

GM 549

LATE 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):

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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Senator Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Subject: GM 549 – Nomination of Helen Nielsen to the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii.

I am the chair of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii writing in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Helen Nielsen to the board of regents. I emphasize that I am writing as an individual and I do not speak for the board on this matter because the board has not taken a position on any of the governor's nominations to the board of regents.

Ms. Nielsen has been an excellent interim regent since being appointed to the position last October by former Governor Abercrombie. She has taken an active interest in the business of the university and of the board, has willingly served on all committees of which she has been appointed a member, and regularly attends meetings of other committees to increase her knowledge and understanding of the university and its many facets.

She understands the role of a member of the board of regents, has an inquiring mind, and a personal demeanor that is respectful of diverse perspectives.

I support without hesitation or reservation the confirmation of Ms. Nielsen to the board of regents.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely yours,

Randolph G. Moore

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: csgentz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM549 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 2:43:34 PM

GM549

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carol S Gentz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support Helen Nielsen's appointment to the UH Board of Regents. She is a very dedicated volunteer who has educated herself about the issues facing UH. She takes her responsibilities very seriously and is a huge asset to the Regents. I am disappointed that she has not been nominated for a full term. She should definitely be approved for the interim appointment. Thank you.

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 14, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 211, 1:30 P.M.
Honolulu, HI

RE: Support for Helen Nielsen, nominee for U.H. Board of Regents
GM 549, Hearing 4/15/15, 1:30 p.m.

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members

It is my pleasure to write a letter of strong support for the confirmation of Interim University of Hawaii Regent Helen Nielsen, representing the Maui County position. Ms. Nielson has been on the job now for several months and doing an outstanding job. She immediately engaged when she stepped up to fill an open seat. The learning curve is steep for the Board of Regents, due to the complexities of the U.H. System and the responsibilities of the Regents. She put in countless hours and initiative to learn the various processes, financials, and protocols, making her a valued contributing member.

Ms. Nielsen brings a strong business background to the position. As an entrepreneur herself, her financial skills come from experience and seasoning. It is important to have Hawaii's business voice represented on the Board, to say nothing of striving for gender balance. She is a highly respected community volunteer leader. Her tenure as Board Chair of the Maui Coastal Land Trust and then leading it through the statewide merger to become the Hawaii Land Trust, were critical years to assure the sustainability of this important non-profit. She is a big picture visionary, yet understands the process steps needed to reach the goals. She garners trust, brings people to the table to build consensus, and then delivers results.

Ms. Nielsen has my full support, if I can answer any further questions, please call me at 808-280-0376.



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