

# GM 551

## Testimony –

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

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

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HEA

**Introducer(s):**

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

I have known Wayne for over 10 years, and worked with him while I was Vice President of the Board of North Hawaii Community Hospital. Because of his knowledge of the relationship of the Big Island and the Hospital, and his activities in State health planning relating to the Big Island and the Hospital, I nominated him as the Hospital's Vice President. He helped keep the Hospital operational through difficult financial times, and when the Queen's Health Systems took over the Hospital, he was named Chief Development Officer.

Mr. Higaki has been active on local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of Regent for the University. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regents' purpose.

Sincerely,

Christian Gulbrandsen, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine Emeritus and Former Dean  
John A. Burns School of Medicine



Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
April 15, 2015, 1:30 pm  
By Bernadette Howard  
Hawaii State Director for Career and Technical Education

**GM 551: UH Board of Regents Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

As the Hawaii State Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE) I support the confirmation of Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

The State Office for CTE administers the \$5.6M Perkins grant awarded to Hawaii annually by the US DOE. The main purpose of the Perkins grant is to promote the development of services and activities that integrate rigorous academic and career and technical instruction in the DOE and the UHCCs. Additionally, Perkins legislation mandates that our office collaborate with the State's Workforce System. This collaboration between Education and Labor is receiving even more focus since the passage last summer of the US DOL Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It is in his role on the Workforce Development Council that I have come to know Mr. Higaki.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of Regent at the University.

He is a man of strong ethics and principles. His commitment to the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions he has made. He is a friend to CTE and the education and training of the State's workforce. I urge your consideration of his nomination for the BOR and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY  
*of* HAWAII®  
SYSTEM

Office of the State Director  
for Career and Technical Education

Lunalilo I, Lower Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7461  
Fax: (808) 956-9096

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



April 13, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

***Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WAYNE S. HIGAKI***

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity of submitting written testimony in strong support of **WAYNE S. HIGAKI's** nomination to the University Of Hawaii Board Of Regents.

In **MR. HIGAKI**, you will find someone who is collaborative, knowledgeable, hardworking and unwavering in his efforts towards working for the betterment of our community.

**MR. HIGAKI** currently serves as the Chairman of Hawai'i County's Workforce Investment Board, and has also been an active commissioner/member for the State Health Planning & Development Agency since 2001.

I believe the State of Hawai'i and more specifically, the University of Hawai'i would benefit greatly from a strong principled individual like **MR. HIGAKI**. His experience, communication, team-building and collaborative approach would truly be an asset in helping him fulfill the duties as a confirmed Regent.

Mahalo nui loa for your favorable considerations,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby B. Taniguchi", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Toby B. Taniguchi  
President/ Chief Operating Officer

## **Carl A. Carlson, Jr.**

73-1515 Apela Place Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 (808) 3254005 (808) 3252511 facsimile

April 8, 2015

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

**Re: GM 551: Nomination of Wayne Higaki to the Board of Regents of the  
University of Hawaii**

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

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Wayne Higaki to serve as a Member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. I've known and worked with Wayne for several years and have a very high personal regard for him. His service to our community is recognized by his long-standing role as Assistant Vice President at North Hawaii Community Hospital. Those of us who live in rural communities get to know one another and appreciate those who are willing to serve their communities in the manner that Wayne does.

Mr. Higaki has extensive experience in public service having served on numerous boards and councils. While his primary field is in health care, he has also been active in workforce development with service on the County's Workforce Investment Board and the State's Workforce Development Council. Members of the Board of Regents are volunteers who must make a tremendous time commitment to their service. Having served as a Council Member of the State Health Planning and Development Agency since 2001, he has been exposed to the extended time commitments neighbor islanders make when they are appointed to statewide positions. If confirmed, his overall knowledge and skill, his experience in public service, and his willingness to make necessary time commitments will prove to be beneficial to the University.

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the nomination of Wayne Higaki to serve as a Member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii and would urge you to look favorably upon his confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl A. Carlson, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Carl A. Carlson, Jr.

**From:** [Clyde T. Oshiro](mailto:Clyde.T.Oshiro)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wayne.higaki@nhch.com](mailto:wayne.higaki@nhch.com)  
**Subject:** Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 2:36:58 PM

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**CLYDE T. OSHIRO**  
Certified Public Accountant  
319 Kinoole Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: (808) 935-0885 Fax: (808) 961-5881 e-mail: [oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net)

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

My name is Clyde Oshiro, I am an accountant living and working in Hilo, Hawaii and a member of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board. I have worked with Wayne Higaki, Chairman of HCWIB for several years and find him to be an effective leader and having a strong sense of community. Wayne will be an excellent regent for the University of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii. Please confirm Wayne Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Mahalo,

*Clyde T Oshiro*

Clyde T. Oshiro  
Certified Public Accountant  
319 Kinoole Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2918  
Telephone: (808) 935-0885  
Fax: (808) 961-5881  
Email: [oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:oshirocpa@hawaiiantel.net)

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Creighton K.K. Liu  
95-1059 Malielie Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this very important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. I have served with Mr. Higaki on the Statewide Health Council for many years and he is an extremely effective council member, and I am confident he will provide the same effectiveness as a member of the University Hawaii Board of Regents.

He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit greatly from a principled and value-based individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Creighton Liu



April 14, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
MR. WAYNE SACHIO HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my **VERY STRONG** support for Wayne S. Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I would appreciate your positive consideration of the confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this extremely important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board, which I have had the privilege of serving with him and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Big Island and the State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration and allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. De Luz, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

David S. De Luz, Jr.  
Vice President of Special Projects

**HILO**

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74-5504 Kaiwi Street Kailua Kona, HI 96740



April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil T. Kuyper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "N" and "K".

Neil T. Kuyper  
President and CEO  
Parker Ranch Inc.

Harry Kim  
471 Ho'okipa Place  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM551 – In Support of the Confirmation of Wayne Higaki to the  
University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

I am so truly excited and happy of a chance that Wayne Higaki can serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

There are so many things that could be said of Wayne, which include all the ways he has served the people of this state on boards and councils. I am sure that you, Mr. Taniguchi and committee members, have been made well aware of his services. I choose not to elaborate further on those services but to express fully how proud we as a community would be to have Wayne Higaki serve on the Board of Regents and represent the people of this community.

I am also so very sure that members of this senate committee will share the pride of his selection because of his conduct as a regent. Wayne is such an honorable man and I am proud to write this letter of recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for reading this.

Aloha,

Harry Kim  
(808) 933-9208

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TORKILDSON, KATZ, MOORE,  
HETHERINGTON & HARRIS

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION  
700 BISHOP STREET, 15TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-4187  
TELEPHONE (808) 523-6000 • FACSIMILE (808) 523-6001

J. GEORGE HETHERINGTON  
E-MAIL: JGH@TORKILDSON.COM

April 13, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

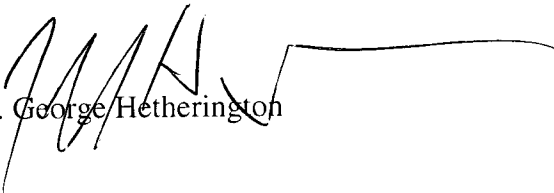
Thank you for this opportunity to present my strong endorsement for Wayne Higaki's appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I request your positive consideration of Mr. Higaki to this important body.

I have worked closely with Mr. Higaki for over 15 years in my capacity as the outside legal counsel to North Hawaii Community Hospital, where Mr. Higaki serves as Chief Development Officer. During those years, I have gotten to know Mr. Higaki very well. My interactions with him have shown me that he is a very capable individual who is always thoroughly prepared for the task at hand, whether it involves making business decisions or examining complicated policy issues.

Mr. Higaki has also been active in local boards and as a commissioner for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. His commitment to the betterment of the public interest is evident in his service to the community.

I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's duties. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. George Hetherington

JGH/bjm  
1783420.V2



P.O. BOX 2135 KAMUELA, HI 96743-2135

TEL. (808) 885-7233 FAX (808) 885-3440

April 9th, 2015

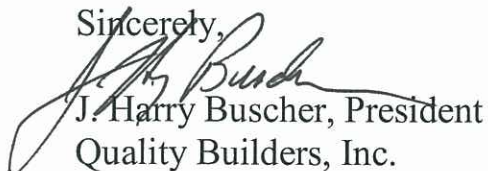
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WAYNE HIGAKI

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my very strong support for Mr. Wayne Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I have worked as a general contractor for Wayne on various projects at North Hawaii Community Hospital since 2000 and have great respect for his management skills and pragmatic way of thinking. Wayne is always very professional and a pleasure to work with. I know that he will be a tremendous addition to the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harry Buscher", is written over the typed name and title.

J. Harry Buscher, President  
Quality Builders, Inc.



Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

My name is Jim Tollefson and I serve as the chairperson of the Oahu Workforce Investment Board. Established by federal law, we are part of a nationwide system of workforce boards empowered to assist job seekers and to build linkages between business and education to strengthen our communities' economic growth. Formerly, I served as the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. In both capacities, I worked with Mr. Higaki.

Mr. Higaki is the chairperson of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board. He is a vital member of our joint county meetings and an active participant in our discussions of emerging issues that impact all of us. He brings to the table a practical business perspective that is important for labor programs everywhere to have as key to their success. His knowledge of Hawaii's healthcare industry, one of Hawaii's largest employers, and the challenges it faces will be an asset to the Board of Regents.

I believe Mr. Higaki will work with unwavering integrity and dedication for our state's higher education system's continued success.

Thank you for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Tollefson", is written over the typed name.

JAMES "JIM" TOLLEFSON  
Chairman of the Board,  
Oahu Workforce Investment Board

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

I also serve as a member of the State of Hawaii Workforce Development Council as the Liaison for the Honorable Mayor Bernard Carvalho of the County of Kauai and have witnessed the benefits of his role in that capacity.

As a former Student Representative to the Board of Regents (1996-97), I believe in having mentors like Mr. Wayne Higaki represent and support the future of the University of Hawaii students.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kaeo Bradford  
County of Kauai  
Office of Economic Development  
4444 Rice Street, Suite 200  
Lihue, HI 96766  
(808) 241-4950



Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Hawaii State Capitol,  
Conference Room 211

April 15, 2015 at 1:30 pm

**GM 551, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI  
to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my **VERY STRONG SUPPORT** for Mr. Wayne S. Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents.

Workforce development initiatives as well as health care industry sustenance are two crucial components that impact Hawaii's ability to grow a vibrant economy that will provide a great future for generations to come. Mr. Higaki is one of the few individuals in our state who has a proven track record in both of these areas.

He is the chairperson of the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board. This Board, established by the federal Workforce Investment Act, focuses on connecting the business community with the education industry. One of the biggest concerns of businesses across the nation is that graduates are not "work ready" and that educational institutions are often times out-of-touch with the needs of business. Mr. Higaki has worked tirelessly on Hawaii Island to create strong linkages between the two. Because of his effectiveness, his peers voted him to serve as their Chairperson.

Mr. Higaki's values of community stewardship are exemplified in his years of service on the statewide and local councils of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). SHPDA reviews major proposals that impact healthcare services and facilities statewide. Mr. Higaki consistently provided well-reasoned and fact based analysis of proposals that came before SHPDA. He saw the long term needs of the community and not just the immediate apparent popularity of a fancy presentation.

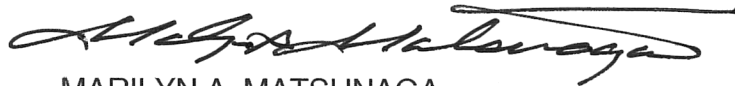
A product of the University of Hawaii's Community College System, Mr. Higaki started work as a frontline employee in a radiology business and through hard work rose to his current

position as the Vice President of the North Hawaii Community Hospital. Born and raised in Honoka'a, he is a truly a local boy who grew up to serve his community with humble dignity.

Workforce development is a challenge for all educational institutions nationwide and healthcare is one of Hawaii's largest employers. With background in both these areas, Mr. Higaki will be a valuable and strongly principled member of the Board of Regents.

Thank you for your thoughtful and supportive consideration.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn A. Matsunaga', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARILYN A. MATSUNAGA  
Executive Director, Oahu Workforce Investment Board  
(and former State Administrator, SHPDA)

**Marilynn Hata**  
1329 Lusitana Street, Suite 600  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: 808.522.5331  
Facsimile: 808.522.5333

April 9, 2014

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Wayne  
Higaki

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to support Wayne Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to the Board.

Mr. Higaki has a long history of community service. He has been active in a variety of state and community groups, most notable being his position as Board Chairman of the Hamakua Health Center and his long standing participation on the Waimea Community Association Board, the State Health Planning and Development Agency, and the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. In his work with the County's Workforce Development Board and the State's Workforce Development Council, he actively supported career and technical education activities. Mr. Higaki has also been active in Hawaii County health care through his employment at North Hawaii Community Hospital and his numerous service activities.

I believe the University of Hawaii System would benefit from having a strongly principled individual, like Mr. Higaki, on the Board of Regents, and strongly encourage confirmation.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Hata

Maurice G. Miranda  
Miranda Insurance Agency  
45-3551 Mamane St., A3  
Honokaa, HI 96727  
808-775-7227

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

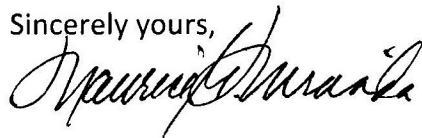
Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

I had the pleasure of serving with Wayne for many years as a Board member of the Hamakua Health Center. His knowledge of the industry and professional management skills helped guide us through some very difficult years and as a result HHC continues to provide quality medical care to a large segment of the Big Island population.

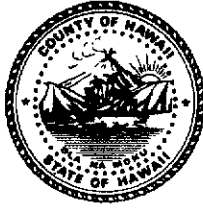
Mr. Higaki has been active many local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Wayne Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely yours,



William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Wayne Higaki  
Chairman

James Kennedy  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman

Donald Straney  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman

**County of Hawai`i**  
**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-2484  
V/TT (808) 961-8379 • FAX (808) 961-8685

April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001.

Since 2007, Mr. Higaki has been a great benefit as a member of the Hawai`i County Workforce Investment Board and for the past several years has been serving as Chair. Also, Mr. Higaki has been an active member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience and knowledge with workforce development would be of great asset in the role of regent for the university. His dedication to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would profit from an upright individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Arima  
**WIA Specialist**  
**Hawai`i County Workforce Investment Board**  
50 Wailuku Drive  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: (808) 961-8379  
Fax: (808) 961-8685  
Email: [ohcdwia@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:ohcdwia@hawaiicounty.gov)



April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM551; Support for Selection of Wayne S. Higaki to Board of Regents: University of Hawaii

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,


Thank you for this opportunity to present my strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

I have known Mr. Higaki for about 5 years. I met him during a real estate transaction and instantly knew that this was one organized guy who wasn't going to let me miss anything! We continued to be friends after our business deal and eventually worked together on the Waimea Community Association Board. Wayne always has productive and positive ideas and comments in our meetings and is very helpful with our town meetings. I found Wayne to be collaborative and fair in our interactions. He has continued to persevere through the many organizational and management changes at the Hospital, to continue to ensure that they operate and provide the essential services that our community requires.

As a graduate of Honokaa High School, Mr. Higaki understands our local community and Hawaii Island's needs. He has also been very active in our community. Besides being on the Waimea Community Association Board of Directors, he is a Commissioner for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board Chair and is a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of Regent for the University. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions he has made in these areas.

I believe that Wayne will represent West Hawaii well and be an asset to the Board of Regents. He understands the value of education and the importance of moving forward with the University's campus at Palamanui.

With warm aloha,

DocuSigned by:  
  
D9A0EEF837FE482...

Nancy Carr Smith  
Owner and Principal Broker, Aloha Kohala Realty  
Vice President, Waimea Community Association | Chair, Hawaii County Board of Appeals  
Mediator, West Hawaii Mediation Center | Coordinator, Big Island Giving Tree

**From:** [nancyinparadise@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:nancyinparadise@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Wayne Higaki  
**Date:** Friday, April 10, 2015 11:32:36 AM

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April 10, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

I write to you in strong support of the nomination of Wayne Sachio Hagaki to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I sincerely hope I will shortly hear that he has been confirmed to this critically important position for all of us in the state of Hawaii.

First, I will provide a brief description of who I am and why I feel I can knowledgeably comment about Mr. Higaki.

I am a transplanted Hawaiian, having moved here from Minnesota when I retired ten years ago. I had a fabulous 32 year career with Medtronic, Inc., eventually as Director of Physician Relations for the Cardiovascular Division. Medtronic is now the world's largest medical technology company, and its founder, Earl Bakken, lives on this island and has been a friend of mine since 1973. My desire in retirement was to give back, in gratitude for all the opportunities my career had provided, and so I soon became, and still am, a volunteer for North Hawaii Community Hospital in Kamuela, where I audit the charts for the Emergency Room. Very shortly after I started there, I met Mr. Higaki.

I immediately recognized his passion for the hospital, having been with it since before it opened, and as the years progressed, and the hospital went through some very turbulent times, Mr. Higaki remained a stabilizing presence, out of his office and both talking with and listening to employees and their concerns about what was happening. He remains in this position to this day, and our hospital and our community greatly benefit from his dedication and service.

There was also another thing I witnessed that told me something of Mr. Higaki's strength and character. He developed mouth cancer several years ago, and went through multiple major surgeries over a very short time, at Queen's Hospital. There was a time when he could not talk, and he returned here to Hawaii Island having lost a major amount of weight, and with a feeding tube and scars to both his face and his arm, where a vein was taken to ensure that the mouth surgeries would heal. I am a former ICU nurse, and I know without question that people in this situation could easily give up and give in, and fail to ever get their lives back in full. But Wayne was not one of them. He fought courageously, especially through the

low times, and I know there were plenty of those. There was a time, after the feeding tube was out, when he could eat only foods that did not require chewing. I learned that he liked pumpkin pie, so I began baking pumpkin pies and taking them to him, knowing it would brighten his day, especially if it was one of the bad ones. Both of us still remember that time. Wayne fought back with all the strength he had, which is evident in his work ethic to this day, and he recovered in full and is cancer free.

I know Mr. Hagaki is active in a number of local boards and councils, and a member of the state of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. It is my belief that his experience with this council, as well as his continued presence and work with North Hawaii Community Hospital, as its Chief Development Officer, would help greatly in a role as a regent for the University of Hawaii. He is totally committed to the betterment of the people of both this island and the state of Hawaii, and this appointment would allow him to continue to do this to the very best of his ability.

The state of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would, in my opinion, greatly benefit from having a person with the strength of character and the life and work experiences of Mr. Higaki as a part of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and I sincerely hope you will give him your positive consideration and your vote.

Thank you in advance. I am providing both of my phone numbers, in case you wish to have any further conversation with me, and I will be happy to respond to any e-mail requests as well.

Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha,

Nancy L. Stephenson, BSN; Fellow, Heart Rhythm Society, Washington, D.C.  
67-5123 Yutaka Pen Place  
Kamuela, HI 96743

Home Phone: 808-885-0456  
Cell Phone: 808-756-7029



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April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

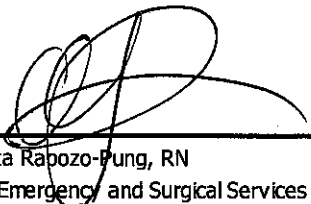
Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

X   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Odette Rabozo-Pung, RN  
HMC Emergency and Surgical Services Director

# PATTI COOK

% 67-1229 Mamalahoa Highway - Kamuela, HI 96743 - Cell: 808-937-2833

April 11, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

I am a graduate of UH-Manoa and deeply involved in and committed to trying to help improve educational outcomes for Hawai'i youth in the belief that education is the great equalizer. Education breaks the cycle of poverty and health issues that grip too many in our local community, and it is singularly essential to ensuring our children will be able to find a place for themselves and their families in 21<sup>st</sup> century Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i plays a central role in the education continuum and Hawai'i's future, and I thank this committee for the time and attention you give to higher education (as well as the arts). I also thank Gov. David Ige for appointing Wayne S. Higaki to the UH Board of Regents.

I have known Wayne for more than 20 years – through some very difficult financial times at North Hawai'i Community Hospital, and I am grateful to him for consistently doing his part to help the hospital survive to serve our North Hawai'i community within the “golden hour.” Wayne has been willing to do whatever it took – serious heavy lifting – to support this critical community service. As you know, the hospital has been repeatedly on the brink and he has been a dedicated advocate. And through this all, he was able to carve out time to serve on both the County's and State's workforce development agencies. This is not work that involves a lot of public kudos or fanfare – it's grueling nitty gritty that requires clear, deep understanding of workforce needs and realities, and then weaving together opportunities, usually without a lot of financial resource support. It's the kind of hard work that often goes unheralded.

However, this work has helped Wayne become critically aware of the educational needs – our deficits and dreams -- and he will be a valuable asset on the Board of Regents. He is a collaborator, and is fair and respectful of a variety of opinions, and he is also willing to be an advocate for the residents of rural North Hawai'i.

I urge this committee to approve Wayne's nomination and thank you for your efforts to support a strong, productive, sustainable statewide institution of higher learning.

Mahalo,

**Patti Cook**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkurohara@gmail.com](mailto:rkurohara@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM551 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 2:27:13 PM

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**GM551**

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>
Randall Kurohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: April 8, 2015 Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts State Capitol Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members, Mahalo for this opportunity to express my sincere and strong support for Mr. Wayne Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Mr. Higaki has deep roots on Hawaii Island. Born and raised in Honoka'a, Mr. Higaki understands the unique and rural perspective when it comes to our Island's economic, educational and healthcare related needs. He has been active in local boards and as a council member of the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. This unique perspective will be of great benefit in the role as regent for the university. The demands of a regent require a well-grounded individual who has a long term commitment to our Island and State. It requires an individual who must devote much time and energy researching, educating oneself, and listening to the community and stakeholders on a myriad of important issues that will impact so many. Being a regent requires discernment and courage, especially involving decision making on controversial matters. In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawai'i would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration. Sincerely, Randy Kurohara

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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# *Lanikai Properties, LLC*

*P.O. Box 9032*

*Kailua-Kona, HI 96745*

*Phone: (808) 936-7129 • Fax: (808) 443-2404*

*Email: [rsmith@lanikai.net](mailto:rsmith@lanikai.net)*

April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM551; Support for Selection of Wayne S. Higaki to  
Board of Regents: University of Hawaii**

**Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,**

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important governing body.

I have known Mr. Higaki for the twenty two years that I have lived on Hawaii island (since 1993). At the time, I was the representative for Parker Ranch Foundation Trust. He represented our beneficiary, North Hawaii Community Hospital. Our discussions were always positive and productive. I found Wayne to be collaborative and fair in our dealings with each other. He has continued to persevere through the many organizational and management changes at the Hospital, to continue to ensure that they operate and provide the essential services that our community requires.

As a graduate of Honokaa High School, Mr. Higaki understands our local community and Hawaii Island's needs. He has also been very active in our community. Besides being on the Waimea Community Association Board of Directors, he is a Commissioner for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board Chair and is a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of Regent for the University. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions he has made in these areas.

I firmly believe that Wayne S. Higaki will represent West Hawaii very well and be an asset to the Board of Regents. He understands the value of education and the importance of moving forward with the University's campus at Palamanui. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Riley W. Smith". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Riley W. Smith, P.E.  
President/Chief Executive Officer



# NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

AN AFFILIATE OF THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

April 8, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I am hoping for your positive confirmation of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Higaki to this important body.

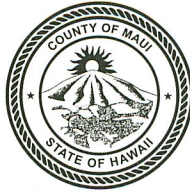
Mr. Higaki has been an important executive at North Hawaii Community Hospital since its founding in 1996. He was instrumental in assisting the NHCH Board with its discussions with The Queen's Health System, that ultimately lead to a formal affiliation between NHCH and Queen's.

Additionally, Mr. Higaki has been active in local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He also serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. His experience with workforce development would be of great benefit in the role of regent for the university. His commitment to the betterment of the people of the Island and State of Hawaii has been evident in the many contributions made in these areas.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the Board of Regent's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Momsen  
Trustee, North Hawaii Community Hospital  
Trustee, The Queen's Health System



## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 305, WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793, USA

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April 9, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Mr. Higaki currently serves as the Chair for the County of Hawaii's Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council (WDC). I have had the opportunity and privilege to work with Mr. Higaki for several years now on the State WDC. He exemplifies the leadership qualities and possesses a wealth of experience and knowledge in workforce development that will serve as a great asset to the UH Board of Regents. In addition, I know that he will bring a high level of professionalism and integrity to the board.

In closing, his contributions to workforce development reflect his commitment to enhance the standard of living for those he serves for on the island and State of Hawaii and it is because of this, I can, without reservation, recommend Mr. Higaki's appointment. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roland V. Prieto".

Roland V. Prieto  
Executive Director  
Maui County Workforce Investment Board

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [romala@yahoo.com](mailto:romala@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM551 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 11:45:55 AM

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**GM551**

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

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>
Romala Radcliffe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the nomination of Wayne Higaki as a member of the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents. Mr. Higaki has served on the State Health Planning and Development Agency's councils since 2001. In his role as a member of both the Hawaii County Sub Area Health Planning Council and Statewide Health Coordinating Council he consistently made himself available to attend monthly meetings, reconsideration hearings and training events. With Wayne's extensive skill set and his ability to apply administrative rules and regulations he is well suited to serve as a regent of a large multifaceted system.

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

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

My name is Sherman Warner; I am a resident of Waimea. I have known Wayne Higaki for 13 years as a neighbor, as a fellow board member of the Waimea Community Association, and as an executive at North Hawai'i Community Hospital. Throughout that time, and in many capacities, I have been privileged to work with Wayne on projects that serve our community and have always known him to be an intelligent, fair-minded person who asks the right questions, is analytical, and who is always supports solutions that benefit the whole community. I strongly believe that he would be an asset to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and that he would represent our community and the developing Palamanui campus well. I urge you to support Wayne's confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sherman Warner  
PO Box 1185  
Kamuela, HI 96743

## Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

DATE: April 8, 2015

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

RE: **GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WAYNE HIGAKI**


Thank you for the opportunity to submit my support of Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination, by Governor Ige, for appointment to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. I have known Wayne for approximately sixteen years. He has served with me on the State Health Planning and Development Agency Hawai'i Island Sub-Area Council and was also the Board President at Hamakua Health Center, Inc. while I served as the Chief Executive Officer. As a long term administrative employee at North Hawai'i Community Hospital, Wayne has a special understanding of the needs of our Big Island rural communities.

Wayne's participation in community based planning, involvement with work force development and knowledge of what is involved in attracting and retaining staff in the health care industry will bring unique insight at the University level to the development of training needs and programming consideration for the health professions.

In addition, I believe Wayne will bring a unique perspective to the Board of Regents regarding the delivery of rural medicine in our State as well as serve as a valuable spokesman and advocate for the outer islands.

Your consideration to appoint Wayne to the Board of Regents is greatly appreciated. I recommend him without hesitation.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan B. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan B. Hunt, MHA  
SBHunt Consulting, LLC  
Provider Recruitment and Service Development Advisor  
North Hawai'i Community Hospital

April 10, 2015

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: GM 551, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WAYNE HIGAKI**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members,


It's my pleasure to present this letter of support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Mr. Higaki has been a colleague since 1996, and we have worked together on a number of projects.

I know him to be firmly committed to Hawaii Island, and the entire state. His experiences in the health care industry provide a deep understanding of our state's needs and the critical role the University can play in ensuring the best and brightest remain here to fill those needs.

Mr. Higaki has been active on several local boards and as a council member for the State Health Planning and Development Agency's statewide and local councils since 2001. He currently serves as Chair of the Hawaii County of Hawaii Workforce Investment Board and as a member of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. He also has been an active advocate of public education in our community schools.

I respectfully request your positive consideration of Mr. Higaki's nomination to the Board of Regents, and believe he will bring the experience, skills and dedication needed to successfully guide the University of Hawaii going forward.

Sincerely,

  
Susan E. Maddox