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April 10, 2015

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi  
Chair  
Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **The Honorable Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.'s nomination to the UH Board of Regents**

Dear Chair Taniguchi:

I write this letter in strong support of the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. nomination to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

I am a trial attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1987. My practice is concentrated in the areas of personal injury, labor law and worker's compensation. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association ("HSBA") and Crimestoppers Honolulu, and also volunteer as a hearings officer with the Disciplinary Board of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

I have had the privilege and honor of serving on the HSBA's Judicial Administration Committee with Justice Acoba who is our committee co-chair. It was not until I began serving on this committee over the last several years that I had the opportunity to work alongside and up close with him. Up until that point, my only interaction with him was an appearance before the Hawaii Supreme Court while he was on the Court.

I can think of no better candidate to continue serving as a regent than Justice Acoba. Aside from his distinguished career as a jurist, Justice Acoba has an unblemished and lengthy record of public service. After he recently retired from the Supreme Court, he could have rode off into the sunset to enjoy a well deserved retirement. Instead, he has chosen to remain publicly active as he continues to serve tirelessly on various voluntary committees for nothing more than the satisfaction of knowing he is contributing to the community at large. His high energy level and enthusiasm for the work he does is enviable and admirable.

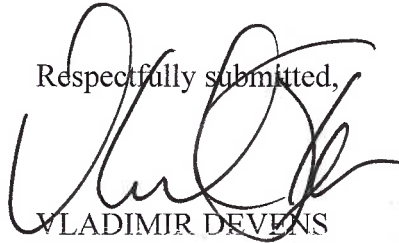
Chair Brian Taniguchi  
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Rising from humble beginnings, Justice Acoba is a product of our public school system and a graduate of UH. A dedicated public servant all of his life, Justice Acoba has found success at every level in his professional career. The high degree of intellect he possesses is intertwined with a quiet humility, collegiality and an insistence that new ideas be offered and openly discussed. His style of leadership and participation is one of respect toward all, while strongly encouraging the sharing of viewpoints from all sides. At the same time, he comes with a balanced and even keeled temperament and a complimenting decisiveness to him, which allows tasks to be accomplished orderly and efficiently. He is extremely scholarly, but at the same time brings a healthy dose of common sense to his problem solving skills, so that common sense prevails and practical resolutions do not get lost along the way. He listens carefully, takes into account all sides of a matter before engaging in decision making. Justice Acoba brings instant credibility to the table based on his professional experiences. His judicial demeanor will also work well in a board setting where facts and ideas have to be fully vetted before critical decisions are ultimately made.

I am aware that he and his wife recently endowed a scholarship at the Richardson School of Law for public high school students, which is just another example of him giving back to the community and expressing his appreciation for the opportunities given to him.

I applaud Justice Acoba's willingness to continue serving as a regent and have no doubt he will continue to be a valuable asset to our university. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Justice Acoba's nomination and I sincerely hope he will receive your committee's full support.

Respectfully submitted,



VLADIMIR DEVENS