

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:05 PM
Conference Room 225 and Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Ray Vara
President & CEO

Re: **GM 807 – Testimony in Support
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of
the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gabriel Lee, for a term to
expire 06-30-2027.**

My name is Ray Vara and I am the President and CEO of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox - and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of GM 807 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i Gabriel Lee, for a term to expire on 06/30/2027.

Founded in 1907, the University of Hawai'i System (UH) includes 3 universities, 7 community colleges and community-based learning centers across Hawai'i. The ten-campus system encompasses all the complexities that are characteristic of a diverse educational institution of this nature. Mr. Lee's experience and community service make him an ideal candidate to serve on the Board of Regents.

Mr. Lee has held a number of various positions in the banking industry. In his current position with American Savings Bank as Executive Vice President of Commercial Markets, he oversees corporate and commercial banking, as well as commercial real estate, cash management and international services. He has a sound understanding of the economics of business and financial matters which may be applied to the governance of the UH.

Additionally, Mr. Lee has been an integral member of many nonprofit boards in Hawai'i that have benefited from his background in finance and banking. Some of the boards Mr. Lee has been a part of include 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue as chairperson from 2020-2022,

Boy Scouts of America—Aloha Council and Diamond Head Theater as chairperson from 2005-2008 and currently as secretary and treasurer. He has also served on the boards of the Waialae Country Club, Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i, Saint Louis High School, and Catholic Charities Family Services. Based on his extensive service on these nonprofit boards, Mr. Lee is already well versed in the function and administrative processes of a board.

Mr. Lee is more than qualified to assume a position on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, and I respectfully urge this Committee to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

April 15, 2022

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

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

Re: GM807: Relating to the nomination of Gabriel Lee to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. I have known and worked with Gabe for the last 15 years in various public and private capacities.

The University of Hawai'i is a 10-campus system with all the complexities that come along with a diverse institution of this nature. The various public and private roles that Gabe has played makes him very capable of assuming the role of a University of Hawaii Regent.

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

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,

Micah A. Kāne
CEO & President



Diamond Head Theatre

Testimony of Deena Dray

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CHAIRMAN

Colin Miwa
CHAIR-ELECT

Mike Ching
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Elisia Flores
VICE CHAIR

Edward J. Gerard
VICE CHAIR

Gabe Lee
SECRETARY/TREASURER

David Okabe
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

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Cathy Camp

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Sidney C. L. Char

Rick Ching

Daniel Chun

Paul I. deVille

Susan Eichor

Uson Y. Ewart

Dennis Francis

Kay Hampton

Randy Harris

Todd Iacovelli

Mariko Lyons

John Magauran, M.D.

Jacqueline Murai-Pedersen

Laurence Paxton

Matthew Pennaz

Nigel Pentland

Kelly Sanders

Dean Shigemura

Jennifer Tanabe

Sharen Wago

Indru Watumull

Carolyn A. Berry Wilson

Wendell J. Wo

Vernon Wong

Deena Dray
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Rampage
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

Gabe has been on Diamond Head Theatre's Board of Directors for twenty-two years. He has been an outstanding and active Board member, serving as Chairman from 2005 to 2008. We recently prevailed upon him to return as an officer, so he is now serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

Gabe has been an invaluable asset to me as Executive Director. He is 100% committed, has tremendous reach within the community and does the work needed to support DHT both personally and professionally.

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. Gabe knows our community well. His acumen at seeing all sides and solving problems quickly and effectively would position Gabe as an ideal candidate for the UH Board of Regents.

I strongly endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

▪ April 14, 2022

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in Support – GM 807 Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gabriel Lee
Hearing: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:05 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

It is my pleasure to express **strong support** for the appointment of Gabriel Lee to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

I served with Gabe on the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii when he was the Chair. We also served as fellow board of directors at the Waialae Country Club during his tenure as President of the club. In each role Gabe exemplified strong leadership skills and commitment to the organizational goals.

Gabe understands the importance of the University of Hawaii to our economy and for the future leaders of our state. His decades of leadership experience within the banking industry will bring proficiency to the Board of Regents when addressing the challenges of such a diverse institution.

As I serve my third term as a Trustee of the University of Hawaii Foundation in the capacity of Vice Chair and Chair of the Real Estate Committee, I fully support and endorse the confirmation of Gabe Lee to the Board of Regents. I look forward to continuing our collaboration for the greater good of the University of Hawaii and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Gabe Lee.

Sincerely,



Stanford S. Carr



Chairman of the Board
Richard Soo

Secretary/Treasurer
Jackie Burke

Board Members
Linda Ahue
Duane Hewlen
Puni Kekauoha
Alfred "Bobby" Willing
Helen O'Connor

President/CEO
Kali Watson

Senior VP
Patti Barbee

April 17, 2022

**To: Sen. Donna Kim, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair & Members of the
Committee on Higher Education**

**From: Kali Watson
President/CEO
Hawaiian Community Development Board
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**Re: Hearing on GM 807
Relating to Gabriel Lee for UH Board of Regents
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:05 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Donna Kim & Vice Chair Michelle Kidani of the Committee on Higher Education, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **GM 807** relating to the confirmation of Gabriel Lee's appointment to the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii. I have known Gabe for over twenty years, primarily relating to his involvement in the business community with commercial and community lending. He was key in helping fund the Nanakuli Village Center with new market tax credits and commercial lending, which now exists today and is helping provide needed services to all the people of the Waianae leeward coast.

His commitment and understanding of what Hawaii is about from a business perspective makes him a tremendous asset in the deliberation process in making balanced decisions regarding the University of Hawaii's 10-campus system. As a local graduate and beneficiary of Saint Louis High School and UH he also understands the importance of a good education. He can and will apply this knowledge and connections to making the tough and needed decisions facing the caretakers of Hawaii's higher educational system.

Hawaiian Community Development Board is a nonprofit focusing on helping beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, but also helping improve all communities throughout Hawaii.

I urge you to please confirm Mr. Gabriel Lee to the UH Board of Regents.

Pupuka I Holomua (United in order to progress),

Kali Watson
President/CEO
Hawaiian Community
Development Board (HCDB)



Testimony of Jeff Overton

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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

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

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

As the Chair of Oahu Economic Development Board (OEDB), our organization has had the pleasure and honor of working with Gabe for over a decade to stimulate investments in low-income communities through the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) Program. Through our NMTC work together, we have connected private investors with \$135 million in NMTC allocations to support projects located on multiple islands to reinvigorate the local economy with quality jobs and increased access to community goods and services.

In working together, I have learned that Gabe deeply cares about our community, and his efforts on the NMTC projects is just one example of his commitment to improve it. His opportunity to serve on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents would give him another avenue to enhance our local community, this time through education.

Gabe's experience as an astute businessperson, his ability to easily connect with people from diverse backgrounds, and his good judgment in doing the right thing even during challenging situations are just a few characteristics that he would bring to the Board.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Mahalo,

Jeff Overton

Chair

Oahu Economic Development Board





April 18, 2022

**Testimony of Sherry Menor-McNamara
President & CEO, Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i**

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 19, 2021
2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 225
In consideration of GM807
Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last seven years through his service as a Board Member of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, including serving as its Chairman from 2015-2017. In addition, through Gabe's community service with the Chamber, as well as many other organizations, we have developed a personal friendship, as well.

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. During Gabe's service as a Board Member and Board Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, Gabe has shown himself as having good character and as a good leader, decision maker, transparent, not hesitant to ask the touch questions, a desire for stewardship and service, and committed to the Chamber's mission – the kinds of qualities that are needed to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Paradise Cove Luau

April 18, 2022

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

I'd like to submit my support for the confirmation of Gabe Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

I was lucky to meet Gabe professionally 23 years ago and over the years since, I have gotten to know him socially and personally. He's an experienced banker, a devoted father and husband, and cares about the community and arts.

Gabe's leadership as Chair or a member on boards such as Ahahui Koa Anuenue, Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council, Diamond Head Theater and Waialae Country Club, were integral to their survival through the COVID pandemic and continued growth today.

I believe Gabe's career skills as well as those developed as a community volunteer during the COVID pandemic will strengthen his role as a Regent.

The University of Hawai'i is fortunate a person with Gabe's experience and character is willing to serve as a regent. I reiterate my support for Gabe for this very important role.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of Gabe's confirmation to the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

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

Keith Horita
President and CEO
PC Services, Inc. dba Paradise Cove Luau



AVALON
DEVELOPMENT

Queen's Court
800 Bethel Street, Suite 501
Honolulu HI 96813

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April 18, 2022

Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Chair- Donna Mercado Kim

RE: Letter of Support for the appointment of Gabriel Lee
On The University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and the member of the committee:

My name is Christine Camp, President & CEO of Avalon Group. I am writing this letter supporting a stellar community leader - Gabriel Lee- for an appointment as a regent of the University of Hawaii. I have known Gabriel "Gabe" Lee personally and professionally for the last two decades. Gabe has served the community in leadership roles at various non-profit boards, and I served on a few boards with him. I have found him to be an engaged leader who looks out for the greater good, a servant leader who does what is needed before being asked. He is a critical thinker who is creative and effective in the way he leverages his deep knowledge of our community's needs matched with resources that he can bring using his industry knowledge and relationships. He isn't boastful about the impacts he makes, he just does it quietly and effectively. For example, due to his initiatives, he was the one Oahu Economic Development board member who brought about \$135 Million of New Market Tax Credits from the U.S. Treasury into Hawaii to develop jobs and increase economically distressed areas in Hawaii. In that same quiet and effective manner, I am sure he will be a great asset to help move the University of Hawaii forward.

Gabe is a proven community leader who puts Hawaii first. We are so pleased and grateful that he was nominated for the position. We ask for your favorable consideration of Gabriel Lee for the regent position.

Sincerely,

Christine Camp

Testimony of Kit Ma

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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

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

I am submitting this testimony in staunch support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the privilege of knowing Gabe for the last 40 years from high school and his work at American Savings bank.

The University of Hawai'i is a complex institution and needs the experience of someone such as Gabe who has served the community well by his own initiative and by serving on other boards

I am glad that Gabe is willing to serve on the UH Board or regents and strongly endorse his confirmation without reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely

Kit Chee Ma

Kit Chee Ma

President Carlson Sales Hawaii, LLC

GM-807

Submitted on: 4/14/2022 9:59:24 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/19/2022 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeffrey watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been privileged to know Gabe Lee, both personally and professionally, for well over 20 years. I have found him to be an astute and collegial problem solver dedicated to the welfare of Hawaii. Gabe's integrity and acute understanding of our community and its challenges drive him toward seeking and achieving "win-win" solutions. I heartily support Gabe's appointment and confirmation as a member of the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. Mahalo, Jeffrey Watanabe



Testimony of Ms. Carole Kai Onouye

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 -
2:05 PM
Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807
Mr. Gabriel Lee

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

CAROLE KAI CHARITIES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lawrence Okinaga, Chairman
Carole Kai Onouye, President
Randy Hiraki, Vice President
Jean Hagi, Sec./Treas.
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Art Gladstone
Scott Kuioka
Robert Kurisu
John McNamara
Unyong Nakata
Ali Nikkhoo

Rene Mansho, Ex-Officio
Claire Nakamura Rochon
Administrator /
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Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am proud to submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have known Gabe Lee for over two decades to be a benevolent, competent, and astute business leader representing Hawaii's leading financial institutions. He is always willing to help people with meaningful projects, advice, and practical solutions.

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. His outstanding leadership, business expertise, and community service experience, will be invaluable to help advance the goals and objectives for a progressive and successful future for Hawaii's premier higher education system.

As a University of Hawaii Alumnus, Class of 1966, I am glad that Gabe is willing to serve on the Board, and strongly endorse his confirmation. Combined with his altruistic efforts and business acumen, he would be the perfect person on the Board of Regents.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my testimony in support of an exceptional candidate, and I also thank all of you for your stellar work on this important task on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Carole Kai Onouye
President and Co-Founder
Carole Kai Charities, Inc.
Hawaii Pacific Health Great Aloha Run

GM-807

Submitted on: 4/14/2022 12:20:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/19/2022 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick D Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support for Gabriel Lee's nomination to serve as a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I have known Gabe both professionally and personally for over twenty-five years. In my business interactions with him he has demonstrated integrity, strong values, and sound judgement. His long and successful banking career has given Gabe wide and varied experiences and perspectives that will be valuable in a regent's role at University of Hawaii.

I have also got to know Gabe personally by serving with him on a number of local non-profit boards. He has always been more than willing to give of himself, providing valuable contributions in leadership roles, as well being willing to get involved in the more nitty-gritty, detailed work. I've found Gabe can effectively provide guidance and insights on a wide range of topics that would be valuable for any organization.

Gabe is also an easy person to work with. He is personable, energetic, and has a great sense of humor. Gabe is a person who is fun to spend four hours with during a round of golf!

I respectfully submit this testimony in full support Gabe Lee's nomination to serve as a Regent for the University of Hawaii.

GM-807

Submitted on: 4/14/2022 1:55:00 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/19/2022 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Nitta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gabriel Lee is the ideal Board Member due to his unwavering ethical standards that his CPA background brings to the table. He is a model citizen and will positively impact the University. I am in full support of Gabriel Lee.

GM-807

Submitted on: 4/14/2022 3:23:53 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/19/2022 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

2:05 p.m. in Conference Room 225

Testimony in Support

GM 807

Gabriel Lee

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

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

My name is Kathy Castillo, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Society of Certified Public Accountants (HSCPA). I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents – GM 807.

My association with Gabe over the past 17+ years as a dedicated and committed volunteer and philanthropist speaks volumes of his character and integrity. He rose to the occasion to serve as a public member on the Hawai'i Board of Public Accountancy from 2012-2020 (maximum term) during a period when the profession was going through challenges in the regulatory system.

Gabe's leadership, enthusiasm and dedication for the goals and objectives of the numerous boards he's served on has been repeatedly demonstrated during the past 19 years. I believe that his non-stop passion for his work will continue as a member of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

I kindly ask for your support in the confirmation of Gabriel Lee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Castillo

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

Tuesday, April 19, 2022; 2:05 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Re: GM 807 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, GABRIEL LEE, for a term to expire 6-30-2027 – IN STRONG SUPPORT


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

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Gabe Lee's nomination to serve on the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

Gabe is Executive Vice President, Commercial Markets for American Savings Bank and a graduate of the University of Hawaii. In addition to being a leader in the business community, Gabe has a record of extensive community service and has served as President and Chair of many boards. I met Gabe through his community service and have found him to be professional, conscientious, hard-working and collaborative. He is willing to commit the time to serve on the Board. His background, outstanding character, and understanding of the Board of Regents' responsibilities make him well qualified to sit on the Board. I'm confident Gabe will make positive contributions and the Board will be well served by his participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support. I ask for your favorable action on his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Lori Lum
98-1008 Piku Place
Aiea, HI 96701

Testimony of Jonathan M. Hee

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last 50 years since we were classmates together at St. Louis High School and have long admired his accomplishments not just professionally but in his service to the community.

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. Through the years Gabe has demonstrated his ability to add tremendous value as a leader to the many community organizations he has been a part of including in the area of education as a Board Member of St. Louis School. Gabe's clear thinking, strategic insights and the high regard that so many people have for him would be tremendous assets to the University of Hawai'i.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

April 14, 2022

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

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of GM 807
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 2:05 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Chairs Mercado Kim and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last ten years from our work together on the Boy Scouts of America, Aloha Council Board.

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. Gabe's commitment and connection to the community as displayed through his work on various Boards will serve the University well. His thoughts and opinions at Aloha Council are always well thought out and appreciated.

I am glad that Gabe is willing to serve on the Board, and strongly endorse his confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Yours,



Corey Matsuoka
2737 Dow Street
Honolulu HI 96817
coreymats@yahoo.com

Alan M. Oshima

3274 Kaohinani Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96817

April 15, 2022

Senator Donna Mercado Kim

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

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

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee as a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Gabe has been very active in the Hawaii business, financial and civic and charitable communities. He cares about Hawaii and wants to contribute to make Hawaii stronger.

The University of Hawaii is one of the pillars to maintaining and strengthening our economy and diverse cultural appreciation. Providing equitable access to higher education is imperative.

I am pleased that Gabe is willing to serve as a Regent for the University of Hawaii. He will provide wisdom that comes from years of Hawaii banking and community involvement.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Oshima

Testimony of Jim Tollefson

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last 35 years. During this period, I have followed his career from when we worked together at the Bank of Hawaii through later years when, as President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, I asked Gabe to join the Board of Directors where he eventually became Chair.

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. I believe that Gabe is highly qualified for this position of Regent because of his proven leadership abilities, sense of integrity and desire to do what is best for the University of Hawai'i system.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony of Lori Teranishi

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel (Gabe) Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have known Gabe for well over a decade and have always held him in high regard for his business acumen, his knowledge of many sectors of our state and his commitment to strengthening our community.

As a University of Hawaii Foundation Trustee, I have come to understand the complexity involved in the operations and governance of the University of Hawai'i. Regents must have the ability to understand and navigate a wide range of challenges and as well support the administration to pursue the many opportunities that lie ahead. The University is a critical asset to our state, and Gabe's understanding of finance, his ability to work with leaders across sectors and his prior volunteer experience in education, including chairing `Ahahui Koa Ānuenuē, will enable him to contribute meaningfully to the Board.

As a graduate of the University of Hawaii and with his long track record of community service, I believe Gabe will be an incredible addition to the Board, and wholeheartedly endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony of Jim R. Yates

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last 15 years from business relationships, community affairs and golf.

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. Gabe's extensive relationships within the community, significant experience in meaningful leadership positions and deep aloha for our community and the University, make him a truly exceptional candidate for the Board.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony of Constance H. Lau

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 19, 2021, 2:05 p.m., Conference Room 225
In consideration of GM807

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

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Higher Education,

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of **Gabriel Lee** to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

Our state would be well-served and fortunate to have Mr. Lee confirmed as a Regent for the University of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Lee for the past 22 years. He is currently American Savings Bank (ASB)'s Executive Vice President, Commercial Markets. During our long association, I served as ASB's President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and also for the last 15 years as President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries, ASB's parent company. Mr. Lee helped establish ASB as Hawaii's third largest bank, building ASB's commercial business to serve local businesses and our community. He would bring extraordinary business acumen and knowledge of our communities to the Board of Regents.

Mr. Lee understands the significant contribution that the University of Hawaii must make to the health and vitality of our state, and also appreciates the complexities and competing interests that surround our university. As a Regent, I believe he could help our university navigate through many critical, and often controversial, issues and decisions that must be considered, balanced and decided in the best interests of our state. He has volunteered his time to education in our state, serving on the board of his alma mater, St. Louis School, and also to our university, serving on the board of 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue, and has been a steadfast supporter of, and fundraiser for, numerous university events. He is most dedicated to making our communities better and has served (often as chair) on many community boards including the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii Dental Service, Catholic Charities, the Symphony and more.

Our state and communities would benefit tremendously from Mr. Lee's service as a University of Hawaii Regent. We need someone who is not only highly capable and committed, but also someone who has the ability to work well with others toward a common goal of making our university a very positive contributor to our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in **strong support of Gabriel Lee's nomination to the UH Board of Regents.**

Written Testimony of Michele K Saito
Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 225
In consideration of GM807
Gabriel Lee
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 in strong support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have the pleasure of knowing Gabe for more than 40 years. We both attended the University of Hawai'i Shidler College of Business and kept in touch with each other through our work in the community.

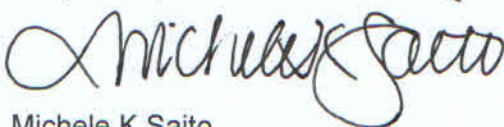
We met and got to know each other through a business marketing organization at the Shidler College of Business. Little did I know back then that I was networking with Hawaii's future business executives who believed in the importance of taking care of our islands ... our home. We went our separate ways after college but stayed true to giving back to our community. Gabe has an amazing and stellar track record of leadership in our community: the Chair of 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue, Catholic Charities, Diamond Head Theatre, Hawaii Dental Service, Saint Louis and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. We continued to cross paths over the years and collaborated through our work in the community.

The University of Hawaii is a 10-campus system with all of the complexities that come with a diverse institution of this nature. As a seasoned banker with more than 40 years of experience and an active community volunteer, Gabe has the expertise and insight to understand and provide oversight to Hawai'i's only public institution for higher education. The University may also leverage his knowledge and resources to expand their successful research programs. His impressive career in Hawaii's banking industry is a testament to the value that he'll bring to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

I am pleasantly surprised that a business executive of Gabe's caliber is willing to serve on the Board. The current requirements have discouraged many business executives from sitting on the Board. I am glad that Gabe is willing to serve on the Board, and I am honored to endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully,



Michele K Saito
Chair of the Hawaii Business Roundtable
Former President/CEO of DTRIC and Farmers Hawai'i Insurance

Testimony of Wayne Fujitani

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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 in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Gabe for the last 48 years from High School (St Louis HS), College (University of Hawaii), personal (family) and social interactions.

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. Gabe would be an excellent Regent due to his leadership and experience as an Executive Vice President in overseeing, exercising and formulating controls, managing and adapting to changes in a variety of different department in the Banking business. This would correlate to overseeing and governing the internal, structural, management and operation of the University of Hawaii.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony of Michael K. Hirai

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Tuesday, April 19, 2021

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

In consideration of GM807

Gabriel Lee

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Gabriel Lee.

I have known Mr. Lee for over twenty years in his capacity both as a bank executive at American Savings Bank and as a volunteer in our community, where he is well-known and recognized as outstanding in the many roles in which he has served. I have observed this firsthand while serving as a trustee at the University of Hawaii Foundation. In the past year, Mr. Lee's leadership and vision while serving as president of 'Ahahui Koa Anuenue were key during a critical period in our University's athletic history. I have witnessed Mr. Lee's leadership as an executive board member at the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America and as a past board member and President at the Waialae Country Club. But most importantly, you will note that Mr. Lee has always made a positive impact and has helped move these organizations forward in a collaborative and positive way.

Having grown up in Hawaii and having experienced the University of Hawai'i system firsthand, Mr. Lee has gained invaluable insights and knowledge of our State's prized University. Moreover, Mr. Lee's professional experience in banking and finance as well as his proven leadership with various community organizations over the years will surely make him an invaluable resource to the University and its Board of Regents.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Gabriel Lee.

Respectfully, submitted,

Michael K. Hirai, CFA
Director, Institutional Sales
Barro Hanley Global Advisors

April 19, 2022

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair,
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thirty-first State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Consideration of **GM 807**/Gabriel Lee, Gubernatorial Nominee
To the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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

It is my honor to submit this letter **in strong support** of Mr. Gabriel S. H. Lee's nomination and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii for a term to expire June 30, 2027.

A graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Gabe has grown to become one of Hawaii's most prominent business and community leaders leveraging his extensive consumer and commercial banking career spanning over four decades. I've had the privilege of knowing and working with Gabe for the majority of his career. All the while, Mr. Lee has demonstrated strong community leadership through his extensive and active public and community engagement interests and activities. I have no doubt that Mr. Lee will bring strong leadership and high value to the Board of Regents and The University of Hawaii System.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of Mr. Lee's candidacy.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Martinson

Executive Vice President, Endowment &

Chief Investment Officer

The Queen's Health Systems

President, Queen Emma Land Company

Emeritus Regent and former Chair, University of Hawaii System