions; fire department personnel were empowered to attend and graduate from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy; and the KFD increased community engagement through programs, such as assisting Kauai Hospice with its Independence Day celebration and swimming with long-term care patients from the Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Robert Westerman also served as the Vice Chair and a council member of the SFC and helped to foster a collaborative working relationship between council members from other county fire departments statewide.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's confirmation of Robert Westerman to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

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The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Page 2
April 9, 2019

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO

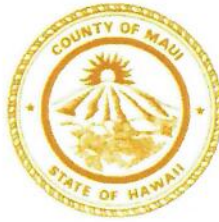
Mayor

DAVID C. THYNE

Fire Chief

BRADFORD K. VENTURA

Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Higher Education
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

Subject: Gubernatorial Nominee to the University Board of Regents

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support the confirmation of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

As the former Fire Chief for the County of Kauai, Robert Westerman earned a reputation as a highly professional and competent administrator for the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). During his leadership at the KFD, the department obtained a multi-million dollar Federal grant for 15 additional fire fighter positions; fire department personnel were empowered to attend and graduate from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy; and the KFD increased community engagement through programs such as assisting Kauai Hospice with its Fourth of July celebration and swimming with long-term care patients from the Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Robert Westerman also served as the Vice Chair and a council member of the SFC, helping to foster a collaborative working relationship between council members from other County Fire Departments across Hawaii.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's confirmation of Robert Westerman to the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Thyne".

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief



KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

April 15, 2019; 2:00 pm
Conference Room 414

In consideration of
Gubernatorial Nominee (GM) 570
University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I am Kilipaki Vaughan, Deputy Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD **strongly supports** the confirmation of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

Robert Westerman retired in December 2018 after 13 years of service as Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). Through his workforce engagement and exemplary leadership, Chief Westerman catapulted the Kauai Fire Department into the 21st century of fire service and as a business organization. As a result of his business and organizational acumen, Chief Westerman spearheaded the successful accomplishment of numerous strategic planning efforts, fire service expansion highlighted by the addition of a fire station and a county-owned public safety helicopter, emergency medical service (EMS) skill enhancement for first responder personnel, \$8.3 million in successfully-awarded grant projects, and community risk reduction programs that benefit Kauai and Ni'ihau. Chief Westerman also led the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands Fire Department through accreditation and peer-recognized excellence. Chief Westerman is a visionary, a realist, and an executor.

Chief Westerman is a committed life-long public servant having devoted multiple careers to the military, to public safety, and to community. His current desire to further serve the public and community in higher education continues to demonstrate the integrity, resolve, and values for which he serves. As a graduate of the University of Hawaii, Chief Westerman shows his strong support of education in professional/vocational occupations encouraging many firefighters to pursue degrees in fire science and business administration. Those values carried over to professional development of

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KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani
Page 2
April 15, 2019

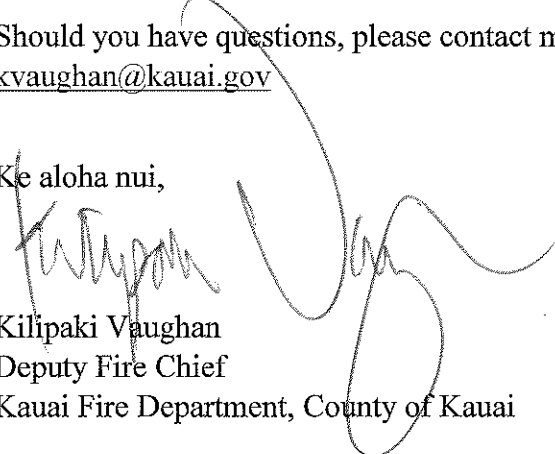
fire captains as future executive staff leaders with strong encouragement to attend the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program. Chief Westerman continues to seek avenues to mentor a new generation of students and community.

Chief Westerman will be an invaluable community-connected leader for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to expand engagement of the UH System, to creatively vision new opportunities for meaningful impact, and to nurture face-to-face trusted relationships in a broader community. Chief Westerman has honed an innate ability to bring common sense, logic, and reason to productively collaborate in environments of stubbornness and challenge.

Therefore, the Kauai Fire Department strongly urges your committee's confirmation of Robert Westerman to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (808) 241-4980 or via email at kvaughan@kauai.gov

Ke aloha nui,


Kilipaki Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief
Kauai Fire Department, County of Kauai

KV/dag





WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JAN SULLIVAN
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
BOB WESTERMAN
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM 570)

Before
THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

April 15, 2019
2:00pm
Conference Room 414

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

From: Jan N. Sullivan, EVP/COO

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 570**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Bob Westerman to serve on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Mr. Westerman has been participating in Board and Committee meetings for the last several months. It is clear that he dedicated time to reviewing the issues that have come before the Board. His questions have been thoughtful, and he has not hesitated to voice his opinions as well as his concerns.

We have not had an active, fully participating regent from the island of Kaua'i for a period of time. Bob's presence has been a positive addition, and his background allows him to bring a refreshing and different perspective to the Board.

It has been a pleasure to serve with Bob for this short period of time, and I sincerely request your support in allowing him to continue his tenure on the Board of Regents.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-570

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 2:51:03 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/15/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beth Tokioka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Mr. Westerman's nomination to the UH Board of Regents. I have known Robert for nearly 20 years, working with him for most of that time at the County of Kauai and also serving with him on the Board of Directors for Kauai United Way. Robert is an extremely skilled manager and a courageous leader. During his tenure, the Kauai Fire Department underwent an amazing transformation to become a true 21st Century emergency response agency. He is a tireless and dedicated volunteer, devoting hundreds of hours every year to Kauai United Way, West Kauai Business and Professional Association and other worthy causes. He will be a diligent and dedicated Regent who will always act with the utmost integrity. Please support his nomination. Mahalo.

GM-570

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:30:45 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/15/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott N. Giarman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members—

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of **Robert Westerman** to serve on the University of Hawai`i Board of Regents.

I have known and worked with Bob for more than a decade as a key member of the Kaua`i United Way (KUW) Board of Directors. In this time, Bob has served in a number of roles including Vice-President and President of the Board of Directors. Currently, Bob is Chair of KUW's critically important Allocations and Finance Committees.

It is the Allocations Committee that determines how the money we raise in our Annual Campaign will be distributed to effect the greatest possible good for Kaua`i's whole community. As Chair of this committee, Bob directs the rigorous annual effort to evaluate Kaua`i social service organizations by poring through submitted documentation including program information, financial reports, audits, IRS filings, Board minutes and more. The objective is to gauge agency efficiency in delivering social services, identify unique capabilities and duplications of services and ensure that the agency is operating effectively and ethically in its mission. Bob then guides the group through the difficult process of determining levels of funding to provide each agency in order to provide an optimal mix of social services to benefit the entire island.

As Chair of KUW's Finance Committee, Bob is in charge of the organization is operating efficiently and frugally on a month-to-month basis. He also receives and reviews the annual independent audit and ensures that IRS filings are made in a timely manner.

In working with Bob, I have found him to be diligent and thorough. He readily calls upon his extensive and diverse background in his analysis of situations. He is probing, insightful and not at all shy about questioning long-established procedures. Bob takes his responsibilities as a Board member admirably seriously. While he is tough in his examination of situations, he is pleasant to work with and interacts constructively with others. In these ways, I consider Bob to be an ideal Board member.

I am not certain of the role you need Bob to fill on the Board of Regents. But, I can guarantee you, Bob will deliberate the challenges you present with seriousness of thought and probity of conviction. Bob Westerman will enhance your Board and will

serve the University of Hawai`i system with distinction. Congratulations on selecting such an excellent candidate.

I would be happy to discuss Bob with you and may be reached at (808) 245-2043 or sng@kauaiunitedway.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott N. Giarman

P.O. Box 829

Kilauea 96754

Testimony in support of appointment of Robert Westerman to Board of Regents, University of Hawaii

I am happy to support for the appointment of Robert Westerman to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, through Senate Bill 570.

Bob has been a leader and active member of Kauai's community in many ways. Most visibly, he has been an outstanding Chief of the Kauai Fire Department. During his tenure, he has elevated the fire department's capacity and scope through many innovative, impactful improvements in training, equipment, and systems. He has been a dedicated servant leader in his West Kauai business community, and has provided valuable fiduciary inputs to the Kauai United Way. Bob has truly been an engaged civic contributor whose participation is sought after by organizations throughout the island.

I first met Bob in 1999 when we were accepted into the first Kauai cohort of UH College of Business' inaugural Neighbor Island MBA distance learning program. A group of 10 of us spent many evenings and weekends together as we completed the requirements for our graduate degree, all done while being fully active with work, family, and community responsibilities. At the time Bob was chief of the fire-fighting unit at PMRF. During this intense period of our lives, I got to know and respect Bob's many attributes that would serve him and his commitments well as the years progressed. I saw first-hand Bob's personal commitment to lifelong learning and educational opportunity for everyone.

I believe that Bob Westerman would be an excellent choice to serve as a Regent for the University of Hawaii. He has earned the respect of the Kauai community and his motivation for serving the Board of Regents are support the University of Hawaii System to be the best university for all of Hawaii.

Thank you very much.

Ed Nakaya

P.O. Box 164

Lawai, HI 96766

GM-570

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:10:25 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/15/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne S. Higaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Coralie Chun Matayoshi in Support of the Nomination of
ROBERT WESTERMAN, Gubernatorial Nominee to the
University of Hawaii Board of Regents (GM 570)
Senate Committee on Higher Education
April 15, 2019 2:00pm, Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee members:

I am writing to express my strongest support for the nomination of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known and worked with Bob since 2012, when he joined the Kauai Red Cross Advisory Council. Bob served continuously on our Council until his recent retirement. The mission of the Red Cross and Kauai Fire Department are closely aligned. Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors, and the Fire Department preserves and protects life, property, and the environment of Kauai County from all hazards and emergencies. As such, we work hand in hand in very challenging and unpredictable situations, whether it is a home fire or hurricane.

During our historic flooding disaster last April, Bob took charge of air and ground operations, including search and rescue in remote parts of the island. He works well with other agencies and is often the calm voice of reason when things are going crazy. His leadership during tough times is a testament to his ability to handle it all.

Bob also recognizes the value of planning and preparedness. He has served as a great sounding board, offering practical "on the ground perspectives" and methodical analysis of different ideas. We have also worked together to save lives through our home fire campaigns. Both the Red Cross and Fire Department install free smoke alarms in the homes of vulnerable populations like the elderly.

Bob is a thoughtful, capable, and compassionate public servant who would serve the University of Hawaii well. I am honored to offer testimony on his behalf and urge his speedy confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

GM-570

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 3:03:09 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/15/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alapaki Nahale-a	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim and members of the Higher Education Committee. I've had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Westerman on the UH Board of Regents since our appointment, subject to confirmation, in November of last year. Mr. Westerman's significant experience in the public sector has been clearly evident in his contributions to BOR discussions. He has high expectations for the UH System and for the BOR specifically. He frequently calls out areas where we can improve and provides suggestions on how we might get there. He is committed and passionate about our UH System and I am confident he will continue to be a strong and positive influence. It has been an honor to serve with him thus far and I hope we get to continue our work together.

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

April 15, 2019
G.M. 570, 571 and 572

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii
Gubernatorial Nominee Robert Westerman for a term to expire June 30, 2022
Gubernatorial Nominee Alapaki Nahale-a for a term to expire June 30, 2023
Gubernatorial Nominee Kelli Acopan for a term to expire June 30, 2020

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Robert Westerman, Alapaki Nahale-a, and Kelli Acopan to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

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

I regret that I will be out of town at the time of your committee hearing on this matter and will therefore not be able to testify in person.

All three nominees are currently serving interim appointments and therefore I and others have had the opportunity to “see them in action.” All three have assumed their positions with an appropriate mix of curiosity, perspective, experience and wisdom. They are all active and constructive members of the board and of the committees to which they have been assigned. Additionally, all three have taken the time to attend meetings to committees of which they are not members, and accordingly have gained an understanding of the range of matters that have come to the board since their appointments.

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 the continued participation and contributions of these three outstanding individuals as a regents.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

April 15, 2019

LATE

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

RE: GM-570 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT WESTERMAN - **SUPPORT**.
Hearing date: Monday, April 15, 2019
Hearing time: 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 414

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

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and the support of your Committee members on the appointment of Mr. Robert Westerman as the Kauai Regent to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

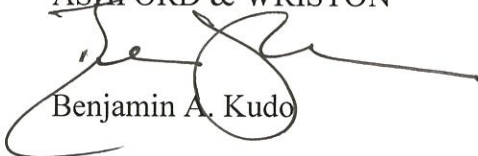
Mr. Westerman will faithfully carry out his responsibilities as a member of the Board.

I recommend your favorable consideration of Mr. Robert Westerman for the aforementioned position. He is a person who will prove to be worthy of your support.

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

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON



Benjamin A. Kudo

MAILING ADDRESS
Post Office Box 131 / Honolulu, HI 96810

STREET ADDRESS
First Hawaiian Center / 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 / Honolulu, HI 96813
T 808 539 0400 / F 808 533 4945 / E atty@awlaw.com / www.ashfordwriston.com

LATE

GM-570

Submitted on: 4/14/2019 5:01:49 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/15/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Sone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony as an individual, in strong support of the confirmation of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Bob for the last 5 years from our service as Kauai United Way Board of Directors. During this period he served a two year term as the organization President, and continuously served on the allocation, golf fundraiser, and finance committees.

Bob's service on the KUW Board has been of great benefit to the organization and will be of great value to the Board of Regents. It is hard to find people in Hawai'i that have a deep understanding of the issues and complexities that are associated with these arenas, and that are willing to serve on the Board of Regents.

The University of Hawai'i is a 10-campus system with all of the complexities that come along with a diverse institution of this nature. The research enterprise is an extremely valuable asset to the university and many of the research units have achieved national, if not international recognition. We need more regents that understand and appreciate the research enterprise and the value of developing technology in Hawai'i.

I am glad that Bob is willing to serve on the Board, and strongly endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Thanks,

Jimmy Sone

From: [Lee Putnam](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: GM570 - In strong support
Date: Monday, April 15, 2019 9:58:29 AM



Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee,

Please accept my testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Robert "Bob" Westerman to the Board of Regents.

The BOR had been lacking a Regent from Kauai for an extended period before Bob began attending. From the outset it was clear that he will be an excellent representative of the county while keeping in mind the needs of the entire state. Bob has experience serving on a number of boards and in leadership positions. He is making a smooth transition to fiduciary responsibility for the University of Hawaii. He is earnestly working to increase his knowledge of UH and the issues the Board is facing. He asks good questions and makes insightful comments.

I strongly support the confirmation of Robert Westerman to the Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support and I apologize for any inconvenience of late testimony

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

LATE

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kim and Vice Chair Kidani:

**Subject: GM570 RELATING TO ROBERT WESTERMAN, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF REGENTS
Hearing Date: Monday, April 15, 2019
Time/Place of Hearing: 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the Hawai'i State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). I am in strong support in the confirmation of Robert Westerman to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have worked with Mr. Westerman in the Fire Service since 2005. Over the past 9 years, we were peer Fire Chiefs of our Departments as well as peer members of the State Fire Council. During his tenure as the Fire Chief of the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD), he was responsible for the day to day safety of the members of the KFD, Kaua'i's residents, and visitors. His expertise in managing his department through times of governmental funding restriction provided me with great direction in my duties as Fire Chief. We served together on the State Fire Council, where, in his position as the Vice Chair, he was instrumental in closing the gap between the public sector, government, and private businesses in bringing to the discussion the need for residential fire sprinklers among many life safety fire code initiatives. The State Fire Council continues its mission to reduce the threat to lives and property.

Beyond the Fire Service, I am proud to call Robert Westerman my friend. He possesses the personal characteristics that are key to his role as a Regent. He is a devote family man that is readily evident should you have the pleasure of being around his ohana. He served the United States as a member of the US Air Force for 20 years before beginning his service to his communities as a firefighter. He has been a pillar to the Waimea Community on Kaua'i



Robert Westerman

Page 2

March 28, 2019

serving in various community organizations enhancing the Waimea community. Most importantly, Robert Westerman is a man of great integrity and morale values. His commitment to continual research and growth in technology development will be a valuable asset to the UH Board of Regents. Through his previous endeavors in the fire service he has shown the ability to bridge the gaps throughout our island state. The University of Hawai'i encompasses 10 campuses across all four counties. Having someone of Mr. Westerman's abilities will only strengthen the board.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2901 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Robert Westerman to the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019
April 15, 2019

LATE

Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, AFL-CIO

Governor's Message 570 Consideration and Confirmation of Robert Westerman
To serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty fire fighters throughout the State. The HFFA **supports** Governor's Message 570 nominating ROBERT WESTERMAN to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

As the Fire Chief of the County of Kauai Fire Department for thirteen years (2005 – 2018), HFFA worked closely with Chief Westerman and his administration to address fire fighters and labor concerns with the shared goal of meeting the needs of the community.

Mr. Westerman's professional experience and educational background made his tenure as Fire Chief of the County of Kauai one of mutual respect and collaboration between HFFA and his administration. His administrative acumen, shared goal of training and safety for our members and commitment to the improving the educational opportunities will best serve the diverse interest and needs of the students of the university system and assist the university in achieving its strategic goals and performance indicators.

HFFA supports Mr. Robert Westerman's nomination to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii and we appreciate your Committee's favorable consideration of Governor's Message 570. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.