

UNIVERSITY *of* HAWAII' at MĀNOA

WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON

SCHOOL OF LAW

Dr. Randle C. DeFalco  
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Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to provide testimony in support of nominee Abigail Mawae's confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

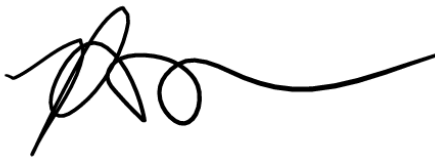
Abigail is currently a 1L student at Richardson Law, where she is enrolled in my criminal law class. I have thoroughly enjoyed having Abigail in my class and believe she will provide an important perspective to the Board of Regents in its work.

Early in the semester Abigail informed me that she had been selected as a student-representative to the Board of Regents. I worked with Abigail to ensure that she was able to fulfill her obligations in this important role without compromising her studies. In her communications Abigail has been consistent, clear, and proactive in keeping me updated regarding her obligations in this role, especially when it has affected her ability to attend class. With her impressive organizational skills Abigail has stayed on top of her classwork while providing a critical voice for Richardson students at the Board of Regents.

I wholeheartedly believe Abigail's input will be extremely valuable to the Board of Regents throughout her term. Serving in this position will also be a valuable educational experience for Abigail, building on her prior experience working at the United States Senate. As such, I offer this letter as testimony of my strong and unreserved support for Abigail's confirmation to the Board of Regents.

I am more than happy to provide further commentary on Abigail's attributes as a student and emerging leader and can be reached at [rdefalco@hawaii.edu](mailto:rdefalco@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

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

Randle C. DeFalco

April 12th, 2023

Today I take pleasure in submitting written testimony in favor of Abigail Mawae to be considered and confirmed to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

As a coach at the University of Hawaii with the Swimming and Diving Team, I have known and worked with Abigail since January 2020 when she enrolled at the University and joined the team. Abigail immediately brought a positive and enthusiastic energy to the team, athletic department and University.

Abigail demonstrated a level of work ethic and determination in the top tier of student-athletes that I've worked with who have already been selected for those qualities. Abigail takes on every challenge with a positive outlook and encourages her teammates to do the same. Abigail has consistently demonstrated a level of commitment and maturity that indicates she has the skills to be successful in any challenging environment she might face.

In addition to having Hawaiian ancestry, Abigail has multiple perspectives to draw from which can provide her with the tools to best support the University of Hawaii as a member of the Board of Regents. Abigail has been a student-athlete as a member of the Swimming and Diving Team, an undergraduate student, and now a student at the Richardson School of Law. In each of these positions Abigail gained insight to further the betterment of the UH community as a whole. I am confident that Abigail will continue to serve the University of Hawaii in a manner that best serves all stakeholders.

Lastly, I want to share a quick story of perseverance and grit about Abigail. In the summer of 2021 Abigail made the decision to challenge herself to train physically and mentally to swim from Lanai to Maui— the 'au'au Channel. Despite strong currents and rough conditions and a failed crossing on her first attempt. Abigail made the decision to try again the following day and on her second attempt Abigail successfully completed the channel crossing. A truly challenging feat that very few have completed. This example of perseverance and grit demonstrate her willingness to work and take on any challenging situation which is yet another reason to confirm Abigail to the Board.

Thank you for reading my testimony today.

Respectfully,

Marcus Guttman

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

TESTIMONY OF  
RANDOLPH G. MOORE  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

April 17, 2023  
G.M. 601

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii  
Gubernatorial Nominee Abigail Mawae for a term to expire June 30, 2024

Chair Kim and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Abigail Mawae to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I am speaking for myself as a member of the Board of Regents. The regents as a body do not take positions on the nomination of individuals for the Board.

Ms. Mawae has been the student regent on an interim basis since the beginning of this calendar year; her nonination by the governor came after the term of the previous student regent had expired. Ms. Mawae is an active and constructive member of the the Board and of the three committees to which she has been assigned – academic and student affairs, intercollegiate athletics, and research and innovation. She brings a useful student perspective to Board and committee discussions.

The University of Hawaii is a large and complex organization. It normally takes more than one year for new regents to fully orient themselves. The Board and the University would benefit by the continued participation and contributions of Ms. Mawae as a regent.

I encourage your recommendation to the full Senate of her confirmation as a regent.

Thank you for your consideration.

April 12, 2023

**To:** Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education; and  
Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education

**From:** Camille Nelson, Dean and Professor  
William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i

**HEARING DATE/TIME:** Monday, April 17, 2023 1:30 pm.

**MEASURE NUMBER:** GM601

**Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Abigail Mawae to serve on the University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents**

Consistent with past practice, I want to make it very clear that it is only in my individual capacity that I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Abigail Mawae to serve as a member on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i. I do not speak for the William S. Richardson School of Law, or for anyone else.

I am pleased to be able to provide a few details as to why I believe Ms. Mawae to be an exceptional choice to be the student representative on the Board of Regents. Ms. Mawae entered her first year of law school at William S. Richardson School of Law in August of 2022.

Based on her time at the Law School, and my own interactions with her, I can say that Ms. Mawae has already proven herself to be an engaged member of the University community, and an effective leader. She is a self-starter and a very hard worker. Ms. Mawae is strongly committed to the University of Hawai‘i and to its students. As indicated by her many accomplishments and endeavors, of which I will detail a few, she is already an exceptional leader.

Abigail Kanahale Mawae is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa class of 2021. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communicology. It is noteworthy that she made the Dean’s List each semester, all the while navigating a very busy and intense schedule as a student-athlete.

While an undergrad student at UH-Mānoa, Ms. Mawae was a member of the UH Wahine swim team, racing all over the West Coast representing the University of Hawai‘i. She competed in the 2021 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (“MPSF”) Women’s Conference Championship, helping the Wahine secure their fifth straight MPSF Conference Championship title. Additionally, Ms. Mawae served as an advocate for student-athletes mental health and physical well-being, mentored other students and participated in various events around Oahu to encourage young girls to participate in athletics. In recognition of her athletic and academic success, Ms. Mawae was selected to the 2021 MPSF All-Academic team.

Outside of the pool and classroom, Ms. Mawae served on the student-leadership team for the

University of Hawai'i Fellowship of Christian Athletes ("FCA"), working within UH's athletic program to build deeper relationships among the student-athlete community. Additionally, Ms. Mawae organized outreach efforts and mentorship programs with high school students in Hawai'i. She served in FCA's student-leadership all four years of college, and was elected to Co-Captain her junior year, and Captain her senior year.

After graduating with her undergraduate degree, Ms. Mawae worked as a congressional staffer in the United States Senate, providing assistance to, and working closely with, staff members to garner support for legislative initiatives and draft legislative proposals. In this capacity, Ms. Mawae drafted legislative proposals focusing extensively in the field of education and the restructuring of the K-12 school calendar.

In summary, Abigail Kanahale Mawae is incredibly accomplished. She has and will continue to make a positive impact as a student leader. I am pleased to support her confirmation to serve on the UH Board of Regents as the Student Regent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Mahalo and aloha.

**GM-601**

Submitted on: 4/13/2023 4:26:13 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/17/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Merwick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Gubernatorial Nominee, ABIGAIL MAWAE's confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Abigail has shown to be an upright and honest citizen, an able swim buddy that can be trusted and relied upon when conditions are difficult. She has a great desire to make the State of Hawaii a better place to be.

**GM-601**

Submitted on: 4/13/2023 10:27:53 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/17/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alvaro Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Abigail Mawae is an exceptional nominee for this position. I have had the privilege of working with Abigail in Washington D.C. in the United States Senate, and I have had the fortunate luck of being her friend here in O’ahu. Regardless of the environment, Abigail holds herself to the highest of standards and exemplifies the virtues and character of a great citizen.

As a former co-worker, Abigail was loyal, trustworthy, and thorough. From the start of the day, she was motivated and ready to tackle the challenges ahead of her. Oftentimes, Abigail was the first person to say “good morning” with a bright smile to our team. When it came to work ethic, she never let obstacles slow her down. She would work overtime, accept any duty, and do her job to high degrees of quality. She set new standards of what great work looks like. I often recall her attention to detail and willingness to support any team member in need as an example to follow.

As a friend, Abigail has been a blessing. When we moved to Hawai’i, she was critical in helping us settle. She gave us guidance, support, and friendship. She has taught us so much about Hawai’i, and you can see her love and passion for this state. It is thanks to her that my family has been able to settle and contribute to this community.

Abigail’s nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai’i is great. I cannot imagine a better candidate than her. She is passionate about her school, state, and lifestyle. Her passion for education and our state is one of the highest that I have encountered. I am confident when I say that Abigail will execute her duties with the highest levels of professionalism and detail. I urge you to support her nomination.



**'AHAHUI  
O HAWAI'I**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

**Testimony of Nā Alaka'i o 'AhaHui o Hawai'i**

Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Monday, April 17, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 225

**In support of GM601**

**Abigail Mawae**

Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

Aloha e Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee,

We are the alaka'i of 'AhaHui o Hawai'i ("the Hui") and we would like to submit this **testimony in strong support** of the confirmation of Abigail Mawae to serve on the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents. The Hui is the oldest student organization at the William S. Richardson School of Law and is dedicated to advocating for Native Hawaiian justice and uplifting the Lāhui.

We have had the pleasure of getting to know Abigail over the last few months through her involvement in 'AhaHui o Hawai'i. She is an active member of our student organization and of the larger Richardson community. Abigail only started law school less than a year ago, but she already embodies the mission and goals of Richardson and has demonstrated a clear commitment to standing up for what is right. During her time at UH Mānoa, she has been a mighty advocate for Native Hawaiians, student-athletes, women, and of course her fellow classmates.

The University of Hawai'i is a 10-campus system with all of the complexities that come along with a diverse institution of this nature. Abigail is a capable and responsible student who is committed to student wellbeing and success, and is dedicated to excellence. These qualities make her an excellent member of the Board of Regents and a vital voice for all students that study at this institution.

We are glad that Abigail is willing to serve on the Board, and the alaka'i of 'AhaHui o Hawai'i absolutely **endorse her confirmation.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Nā Alaka'i,

Kawaiuluhonua Scanlan ('24)

Dru Hara ('24)

Andrea Swain ('25)

B. Oriana McCallum ('25)