



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
February 11, 2015 at 8:30am  
by  
David Lassner  
President, University of Hawai'i  
WRITTEN ONLY

GM512 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Human resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES NISHIMOTO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 512 and the nomination of Dr. James Nishimoto as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) for the State of Hawai'i (State).

Dr. Nishimoto's 39 years of distinguished service to the State is a prime example of his dedication to public service and the betterment of our communities. He has served in a number of key roles at the University of Hawai'i (UH), to include Director of Academic Personnel Administration and Associate Director of Human Resources and Executive Assistant to two previous UH System Presidents. Through his hard work and dedication within these positions and combined with the foundation he built upon through his experiences in DHRD and the Department of Education, Dr. Nishimoto has developed a deep understanding of public employment laws and policy in Hawai'i and built a strong network of relationships across public agencies and employee unions. He is a quiet problem-solver, adept at bringing people together to find common ground and resolve challenging issues. Dr. Nishimoto's knowledge and understanding of human resources and employee relations issues have been an asset to me and to other UH leaders throughout his years of service here. He has

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with "Nish" in a number of roles and projects over the years and know that he has both the substantive expertise and broad perspective to be an outstanding leader for the Department of Human Resources Development for the State of Hawai'i and our communities. I strongly support his nomination and look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 512 and your consideration and confirmation of Dr. James Nishimoto.

February 10, 2015

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 221  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

I am pleased to strongly support the nomination of Dr. James Nishimoto as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). Dr. Nishimoto brings a wealth of knowledge, skills, and competencies to the position that few possess. With master degrees in Business Personnel Administration and Public Administration, and having served as the Deputy Director of DHRD, he has the academic qualifications and professional experience to successfully manage the daily operations, activities, programs, personnel, budget, and other aspects of this large and complex organization.

Dr. Nishimoto served as administrator of collective bargaining and negotiations for the Department of Education and is familiar with the union and labor issues that the DHRD Director must deal with. As the Associate Director of Human Resources for the University of Hawaii System Office, he is also well versed on grievance procedures; the development and implementation of personnel policies; and the federal and state regulations relating to equal employment opportunity, sexual harassment, disabilities, and other personnel matters. In addition, he is highly responsible, possesses great integrity, and has a strong work ethic. He is known as a person "who can get the job done" and who will always do what is best for Hawaii and its people.

The State of Hawaii is fortunate that Dr. Nishimoto is, once again, placing public service ahead of personal gain. If the latter took priority, it would be more prudent financially for him to remain at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Nishimoto has the educational background, work experiences, and personal qualities that will make him an effective and successful DHRD Director. He has my highest recommendation, and I urge you to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.