

**GM-844**

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 6:46:18 AM

Testimony for HRE on 7/2/2020 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



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July 1, 2020

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 844 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, ERNEST WILSON - **SUPPORT**.  
Hearing date: July 2, 2020  
Hearing time: 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

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


It is with great pleasure that I recommend your favorable consideration of Mr. Ernest Wilson's nomination to a second term on the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii as one of the Maui members. Mr. Wilson has been particularly valuable to the Board in our deliberations of Board governance. He has served as Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, member of the Independent Audit and Personnel Affairs and Board Governance committees. He was also a Regent member to the Council of Faculty Senate Chairs.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON



Benjamin A. Kudo

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30 June 2020

Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 218  
Hawaii State Legislature

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

On Thursday, July 2, your Committee is scheduled to consider GM 844, the Governor's nomination of Ernest K. Wilson, Jr. to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I write today in full and enthusiastic support of Mr. Wilson's nomination for a second term and am honored to have this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you.

I have observed and admired the good work done by members of higher education governing boards throughout my career. Nearly all have been exceptionally talented and dedicated to the mission and vitality of the institutions they serve. Most have invaluable knowledge and experience to share, and many others demonstrate exceptional trustworthiness and strength of character. Ernie Wilson is among the few people I have known who bring all three to the table.

I met Ernie in 2006, not long after he and his family lost their home and nearly all of their possessions to hurricane Katrina. Paul Smith's College, a school known nationally for education hospitality and tourism, was looking for a respected educator with extensive industry experience. Ernie Wilson's resume far exceeded our most optimistic expectations and we were thrilled when he agreed to join our team.

As Chief Academic Officer, I quickly recognized the depth of knowledge Ernie brought to our program. As importantly, however, he brought a true love for higher education, for the life-changing impact it has on deserving students, and for the value it creates for our communities. Not long after his arrival, we had an unexpected vacancy in the Dean's office. Fortunately, we didn't have to look far for a new Dean of the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Management. Ernie was the obvious choice. He stepped into the role at a time when the school was in need of strong, compassionate, and technically competent leadership, and Ernie Wilson delivered on all counts.





As others no doubt have shared, Ernie has brought vast knowledge, great energy, and important experience to the Board of Regents in his first term. He also brings a compelling life story that personifies the “American Dream”. From his early education in the Kamehameha schools to the Ivy League, from his start as a restaurant dishwasher to his position as a hospitality industry leader, and from his service to our country as a Lt. Colonel in the Army to his dedication to church and family, Ernie Wilson’s perspectives as an educator, an executive, and a person of genuine integrity will continue to be a tremendous addition to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Ernie has travelled the world, acquired experiences few can match, and accomplished much, but at least one thing has remained constant – he is, has always been, and will always be a proud Hawaiian. Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Honorable members of the Committee, I respectfully urge you to confirm the nomination of Ernest K. Wilson, Jr. to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts, and for your good work in service to the people of Hawaii, the University, and the students who will be our future leaders.

Richard Nelson, President  
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TESTIMONY OF  
RANDOLPH G. MOORE  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

June 30, 2020  
G.M. 844

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee Ernest Wilson for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Ernest Wilson 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 due to the corona virus pandemic that has closed the capitol to the public, I will not be able to testify in person.

Mr. Wilson has been an active and constructive member of the Board and of the committees to which he has been assigned for the past five years. His experience as a private sector executive, university faculty member, and university dean give him a very broad perspective on matters that come before the Board of Regents.

The Board and the University would benefit by Mr. Wilson's continued participation and contribution as a regent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, July 2, 2020  
by Brandon Marc Higa (as Regent Emeritus)

**Testimony in Strong Support  
GM844 Confirmation of Mr. Ernest Wilson  
University of Hawai'i Board of Regents**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM844 regarding Mr. Ernest “Ernie” Wilson’s re-appointment to serve a second term on the University of Hawai’i Board of Regents.**

Regent Wilson is an active member of the UH Board of Regents who takes his responsibilities as a representative of Maui County seriously. He is among the most active Regents who meet with students, faculty, and other university stakeholders to strive for a fuller understanding of current issues facing the university. Regent Wilson is committed to shared governance and a strong advocate for the inclusion of university stakeholders who provide important perspectives for major decisions. An alumnus of Kamehameha Schools, Regent Wilson’s presence on the Board supports the University of Hawai’i’s success as a model Native Hawaiian and indigenous serving institution. He takes the time to educate himself on extramural fundraising activities to become a better advocate for the University’s federal grant programs, particularly those benefitting Hawai’i’s communities.

Regent Wilson’s experience in the hospitality and food service industries, as well as higher education administration are particularly valuable as the University of Hawai’i serves as an incubator for Hawai’i’s future economy. His recent leadership in the Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee and role as a liaison with the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs will further his success in reaching important decisions for our state’s future.

Regent Wilson is also a retired senior military officer who provides an important perspective for university students who are currently enlisted, as well as veterans. Regent Wilson’s background in the military is beneficial to university governance actions that may further expand educational opportunities to students in the military, as well as workforce partnerships as federal entities seek to establish career pipelines with underrepresented populations.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge you to vote “yes” for Governor David Y. Ige’s re-appointment of Regent Wilson to the University of Hawai’i Board of Regents.

Respectfully submitted,  
s/Brandon Marc Higa  
Student Regent, 2016-19

TESTIMONY OF JAN SULLIVAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION  
OF ERNEST WILSON, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM844)

Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Ernest “Ernie” Wilson to serve on the University of Hawaii’s Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ernie during his term on the Board of Regents. He is one of the few members that has a background in academia at both an instructional as well as an administrative level. He has a true appreciation for higher education, has an interest in shared governance, and has made it a point to stay current on national trends, issues, and events in this arena.

Ernie consistently shows his commitment to the University and has been willing to take unpopular positions, even when difficult.

He has demonstrated his strong support and has emphasized the importance of research to the diversification of the economy, and he consistently supported the thirty meter telescope as being in the best interests of the University – even when this was an extremely difficult personal position for him to take.

I am glad that Ernie is willing to continue to serve another term on the Board, and strongly endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

## Testimony of Thomas Conway

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Thursday, July 2, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

In consideration of GM844

Ernest Wilson

Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

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

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

I have had the pleasure of working with Ernie over the past year on the University of Hawaii All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC). He is a welcomed presence at our monthly meetings and his willingness to hear members concerns in regard to how the University is governed, well received. His executive background and emphasis on establishing a positive rapport with the faculty, has given the ACCFSC a sense of purpose that did not exist before.

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. Given the current state of affairs, I believe Ernie will give the Board of Regents an informed voice in how best to maneuver through the upcoming challenges the University of Hawaii will need to address. We need someone of his caliber to represent the best interests of the University.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**GM-844**

Submitted on: 7/1/2020 2:39:15 PM

Testimony for HRE on 7/2/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
simeon r. acoba jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Ernest Wilson since his appointment to the Board. He has always been engaged and committed to improving the welfare of the Board. He has attended conferences and seminars to broaden his knowledge of governance issues for educational institutions and shared that knowledge with the Board. He will act in the best interest of the University and has exhibited this at meetings where he has addressed the many challenges facing the University and the State. I believe he will be an effective and collaborative regent and will continue to play an important role in the Board's future. Thank you for your consideration, Simeon Acoba