



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
April 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

by
David Lassner
President, University of Hawai'i

GM 575 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Gubernatorial Nominee, Colleen Sathre, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 575 and the appointment of Dr. Colleen Sathre to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Dr. Sathre for over 30 years and worked closely with her at the University of Hawai'i for nearly 20 years, until her retirement. More recently we have served collaboratively as two of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners. She is a valued member of the Policy Research and Analysis Committee and now also plays a critical role on the WICHE Nominating Committee, a position of great trust. I can attest that she is an excellent, dedicated and respected Commissioner who would continue as such if reappointed.

Dr. Sathre has spent her entire career in public service, giving back to her community through her commitment to education. Her passion and dedication for increasing higher education opportunity for all students was clearly demonstrated through her 31 years of progressively responsible service to UH culminating in her vice presidency. In addition, she served as higher education planning consultant for the Consortium of Pacific Education, past board member of the Hawai'i Organization of Women Leaders, and service for a term as the coordinator of the Hawai'i Network of the American Council on Education's National Identification Program for Women in Academic Administration.

I am confident that Dr. Sathre would continue to work diligently to help WICHE address for our region the vast range of educational challenges and opportunities we all face, including in this most dynamic and uncertain COVID environment. Dr. Sathre understands first-hand the need for creative and thoughtful solutions to hard problems, and can identify and articulate what it takes to implement strategic initiatives at scale. These characteristics, and her extensive experience working with Boards in both the public and non-profit sectors, will enable Dr. Sathre to continue to serve with distinction. She is an articulate and steadfast representative of Hawai'i and would serve our State well in a continuing role as one of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 575 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Dr. Colleen Sathre's nomination to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3035 Center Green Drive Suite 200 Boulder, CO 80301-2204 303.541.0200

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

April 12, 2021

Support for GM 575

Since 1953, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been strengthening higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health throughout the Western region. As an interstate compact, WICHE partners with states, territories, and postsecondary institutions to share knowledge, create resources, and develop innovative solutions that address some of our society's most pressing needs. With a mission to expand educational access and excellence for all residents of the West, WICHE's 16 members include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States (i.e., Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

As president of WICHE, I submit this testimony in support of Dr. Colleen Sathre's nomination to the WICHE Commission. Dr. Sathre is an active and engaged Commissioner who competently represents the state of Hawai'i among her peers. Dr. Sathre is a contributing member of WICHE's Policy Analysis and Research Committee, where she is willing to humbly share her vast knowledge, particularly around governance and academic leadership. She is committed to her role as a Commissioner and dedicated to the students of Hawai'i and the West.

Thank you for your time and attention to her nomination.

Demarée K. Michelau
President

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