

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2001

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 25 2025

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 784,
785

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 784 and 785, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

G.M. No. 784 TERRENCE GEORGE
for a term to expire 06-30-2028; and

G.M. No. 785 WENDY HENSEL
for a term to expire 06-30-2029,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by Terrence George and Wendy Hensel for service on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

TERRENCE GEORGE

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Terrence George from the University of Hawai'i system and one individual.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. George's background and dedication to expanding educational opportunities for students qualify him for appointment as a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Your Committee notes that Mr. George is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the

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largest family foundation headquartered in the State. Mr. George has been part of the Foundation's executive management for over two decades, during which he led the Foundation to make significant investments into the State's higher education institutions. Mr. George's professional experience also includes serving for over a decade as the Program Officer for the Ford Foundation in the Philippines and India, where he oversaw grants to various universities and higher education partnerships in countries in Asia and North America, and in the United Kingdom. Mr. George is also active in his community, serving as the co-chair of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and Education Task Force, and as a board member of the Hawaii P-20 Council and the HMSA Foundation. Your Committee further finds that Mr. George has a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of commission members and his experience and knowledge will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Your Committee therefore recommends that Terrence George be appointed to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education based on his experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service.

WENDY HENSEL

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Wendy Hensel from two individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Hensel's background and commitment to advancing public higher education qualify her for appointment as a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Your Committee notes that Ms. Hensel has been serving as the President of the University of Hawaii System since January 2025. Ms. Hensel possesses more than twenty years of experience in higher education, including serving as the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of the City University of New York System, which is the largest urban public university in the nation; and in multiple roles at Georgia State University, including Senior Advisor to the President on Strategic Initiatives, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dean of the College of Law. Your Committee further notes that Ms. Hensel brings with her a clear articulation of values that center on student success and recognizes the unique challenges and opportunities facing higher education across the Pacific region. Your Committee further finds that Ms. Hensel has a thorough



understanding of the role and responsibilities of commission members and her experience and knowledge will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Your Committee therefore recommends that Wendy Hensel be appointed to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education based on her experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE
Advise and Consent

***Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes**

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">785</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">HRE</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">4/17/2025</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"><div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340</div><div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345</div></div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	<div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">5</div>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;">Donna Mercado</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

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