

# GM 549

## Testimony –

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, HELEN NIELSEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

**Report Title:** Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HEA

**Introducer(s):**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lputnam45@yahoo.com](mailto:lputnam45@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM549 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 6:26:01 AM

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**GM549**

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Putnam	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: During her time on the Board of Regents, Helen Nielsen demonstrated a high level of commitment. She has often traveled from Maui at her own expense to participate as an ex officio member in committee deliberations. She also took on extra responsibility by volunteering for the Task Force on Sustainability. Her contributions to the Board have been well thought out and insightful. The University benefits greatly from having Helen Nielsen as a Regent.

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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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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April 13, 2015

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa  
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gladys C. Baisa".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 15, 2015; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM549,  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HELEN NIELSEN, FOR A TERM TO  
EXPIRE ON 6-30-2015**

I am writing to urge the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts to confirm the nomination of Gubernatorial Nominee Helen Nielsen to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, when it comes before your committee on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

I believe that at this time and in the present circumstances, this nomination is very appropriate and very deserving. Ms. Nielsen possesses the qualities of a good leader and an excellent role model for our community.

I have known Ms. Nielsen for many years. She has the initiative and dedication to make a significant difference and I confidently believe that she will continue to a good job.

I strongly support her appointment with no reservations.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kalepa@maui.net](mailto:kalepa@maui.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM549 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 8:18:10 PM

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**GM549**

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Starr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support Helen Nielsen's interim appointment to the Board of Regents with Advise & Consent. Regent Nielsen has served the BOR with excellence and energy for the past 6 months, and I believe she is unique amongst UH Regents to have attended virtually every single Committee Meeting over an extended period. She has contributed greatly in this short period, and deserves to finish out her interim appointment, which she has undertaken with gusto and honor. With Aloha, Jonathan Starr Kaupo, Maui, Hawaii

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**Testimony in support of GM 549: Helen Nielsen to the Board of Regents**

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 15, 2015 @ 1:30pm

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 211

To: Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, HI 96819  
amy\_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani, I am the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity at UH Manoa but do not represent UH. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Ms. Helen Nielsen as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i. Ms Nielsen has extensive experience and qualifications to be a very productive and valuable member of the BOR.

As part of my responsibilities at UH and my community service, I have had the honor to observe and work with Ms. Nielsen at community events. I am impressed with her work ethic, attention to detail, inclusive leadership style, knowledge of the subject matter, understanding and love of our multicultural state, particularly Maui.

In addition to all her qualifications and experience that she brings to the BOR, I would like to add that Ms. Nielsen brings diversity. I believe it is important for the private sector, the state and the university meet goals for inclusion and affirmative action to increase representation and success of underrepresented groups, including women who are under-represented in public and private sector management and policy making boards. I believe representation and diversity is important and results in better policies for our community. Although a majority of UH students are women, women are underrepresented among faculty, administrators and the Board of Regents. Currently (including Ms. Nielsen as an interim Regent) only 5 of the 15 member board are women. Ms. Nielsen adds gender diversity to the BOR.

I am confident that Ms. Nielsen will continue to be a responsible member of the Board of Regents. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank her for being a mentor many young professionals and for her public service. She has a deep appreciation of the history and current issues facing UH and our state. I respectfully ask you to confirm her nomination as a Regent.

**BRYAN ANDAYA**

1939 Kuapapa Place - Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
(808) 542-9511 – bryan@hawaiianbarbecue.com

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April 13, 2015

Testimony in **Strong Support of GM549** – HEA – 4/15/15 12 noon Rm 211

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bryan Andaya and I **strongly support GM549 appointing Helen Nielsen** to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

I have known Helen for approximately three years. I have observed her to be dedicated and passionate towards creating a better future for Hawaii. I believe these qualities are important for regents of the university system who are faced with formidable challenges and problems. Helen has the dedication and perspective that will help in finding lasting solutions and setting sound policy.

Gov. Ige's appointment of Helen matches perfectly with her passion that will undoubtedly translate to success of our all-important university system. In summary, I **strongly support** the nomination of Helen Nielsen.

Very truly yours,

Bryan Andaya

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dalebonar@gmail.com](mailto:dalebonar@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM549 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 2:11:00 PM

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**GM549**

Submitted on: 4/11/2015

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale B. Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ms Nielsen has a stellar history of good, balanced decision-making and has been an excellent voice for reason on the UH Board of Regents. She should definitely be confirmed.

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**From:** [jeanne d.](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** reference GM549 SUPPORT FOR HELEN NIELSEN  
**Date:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 9:34:44 PM

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I support the appointment of Helen Nielsen to UH Board of Regents because she is dedicated to the University and the state of Hawaii. She has shown her love for the school and the state in numerous leadership roles over the years, is trustworthy and dependable and much admired.

Jeanne Duberstein from Kihei

**From:** [jill@mauiislandpress.com](mailto:jill@mauiislandpress.com)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM549  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 5:37:20 PM

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Aloha,

Please confirm Helen Nielsen to the UH Board of Regents--I wish it were a longer appointment, but even the interim appointment will be beneficial! Helen is a great person and has contributed much to the Maui community.

Mahalo,  
Jill Engledow

**From:** [Larry Stevens](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Helen Nielsen  
**Date:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 5:05:25 PM

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Re: GM549

Ms Nielsen is a long-time contributor to Hawaii. She is an asset to UH and it is unfortunate that she will not be allowed to complete a full term as regent.

Larry Stevens  
7155 Makena Maui

**From:** [Patricia Chevalier](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM549  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 3:50:59 PM

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Aloha,

I strongly support Helen Nielsen as interim Regent on the Board.

Helen has brought insight and intelligence to the Board and should be retained for the good of the University of Hawaii and its students.

Mahalo,

Patricia Chevalier

**From:** [Sean Taketa McLaughlin](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 549 - Interim Appointment of Helen Nielsen to serve on UH BoR  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 12:30:32 PM

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Please confirm the appointment of Helen Nielsen to continue serving on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Helen is clearly qualified, ethical, bright, conscientious and focused on the best interests of the wide public across the Islands.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Taketa McLaughlin

Adjunct Fellow, New America - Open Technology Institute  
Executive Director, Access Humboldt  
Former CEO, Akaku Maui Community TV

post: 414 Ehako Place, Honolulu, HI 96817  
e: [seantaketa@gmail.com](mailto:seantaketa@gmail.com)  
c: 707-616-2381

**From:** [susan.conway.kean](#)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM549  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015 5:51:32 PM

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I am writing in support of Helen Nielsen completing her interim term. Although I would have liked to have seen her serve a five year term, the University Of Hawaii Regents will be well served and should consider themselves fortunate to have her serve for as long as they can get her. I sat on the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust board with Helen for three years and prior to that, the Maui Coastal Land Trust, and found her to be thoughtful, articulate, honest, and incredibly bright. We were all very sorry to see her leave.

Susan Kean  
Chair of Governance and Nominating Committee  
Hawaiian Islands Land Trust