

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/10/2021 9:12:51 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerris Hedges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim and other members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

This note is in support of the reappointment of Wayne Higaki to the UH Board of Regents. Mr. Higaki has helped provide balance and wisdom to the UH Board of Regents. Although a Regent from the Island of Hawaii, he views his role more broadly than simply representing the big island. Mr. Higaki is a wise, thoughtful and contributing member of the regents. I request that he be re-appointed.

Sincerely,

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM

Professor & Chair, John A. Burns School of Medicine

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 9:15:39 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toby Taniguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senate Committee on Higher Education and Members,

Please accept this submission in strong support of the candidacy of Mr. Wayne S. Higaki, for Regent, University of Hawaii. I have had the good fortune of knowing Mr. Higaki both personally and professional over the past 30 years, and have every confidence in his ability to perform the duties upon which will be asked of him as a sitting Regent.

Your favorable consideration upon Mr. Higaki's nomination would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Toby Taniguchi

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 12:35:02 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alapaki Nahale-a	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I share my strong support for the confirmation of Wayne Higaki to serve another term as a University of Hawaii regent.

Regent Higaki has been a thoughtful and consistent member of the Board of Regents. He is diligent about attending all meetings and participating in an informed and intentional manner. He isn't afraid to raise challenging issues, but always behaves with professionalism and respect.

With the recent end of terms of long standing Regents, coupled with upcoming turnover, having someone with experience on the Board will help to bring forward institutional knowledge and an understanding of operating procedures and requirements. Regent Higaki will continue to be a stabilizing force.

As one of the newest members of the Regents, I have looked to Regent Higaki for guidance and assistance. He has made himself available and been open and direct. He has shortened my learning curve and helped me better understand and embrace the weight of the kuleana that comes with being a Regent.

Finally, the weight of public service has always been heavy, but most recently the impacts of Covid and national divisions have increased the burden. Despite the challenges and pressure, Regent Higaki has stepped to play his part in helping UH navigate a tumultuous time. He does so with commitment, while being observant of the line between the board and administration. As we continue to chart a way forward together, Regent Higaki will continue to play a critical role in that journey.

Mahalo,

Alapaki Nahale-a, Regent - Hawaii Island

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 12:36:34 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur A Ushijima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Wayne Higaki for over 20 years in his role at North Hawaii Community Hospital and also supported his appointment to the UH Board of Regents. I strongly support his re-appointment to the Board. He has demonstrated his leadership capacity in his leadership as a regent in what is the most challenging time facing UH. His reappointment will assure continuity and support of UH at this most critical time. Mr Higaki is very experienced and knowledgeable and dedicated to the well being of UH and its students and faculty. I highly endorse his reappointment. Mahalo.

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 12:40:42 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert momsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Wayne Higaki for over 13 years. First as Board Chair of North Hawaii Community Hospital, and for the last 7 years as a Trustee of the Queens Health Systems. I have found Mr. Higaki to be sensitive, thoughtful, and a problem solver. I can recommend him without reservation. Bob Momsen

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 4:34:59 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl A. Carlson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is written in support of the re-appointment of Wayne Higaki to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. I have known Wayne for over twenty years and have admired his commitment to our community and to the public through his service on various State and County Boards and Commissions. As I former Regent, I understand the responsibility of the appointment and the time commitment and effort one must make. In addition to the many qualifications needed for service, Wayne also possesses the disposition, ability and collaborative skills necessary to successfully function with his colleagues, UH administration, faculty, students and the legislature. I humbly ask that you support his re-appointment. Aloha, Carl A. Carlson, Jr.

TESTIMONY OF
RANDOLPH G. MOORE
to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
April 14, 2021

G.M. 787

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii
Gubernatorial Nominee Wayne Higaki for a term to expire June 30, 2026

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Wayne Higaki 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.

Wayne Higaki is completing his first full term as regent. He has been an active, interested, and thoughtful member of the Board and was elected a vice-chair by his peers. He has been a member of most of the Board committees and as such has broad knowledge of the University and the workings of the board. His attendance has been very consistent, despite the pre-pandemic challenges of traveling from West Hawaii, with the longest travel times and least convenient travel schedules to board and committee meetings.

I strongly encourage your recommendation to the full Senate of his confirmation to a second term.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony of Ernie Kaau' moana Wilson

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

In consideration of GM787

Wayne Higaki

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

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

I am submitting my letter of recommendation to you and ask that you approve and confirm the re-appointment and confirmation of Wayne Higaki to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents (BOR) for a second term.

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving and working with Wayne for the last five years on the BOR. Wayne has served in several different capacities including BOR Vice Chair and Committee Chair. His understanding of the complexities associated with the diverse nature of the 10 campus system along with his ability to focus on the strategic and make decisions based on this has served the BOR well. As one of the two Regents from Hawaii Island, he had to deal with the issues surrounding the Mauna Kea TMT situation as an Ex Officio member of the Mauna Kea Management Board. Wayne's patient approach to handling tough situations was an asset in this case. In addition, Wayne's background as a healthcare administrator has been of great value to the Board of Regents during his first term, not only for Hawaii Island, but Statewide.

I am glad that Wayne is willing to serve, and again strongly recommend that you approve and confirm his re-appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input and recommendation!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ernie Kaau' moana Wilson

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 7:08:05 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of Mr. Higaki's confirmation to the Board of Regents. I have served with him since his initial appointment to the Board in 2015. The Board members have shown their confidence in him by having had selected him as a vice chair of the Board. He currently is vice chair of the planning and facilities committee which oversees University CIP projects, maintenance and repair, risk management. His experience as an administrator has been helpful to the board in reaching decisions in these and the many areas the Board is responsible for. He brings a knowledge of the Board and its policies which is essential to its ongoing function and need for continuity. He adds a basic common sense approach to our deliberations and encourages mutual respect among the members and I respectfully urge his confirmation. Thank you for your consideration. /s/ Simeon Acoba, Jr.

PATTI COOK

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Cell: 808-937-2833

April 13, 2021

TO: HAWAI'I STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee Members

RE: GM 787 – Confirmation of UH Board of Regents Nominee Wayne Higaki
Term to expire June 30, 2026

Hearing Scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 @ 3 p.m.

Aloha Senators Kim, Kidani and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering this letter of support for the reappointment of Wayne Higaki, a longtime resident of Waimea who is deeply immersed in this community as one of the leaders of Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital.

Mr. Higaki brings a critical perspective to the role of UH Regent, both because of his professional responsibilities with addressing the health care needs of our very diverse, rural, physically dispersed, economically disparate North Hawai'i community, and because of his family story of having been raised as one of five boys in the remote sugar plantation community of Pa'auhau. He has never forgotten his roots and has demonstrated repeatedly his belief in the responsibility of our land grant university system to provide post-high school educational opportunities to all of our children.

He is not a PhD and it is to the credit of the Governor that a resident would be nominated, and now, re-nominated to the BOR who brings a more "grassroots" view, vision and commitment to the Board.

Mr. Higaki is thoughtful and respectful. He also understands fiscal management and accountability and has been consistently accessible and responsive. These traits strengthen his ability to help the university system better meet and fulfill the needs of all of the citizens of Hawai'i.

Please confirm his nomination. I am available if you have questions.

Mahalo for your time.

Patti Cook

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 10:12:15 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. William Bergin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Wayne deserves reappointment for these reasons;

His tenure on the BOR is underscored by his leadership and communication skills,

His Hawaii Island perspective is clearly pertinent to all things Maunakea and,

His heritage as a product of rural Hawaii is a symbol of hope for Hawaii's college bound youth.

Dr Billy Bergin, BOR 1998-2002

GM-787

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 11:58:11 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Matsuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Kim and the Committee on Higher Education:

As a Hawai'i Island resident, I support Wayne Higaki's confirmation to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents, Hawaii County seat.

Wayne's executive and management expertise through his professional role, his experience and involvement shaping UH's vision and policies as a current regent, his commitment to service, and his connection to, care for and knowledge of the Hawai'i Island community make him an ideal selection.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rich Matsuda

TESTIMONY OF JAN SULLIVAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION
OF WAYNE HIGAKI, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS (GM787)

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 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 Wayne Higaki to serve on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board with Wayne during his first term. Wayne has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the University and has represented his Big Island seat in a thoughtful, positive manner over the years.

Wayne's private sector background as a healthcare administrator has provided the Board with a diversity of experience and depth. His love for the University and for Hawaii is sincere and runs deep. We need more individuals like Wayne that have been willing to contribute their valuable time and energy in dedicated public service to our community.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Board of Regents with Wayne. I was glad to hear that Wayne was willing to serve a second term on the Board, and strongly endorse his confirmation for a second term.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



April 13, 2021

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 787 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, gubernatorial nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI - **SUPPORT**.
Hearing date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021
Hearing time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

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

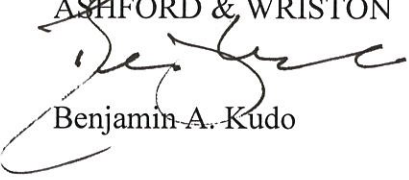
I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and support of your Committee on the re-nomination of Wayne Higaki as a Regent to the University of Hawai'i. Mr. Higaki has served as a Regent for the last four years and has been a valuable asset to the Board. He has served two terms as Vice Chair of the Board and held the following committee leadership positions:

2016-2017: Budget & Finance Vice Chair
2017-2018: Budget & Finance Chair
2018-2019: Board Vice Chair
Budget & Finance Vice Chair
Independent Audit Vice Chair
2019-2020: Board Vice Chair
Budget & Finance Vice Chair
Independent Audit Vice Chair
2020-2021: Planning & Facilities Vice Chair

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

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