

GM 548

Testimony –

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, ERNEST WILSON, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2019 (term amended to 6-30-2020 by GM717).

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 13, 2015

Attn: Selection Committee for UH Board of Regents

Governor's Message number: GM 548

Candidate: Ernest K. Wilson

Aloha,

I'm writing this testimony in support of a colleague and friend, Ernest K. Wilson, who is being considered for the five year position for Maui on the University of Hawaii system Board of Regents. I've known Ernie for at least 25 years since we worked together in the Hawaii hospitality industry back in the early 1990's. The qualities necessary for a high profile position such as this, honesty, integrity, trustworthy, respectful, above reproach, high ethical values are inherent in Mr. Wilson's character. His experience in both the private and public sector make him an ideal candidate for the Board of Regents.

On a personal note, I've worked with him when the company we both worked for was pioneering instilling the Hawaiian values and culture into the way we conducted our business. He was instrumental in being one of the leaders in this effort, role modeling and helping infuse both into the values of the company.

He certainly has my respect and admiration as he has not only touched me but many others who have had the pleasure of working and networking with him in a very positive way.

Mahalo,

Chuck Shshido

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: kehaulani1976@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM548 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:33:26 PM

GM548

Submitted on: 4/10/2015

Testimony for HEA on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen Napua Canto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 13, 2015

This is a letter of recommendation for the confirmation of Ernest K. Wilson as the University of Hawaii Board of Regents-Maui County seat. Let me preface my comments about Mr. Wilson by sharing a little of my background. I retired from the Department of Education as an educational administrator at the state, district and school levels serving as a Personnel Specialist, Principal and Deputy District Superintendent. During my 40 year career in education, a close working relationship with institutions of high learning enhanced opportunities for students within our system.

I have known Mr. Wilson (Ernie) for my lifetime as we are family. He is intelligent, a man of integrity and so experienced...he has contacts in many arenas which would definitely benefit Maui County and the University of Hawaii. Ernie's resume is extensive and diversified. Hawaii relies on the Visitor Industry as its main source of income. Ernie's work in that particular field will definitely assist us in honing our coursework to assist students in administrative endeavors. His military knowledge will certainly help the colleges work with returning veterans. When he relocated to Maui, he immediately became involved in educational, community and religious projects. Always eager to help and ready to lend his expertise to a new project, he has established himself solidly into the fabric of Maui life.

Ernest Wilson is generous with his knowledge, time and energy and will be a true asset to UH's Board of Regents. Family ties aside, I am impressed with his enthusiasm and readiness to work with others to help improve our local organizations. I have no reservation in making this recommendation and you could not ask for a more dedicated or loyal representative than you will find in Mr. Ernest K. Wilson.

Sincerely,

Edwina Wilson-Snyder

From: [Joni Paahao](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM548 Ernie Wilson Nominee Board of Regents
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 9:45:41 AM

Apana
n: March 15, 2014

in support/opposition of SB123, Relating to Land and Natural Resources
o: The Senate Committee on Water and Land (WTL)

r Solomon and Members of the Committee,

3123. _____ [State your

Aloha, UH Board of Regents Nominees:

As part of the Senate confirmation process, individuals may submit testimony on your behalf to the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts (HEA). Prior to the hearing, please have them e-mail the testimony to HEAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov and refer to your Governor's Message number (e.g., GM 546) on the document. Please also alert them that the testimony will be posted on the Legislature's website, therefore they should not include personal contact or other private information unless they want it to be available to the public."

My Governor's Message number is **GM 548**

From: Joanne Paahao Mayes

Committee on my Higher Education and the Arts



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & THE ARTS
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

4/15/2015
Rm. 211, 1:30 PM

GM 548

RE: Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, ERNEST WILSON, JR.

Chair Taniguchi and Members of this Committee, my name is Jean Rolles, here in support of Ernest “Ernie” Wilson for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Upon reviewing his biography you will find that Ernie has a vast background of experiences in a variety of fields. During his involvement in the visitor industry, he and I have crossed paths a number of times during the time he worked for Outrigger Hotels. I found that as one of our managers, he made sound decisions and had the ability to work well with everyone, while contributing greatly to the continued success of Outrigger.

Born in Hawaii with a thorough understanding of Hawaii’s culture and complexities blended with an excellent education and a universal work experience, Ernie is an excellent choice to guide the Board into the future.

As a strong supporter of the University, I believe that Ernie’s style will contribute greatly to the Board of Regents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

From: Joanne Paahao Mayes
Submitted on: March 13, 2015

GM 548
Testimony in support of Ernie Wilson for Board of Regents
Hearing on Wednesday, March 15, 1:30 pm

Aloha Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the HEA Committee,

To wear a 'Kukui ano an' or Kukui seed lei is to wear a lei of light. In public, you will rarely see Ernie Wilson without his kukui seed lei. For decades, he has worn his kukui lei, embodying the enlightenment and knowledge he brings in and out of the halls of academia.

I am submitting written testimony, asking for your vote of confidence to confirm Ernie Wilson, nominated for the Maui seat on the Board of Regents. Ernie will add diversity with his knowledge as a university educator, his connection with Hawaii's visitor industry and the innate understanding of the Hawaiian culture. While Ernie possesses the credentials for the confirmation process, my written testimony speaks to the characteristics and values that can be beneficial to strategic planning and decision making as a member of the Board of Regents.

I've had the privilege of partnering with Ernie to bridge the visitor industry and the advancement of higher education to meet the changing needs of labor and the workforce. He is a responsible and astute business professional that understands the sensitivity and collaboration of being "pono." His life experiences have resulted in him possessing the valuable skill of bringing unconventional wisdom to conventional problems. He has a clear vision relating to education and survival in a global economy.

At a time when there is increasing demand for more local involvement in the planning and management of place, people of the place, and its host culture, Ernie will accept his kuleana with a very personal sense of responsibility. He is thorough, reflective, inclusive, and is a servant leader that demands excellence. He seeks resolution with harmony and will align his words with his action. He recognizes the complexity that arises when Hawaiian values clash with western and political ideology. He has a unique way of delicately weaving his Hawaiian cultural values in many facets of leading and conducting business.

In closing of my written testimony, I know that Ernie Wilson will bring the "Ha" or "breath," giving life to the governance and execution of the mission and strategic plan for the University of Hawaii. When you vote to confirm Ernie Wilson, you have chosen someone who is recognized for his outstanding personal traits to serve as a steward for the university and the people it represents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Paahao Mayes
Retired Senior Vice President, Aston Hotels & Resorts
Sales, Marketing, Revenue Management

From: [John Mills](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of Ernie Wilson to UH Board of Regents
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 9:42:05 PM

GM 548

I enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Ernie Wilson to serve on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Ernie was the Dean of the School of Hospitality, Resort and Culinary Management at Paul Smith's College while I was the President. Ernie had joined us as a faculty member and program director. He quickly established himself as an important member of our leadership team and, when the Dean's position came open we asked him to take on that role as we felt he had the skills, drive and experience needed to enhance the programs in the school. We were not disappointed. He identified and brought on new academic programs (not easy in the higher education bureaucracy of New York State) that expanded our offerings to prospective students and also satisfied industry needs. He developed a strong working relationship with the faculty on both the culinary and hospitality side of the school and was able to work effectively with the Deans in our other divisions. Most importantly, Ernie had the students' best interest in the forefront. His decisions always took into account the impact on the learning experience and if we would be enhancing, not detracting from, the professional education of the students in his school. He was a tireless advocate for the needs of students and, even during some tough budgetary times, would approach the problem through the lens of student success. I have no doubt Ernie Wilson will be an outstanding regent for the University of Hawaii, serving the state he truly loves.

If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me.

From: crowellok@aol.com
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony In Support of Ernest Wilson, Governor"s Message Number GM548
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 10:22:58 PM

Dear Sirs;

I have known Ernest Wilson for over 60 years, having been his classmate at Kamehameha Schools, Class of 1956, as well as being a close friend & colleague. I can honestly state that I have never known a more honest and caring person in all of my years in the business community. Having served our country & retiring from the United States Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, should speak volumes of his character and leadership ability. His contributions after his military career shows his willingness to give back, and his never quit attitude after suffering the loss of his home in Mississippi to Hurricane Katrina shows the fortitude and toughness to never quit.

This is the kind of individual who is needed by the University of Hawaii to serve on its Board of Regents. He is a man who will listen first, then do all that he can to help this institution, faculty, and students grow as one for the betterment of all.

You will soon see for yourselves, during your hearing, that Ernie is a good man, a humble man, a keiki o ka aina, and a Hawaiian that all our people can be proud of. I know that I am.

Aloha Ke Akua & Malama Pono,

Oliver K. Crowell

Honorable Senators of the State of Hawaii

Regents Confirmation Committee

Honorable Senators,

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Ernest (Ernie) K. Wilson for several years. When I first met Ernie he came to our college to help a struggling program which was losing its identity. As a result of his long and distinguished professional career in both the public and private sectors, Ernie knew what needed to be done to rebuild the nuts and bolts of the division. He knows about operations and efficiencies. He knows the current trends in the hospitality and leadership fields as well as in higher education. All of that was readily apparent and these skills alone are often sufficient for a long and productive career. I soon came to realize however, that those competencies were not the core of Ernie's talents.

Ernie did not swoop in and fix things or even tell people how to fix things. He swooped in and listened. He met with everyone individually and asked thoughtful knowledgeable questions. In doing so he was able to help all stakeholders in the program (internal and external) to come to a consensus and create a plan embraced by all to move forward. The plan was a great success. I was privileged to work with Ernie every day as a colleague and we talked about the progress the division was making regularly. From my unique vantage point, I could appreciate his skill as a listener, his motivational leadership style, his keen sense of fairness and his sensitivity to constituents from all cultures and backgrounds.

During his tenure at Paul Smith's College, Ernie was not just successful in transforming a struggling program. He was successful at transforming the institution. Ernie was always keenly interested in the institution and making it successful often noting that a rising tide lifts all ships. Several times when curricula were changed or updated there would be unintended consequences that spilled over into other academic areas potentially straining their resources. When such an occasion arose instead of getting into a 'turf war', Ernie would suggest a meeting to work out a mutually beneficial plan. He never tried to get more than he gave and always was concerned about our final decision being one that did the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Ernie was also very active in the community and regularly attended cultural events supporting the town and region having an equal impact there.

Beyond traditional academics, Ernie engaged the whole institution. He led committees and created policies that made it easier for everyone to navigate the system and be successful. He created a hospitality program at the college that turned into our first Conference Services Department which now generates substantial revenue for the institution. Because of his personal gravitas and the respect he engendered in his direct reports and around the college, he was able to help lead our General Education Reform accomplishing what takes many institutions 10 or more years in just 5 years. Able to speak equally with student's faculty, donors, alumni, colleagues and accreditors, he embraced new ideas, respected traditions and navigated all challenges large and small with skill and a constant smile.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with Ernie again in any capacity and it is my considered opinion that he will serve the state of Hawaii with distinction.

Phillip A Taylor III PhD MBA

Chief Operating Officer

College of Business

Ohio University



12 April 2015

Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Hawaii State Legislature
HEAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the HEA Committee

Next Wednesday, April 15, your Committee is scheduled to consider Governor Ige's nomination of Ernest K. Wilson, Jr. to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents (GM 548). I write today in full and enthusiastic support of Mr. Wilson's nomination and am honored to have this opportunity to share my reasoning with you.

Throughout my career, I have observed the good work of many higher education board members. Almost all are undeniably dedicated to the mission and vitality of the institutions they serve. Many have invaluable knowledge and experience to share, and many others bring exceptional trustworthiness and strength of character to the table. Rarely, however, does one individual offer all three, but Ernie Wilson is such a person.

I met Ernie in 2006, not long after he and his wife lost their home and nearly all of their possessions to hurricane Katrina. Paul Smith's College, one of the county's most notable schools for higher education in hospitality and tourism, was looking for a respected educator with extensive industry experience. Ernie Wilson's resume far exceeded our most optimistic expectations and we were thrilled when he agreed to join our team.

As Provost and chief academic officer, I quickly recognized the depth of knowledge Ernie brought to our program. As importantly, however, he brought a true love for higher education, for the life-changing impact it has on deserving students, and for the value it creates for our communities. Not long after his arrival, I found myself looking for a Dean of the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Management and I didn't have to look far. Ernie was the obvious choice. He stepped into the role at a time when the school was in need of strong, compassionate, and technically competent leadership, and Ernie Wilson delivered on all counts.

As noted above, Ernie will bring more than vast knowledge and experience to the Board of Regents. He also brings a compelling life story that personifies the "American Dream". From his early education in the Kamehameha schools to the Ivy League, from his start as a restaurant dishwasher to his position as a hospitality industry leader, and from his service to our country as a Lt. Colonel in the Army to his dedication to church and family, Ernie Wilson's perspectives as an educator, an executive, and a person of genuine integrity will be a tremendous addition to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Ernie has travelled the world, acquired experiences few can match, and accomplished much, but at least one thing has remained constant – he is, has always been, and will always be a proud Hawaiian. Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Inouye and honorable members of the Senate Higher Education and the Arts Committee, I respectfully urge you to confirm the nomination of Ernest K. Wilson, Jr. to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts, and for your good work in service to the people of Hawaii.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Nelson".

Dr. Richard Nelson, Provost
Paul Smith's College
Paul Smiths, NY 12970

Testimony in support of GM548: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ERNEST WILSON, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2019 (term amended to 6-30-2020 by GM717).

Aloha e Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts:

This testimony is submitted in support of ERNEST WILSON, JR. who has been nominated to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i for a term to expire 6-30-2020. I have known Mr. Wilson for more than twenty-five years. Based on the breadth and depth of his educational and career experiences (ranging from travel and hospitality, the military, and higher education), he will bring a global perspective and style to the Board. At the same time, because his roots are here in Hawai`i Nei, Mr. Wilson will keep the interests of his diverse constituents in the forefront.

My observations of his interactions with people in general are that he listens well, respects people's ideas, seeks ways to be inclusive and collaborative, and possesses a wry sense of humor. I also know that even though his recent academic experiences have been on the mainland, he has maintained a consistent connection and interest in the educational, cultural, and business landscape locally. The Board of Regents will benefit from Mr. Wilson's commitment to public and community service.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and confirmation of ERNEST WILSON JR. to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai`i (GM548).

Sincerely,

Walette Garcia Pellegrino

Associate Professor (retired)

University of Hawai`i, Maui College (formerly Maui Community College)