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TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 537

March 28, 2024
9:50 a.m.
Room 211 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COUNCIL ON REVENUES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, REGINA OSTERGAARD-KLEM, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Ms. Regina Ostergaard-Klem to the Council on Revenues.

Regina received her Ph.D. in System Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making from Johns Hopkins University. She started teaching at Hawai'i Pacific University from 2008 and become an Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences at Hawai'i Pacific University in 2012 teaching various economic and environmental courses.

I had the opportunity to meet Ms. Ostergaard-Klem and learn about her work on Genuine Progress Indicators with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Her work on aligning economic prosperity with social and environmental factors is fascinating and appropriate in today's world. The Council's work involves understanding a multitude of factors and how it relates to revenue growth, her experience and professional background are well suited for the role. Regina is intelligent and insightful and would be an asset to have on the Council on Revenues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Subject: Testimony in Support of Regina Ostergaard-Klem for Confirmation to the Council of Revenues

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Dr. Regina Ostergaard-Klem to the Hawai'i State Council on Revenues. Dr. Ostergaard-Klem's extensive background in economics, environmental science, and sustainable development uniquely qualifies her for this important role. Her dedication to research, education, community service, and her impactful work with Hawai'i Green Growth make her an exceptional candidate for this position.

Dr. Ostergaard-Klem's academic credentials speak volumes about her expertise in the field. With a Ph.D. in Systems Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making from Johns Hopkins University, coupled with her experience as an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU), she possesses a strong foundation in economic analysis and public policy. Her research contributions, including publications such as "GPI Island Style: Localizing the Genuine Progress Indicator to Hawai'i" and technical reports like "Updating the Genuine Progress Indicator for the State of Hawai'i," demonstrate her commitment to advancing our understanding of economic indicators tailored to local contexts.

Furthermore, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem's extensive teaching experience at HPU reflects her ability to communicate complex economic concepts effectively. Her dedication to fostering the next generation of leaders is evident in the diverse range of courses she has taught, covering topics from environmental economics to sustainability and industrial ecology. Her involvement in university service, including serving as Department Chair and Program Director, underscores her leadership abilities and commitment to academic excellence.

Beyond academia, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem's community service record highlights her dedication to improving the lives of Hawai'i's residents. Her involvement with organizations such as Honolulu Habitat for Humanity and Hui o Ko'olaupoko demonstrates her commitment to environmental conservation, affordable housing, and community empowerment. Particularly noteworthy is her role on the board of Hawai'i Green Growth, where she served as the Co-Chair of the Policy and Legislative Working Group. Her leadership in this capacity underscores her ability to navigate complex policy issues and collaborate effectively with stakeholders to drive positive change.

Dr. Regina Ostergaard-Klem is exceptionally qualified to serve on the Hawai'i State Council on Revenues. Her professional experience, deep community connection, and commitment to a more prosperous future for Hawai'i makes her an ideal candidate for this position. I urge the committee to confirm her nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for considering Dr. Ostergaard-Klem's nomination. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

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

Celeste Connors
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Hub

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Senate



FROM: John Gotanda, President
Hawai'i Pacific University

RE: **GM537 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Council on Revenues, Gubernatorial Nominee, REGINA OSTERGAARD-KLEM, for a term to expire 06-30-2027**

HEARING: Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 9:50 AM
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

As President of Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU), I write to enthusiastically support **GM537** for consideration of and confirmation to the Council on Revenues for Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Regina Ostergaard-Klem.

Dr. Ostergaard-Klem has been teaching at HPU for over 15 years in the fields of economics, environmental policy, and sustainability at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She holds a PhD in Systems Analysis and Economics for Public Decision Making from Johns Hopkins University.

Throughout her tenure at HPU, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem has actively engaged in and successfully balanced her teaching, research, and service. She was named HPU Teacher of the Year in 2015. Her research has led to the development of the Genuine Progress Indicator, a sustainability measure, for the State of Hawai'i. In addition to her teaching and research, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem exceeds expectations for service, both internally at the department, college, and university levels, and externally by representing HPU on community working groups such as Hawai'i Green Growth.

I have no doubt that, as a member of the Council on Revenues, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem would offer important skills and make meaningful contributions to the State of Hawai'i. Moreover, her membership would complement her teaching, model civic engagement for her students and others at HPU and satisfy and demonstrate a strong commitment to service.

In short, Dr. Ostergaard-Klem would be a terrific addition to the Council on Revenues and I respectfully request your support of GM537 in consideration and confirmation of Dr. Ostergaard-Klem to the Council on Revenues.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony.