



The Committee on Higher Education
February 27, 2024
1:45 PM
Room 229

LATE

RE: **GM 597, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alapaki Nahale-a, For a Term to Expire 06-30-2028**

Attention: Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **supports GM 597**, to confirm the appointment of Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

As an indigenous serving institution, the involvement and participation of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Island members on the University of Hawaii (UH) Board of Regents is essential. During his first term as a Regent, Mr. Nahale-a was a vocal advocate for Native Hawaiian issues and for ensuring the University was growing to meet its educational and research goals. An active participant on the Board, Mr. Nahale-a held multiple roles, serving one year as second vice-chair, two years as the first vice chair, as well as chair of the Planning and Facilities Committee for two years and chair of the Maunakea Permitted Interaction Groups. As a result of his on-going leadership, the Board elected Mr. Nahale-a to Chair of the Board in July 2023, one of only three Native Hawaiians since the 1980s to ever serve in the position. Since stepping into the role of Board Chair, Mr. Nahale-a has successfully led the Board in a fair, thoughtful, and organized manner, encouraging a robust discussion of University issues and providing members the opportunity to question and explore important issues within their committees.

While Mr. Nahale-a may not have extensive knowledge in faculty labor issues, he has been open to discussing and understanding faculty concerns and compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. I feel confident that, under his leadership, UHPA will work well with the Board as it advocates for important faculty issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for GM 597, to confirm the reappointment of Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 5:42:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan Harden	Testifying for Academic Labor United (ALU)	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Meagan Harden, and I am the Academic Labor United College of Social Sciences Chair. On behalf of ALU, I **strongly oppose** the election of Regent Nahale-a to the Board of Regents Gubernatorial Committee. Not only has Regent Nahale-a not supported ALU's constitutional right to collectively bargain, but he has also failed to prioritize meaningful graduate student representation in the Presidential Search Process.



LATE

Monday, February 27, 2024

TO: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Office of the President of ASUH

Providing Comments on the confirmation of Regent Nahale-a

‘Ano‘ai e Chair Mercado Kim, and honorable members of the Higher Education Committee,

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Bronson Azama, I am the current ASUH President. I write in comments on Chair Nahale-a's confirmation. As a student I believe that as said at the WAM meeting we need a Chair who should commit to being present to answer questions to the Senate, and also asks questions that are necessary to be vetted before it has to be vetted by outside bodies including the community and the Senate. I can honestly say I have not seen such yet.

Furthermore, I hope that the Chair can fairly utilize the gavel. We see marathon speeches delaying the Board's order of business.

I further hope that the Chair can be clearer in agendizing items, because during the Presidential Selection Process, we saw "other elements of the Presidential Search Process" on January 4, which if you did not follow the process from its inception, how would we as students, the broader community know how to testify on that item. The Search firm to be selected has also been shrouded in secrecy which I have testified on.

I hope these comments can be helpful on the Committees deliberation, and we can see improved Board action moving forward, that supports transparency, shared governance, and properly vetted action so the community and State Senate need not have to serve as watchdogs so often, on the outcomes at the University.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama
111th ASUH President

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 23, 2024

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 1:45 p.m.
Location: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

GM 597 – Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Alapaki Nahale-a. Term Ending: 06-30-2028

Aloha Chair Kim and Vice Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic **support for the appointment of Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i**. Born and raised in Hilo, Mr. Nahale-a has dedicated over 30 years of his life to serving the community in various capacities, demonstrating a deep commitment to the betterment of Hawai'i and its people.

Mr. Nahale-a's past roles, particularly as director and chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, East Hawai'i commissioner, and CEO of the Global Resiliency Hub at 'Iole in Kohala, highlight his ability to manage and lead organizations towards positive outcomes effectively.

His involvement with Kamehameha Schools, where he served as Senior Director of Community Engagement and resources for Hawai'i Island, and his work in charter schools, including as President and Executive Director of the Hawai'i Charter School Network, demonstrate his deep understanding of educational systems and his commitment to providing quality education for all.

Mr. Nahale-a's service on various community boards and commissions, such as the County of Hawai'i Cultural Resources Commission, the County Charter Commission, and the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, speaks to his dedication to community service and his ability to collaborate with diverse groups to achieve common goals.

Furthermore, Mr. Nahale-a's appointment by President Obama to serve on the Presidential Scholars Commission showcases his national-level experience and his ability to contribute meaningfully to important policy decisions.

In conclusion, I believe that Alapaki Nahale-a's background, experience, and dedication make him an excellent candidate for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I urge you to consider and confirm his appointment, as I am confident that he will serve with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the advancement of higher education in our state.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell D. Roth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

the leader project

leading from a Hawaiian place

February 26, 2024

Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: February 27, 2024
TIME: 1:45
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Aloha e Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Higher Education,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to express my full support the nomination of Gubernatorial Nominee, Alapaki Nahale-a, to serve on the Board of Directors of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

I have had the privilege to work and partner with Mr. Nahale-a on a variety of efforts over the past 7 years. I know firsthand his long-standing commitment to education in and of Hawai'i. From this foundation, he brings a great ability to navigate complex issues and find pathways that enable all perspectives to be heard and valued. Alapaki is effective at communicating while holding both the view of a strategist and the experience of implementation. Alapaki also brings not only diverse experience across multiple sectors, he also brings to the board the support and guidance by kumu, kūpuna, educators and leaders across many communities.

Our Board of Regents has a strong and respected advocate in Mr. Nahale-a. He has helped to create the roadmap and can provide continuity alongside progressive development of this work. As a Native Hawaiian, he holds kuleana especially for supporting the plan's goal of supporting the success of Native Hawaiians as an indigenous-centered institution.

As a U.H. alumni and former Board of Education member, I remain confident that Alapaki will give of his time, energy and aloha to serve responsibly and lead effectively in this role. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide a letter of support.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,



Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui
Founder and Principal of The Leader Project



GM597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, for a term to expire 06-30-2028
Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 27, 2024

1:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **STRONG SUPPORT of Alapaki Nahale-a** for consideration and confirmation as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Mr. Nahale-a's career is one that has been dedicated to these islands and its future. Every position he has held in the last decade has focused on ensuring strategic impact for the pae 'āina. This experience has led him to develop relationships and strategies to truly make a difference for the organizations he worked for and all the communities they impact. Mr. Nahale-a has dedicated his leadership to these islands.

Most notable for this position as a member of the UH Board of Regents is the way Mr. Nahale-a's career has allowed him weave together community engagement with education from elementary to higher education. He spent nearly 10 years with Kamehameha Schools working in community education and engagement, land management and advocacy. This experience—in addition to his service in state government—give him unique qualifications to see the intersection of land, community and education. It is clear this experience has guided him in his thoughtful approach to the Board of Regents over the last 5 years, which included service as both Vice Chair and Chairperson. Additionally, Mr. Nahale-a has brought a critical lens of indigeneity to all of his professional experiences, honoring the breadth of Native Hawaiian knowledge that he has cultivated in his career and education. This is vital to helping the Board of Regents upholding its obligations to kānaka maoli students and residents statewide.

We would also be remiss not to mention how important it is for Native Hawaiians to serve our state in leadership positions on the Board of Regents. Our state government deserves a diverse group of leaders and must include team members who can ensure the perspective of these islands' first people are represented. Additionally, it is important for keiki to see other kānaka maoli in leadership positions. It helps them see a future for themselves here in Hawai'i. With more Native Hawaiians now living outside of our state



GM597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, for a term to expire 06-30-2028
Senate Committee on Higher Education

than within, this is especially pressing. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs looks forward to working together with Mr. Nahale-a and the University of Hawai'i to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Alapaki Nahale-a as this committee considers his nomination.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:55:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernie K. Wilson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Although Alapaki Nahele-a is only now being reviewed for approval for a five-year term representing Hawaii County due to a delay in the hearing/confirmation process, he is currently serving an uncompleted term and holdover.

Alapaki has exercised strong leadership traits and skills, serving first in the position of 1st Vice Chair of the Board of Regents and currently as its Chair. Under his leadership, changes in both the organizational and governance structure have paved the way and provided the means for the institution to meet the challenges currently facing the institution today, but **more importantly** from a strategic perspective, the **geopolitical, economic, and environmental** threats that are upon us. A person with Alapaki's breadth of experience, foresight, and vision is what the institute needs as its leader today., so that the new generation of Regents currently joining the BOR can be developed to continue the march forward. This is why I strongly support his confirmation today!

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:38:52 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I appreciate the opportunity to register my support of the confirmation of Alapaki Nahale-A to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 9:11:17 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curtis Muraoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in sincere and strong support of Alapaki Nahale-a for reappointment as a UH Regent. You will be hard pressed to find a more earnest and genuinely motivated educator in Hawai'i. He has a rare breadth of experience in education across P-20 and beyond.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:43:40 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B. Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee,

While I support Alapaki Nahale-a's confirmation to the board of regents, I currently hold reservations concerning the lack of demonstrable action to hold the administration accountable for the current state of student housing. I believe that the board of regents plays a critical role in ensuring a student's well-being and educational success. Therefore, I hope that Alapaki will utilize his position on the board to hold the administration accountable for performance, both positive and negative, to ultimately improve the quality of a student's experience on campus.

Thank you.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:09:04 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to offer my strong, unqualified support for the nomination of Alapaki Nahale-a to a second term on the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents.

I am the black sheep of my family, having chosen a career in business rather than join my two siblings in following both my parents into the world of academia. All five of us had and have earned doctorates. My parents and siblings were and are university professors and administrators. I taught only a single course at the University of Colorado. However, as a budget analyst for the Colorado State Legislature I had responsibility for reviewing proposed budgets, making recommendations, and writing appropriations bills for all the state institutions of higher education. All of which is background for me to define my own familiarity with the world of higher education and the particular perspective I bring to my strong recommendation of Alapaki Nahale-a to be confirmed at this critical time for the University.

Nahale-a has been a valued colleague of mine for a number of years, someone to whom I turn for thoughtful counsel on delicate professional and community issues. I have seen his skill at convening and facilitating difficult conversations. I have seen his commitment, care, and aloha for the stakeholders of the University, and for the communities they serve. I saw his values and insight into the issues facing the University and the State reflected in the Strategic Plan adopted last year, and indeed in the way in which the Board of Regents navigated many issues during his first term.

The implementation of that Strategic Plan, the selection of a new President, the recovery of Maui and indeed the key issues facing Hawai‘i to which the University can and will make a contribution - economic resilience and workforce development, land stewardship, strengthening of traditional Hawaiian values and knowledge systems as principles with relevance to modern needs - all will place demands on the next Board of Regents for collaborative, innovative, and caring leadership. I can think of no one better qualified than Alapaki Nahale-a to serve on and chair the Board of Regents through this critical period for the University’s future.

Mahalo for your positive consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Beth Robinson

Director, Conservation and Legacy Lands, Hawai'i Life

Hawi, North Kohala, Hawai'i

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:23:38 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to all the current issues facing the UH, I don't agree that Alapaki Nahale-a has done a good job in leading the BOR to investigate important issues. Most importantly, the state of the dorm rooms for students. He does not hold the current administration responsible nor does he demand that issues be rectified. How can these issues be ignored. This just brings down morale and spirit, which is at a all time low at the University.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:47:18 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Moniz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote against appointment of this nominee. Students should always be respected and listened to and not disregarded.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:48:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Tochiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Alapaki Nahale-a to a second term on the Board of Regents. I am serving my second year on the board, and I am grateful for Alapaki's leadership as chair. Last week our Board meetings were held at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Because we are putting full effort into the search for a new President, it is important to clearly uphold the intentions of transparency, while doing everything we can to find the right person for the position. Alapaki has led us through very challenging conversations while modeling integrity and aloha. His expressions of aloha for the community and for the aina are well received because they are authentic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Tochiki

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:23:19 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Paloma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Alapaki Nahale-a's confirmation. His leadership is welcome and his passion for the University is a necessary driver for doing what is right for the University. Mahalo.

GM597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, for a term to expire 06-30-2028
Senate Committee on Higher Education

February 27, 2024

1:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Letter of Strong Support for the Confirmation of Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and HRE Committee Members,

Alapaki Nahale-a's connection to Hawai'i and our people, and his steadfast commitment to the University of Hawai'i compels me to express my **strong support for confirmation** to the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents. While I acknowledge and respect the strong endorsement already provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I too wish to convey my support in a personal capacity. I am writing to you today not in my capacity as the CEO/Ka Pouhana of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs but as a Native Hawaiian leader, Kanaka 'Ōiwi, a devoted alumnus of the University of Hawai'i, and a dedicated public servant.

Alapaki's career exemplifies unwavering commitment to the principles that are vital for the leadership role he is poised to assume. At the Islander Institute, he has been at the forefront of embedding Native Hawaiian values into the resolution of persistent and challenging systemic issues. His depth of knowledge and dedication aligns closely with the University of Hawai'i's mission to foster an environment that respects and promotes indigenous and local values.

Alapaki's work in spearheading initiatives that foster community leadership, sustainable food systems, educational empowerment, and strategic planning across various sectors demonstrates his capability to contribute meaningfully to the Board. His leadership in the Iole Global Resilience Hub, managing a vast acreage of traditional Hawaiian land, underscores his commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement—qualities that are indispensable for the University's future direction.

His role in overseeing significant community education programs, including initiatives that integrate Hawaiian perspectives into public charter schools and literacy programs, highlights his dedication to educational excellence and cultural preservation. Alapaki's experience with Kamehameha's lands on Hawaii Island further showcases his proficiency in managing large-scale land resources responsibly and strategically, ensuring they serve the community and adhere to cultural values.

GM597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, for a term to expire 06-30-2028
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Moreover, Alapaki's tenure as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands demonstrates his adeptness in navigating complex governance structures and his ability to foster meaningful partnerships across various levels of government and the community. His leadership was instrumental in managing and stewarding over two hundred thousand acres of trust land, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of current and future beneficiaries.

In Alapaki, the Board of Regents will gain a leader whose experience spans the crucial areas of governance, community engagement, education, and cultural stewardship. His confirmation will signal the University's commitment to a future that respects and uplifts our island's values, heritage, and community aspirations.

I urge the Committee to recognize the profound impact Alapaki Nahale-a will have on the University of Hawai'i's leadership and to confirm his appointment to the Board of Regents. His vision, dedication, and proven leadership will be invaluable assets in guiding the University towards a future that honors our Indigenous traditions while embracing innovation and progress.

Thank you for considering my strong support for Alapaki Nahale-a. I am confident that his contributions will be transformative and will resonate with the values and aspirations of our University and our community.

Mahalo piha,



Stacy Ferreira

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:58:52 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne S. Higaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and committee members.

It is my honor to offer my support to Alapaki Nahale-a and I ask for your positive confirmation for his nomination by Governor Green. Mr. Nahale-a has exhibited unparalleled leadership of the Board of Regents during the last year and a continued positive contribution during the first term on the Board of Regents.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:20:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Sen. Kim, Chair, and Sen. Kidani, Vice Chair - State Senate Committee on Higher Education and committee members:

May I please urge confirmation of Alapaki Nahale-A once again to the UH Board of Regents. He has been a valuable member of the BOR, bringing wide-ranging educational vision and understanding, enhanced by his experience in a variety of significant public policy arenas including the Hawai'i public charter school world.

He is trusted and accessible and willing to do the hard work required. Our children and community would be well served by his continued involvement on the BOR.

Mahalo, Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:02:03 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kaneakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support of Alapaki Nahale-a for consideration and confirmation to University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents. Having had the privilege of working closely with Alapaki in education and community-serving organizations on Hawai‘i Island, I can confidently attest to his exceptional qualifications, unwavering dedication, and valuable contributions to lāhui and the broader Hawai‘i community.

Moreover, Alapaki has outstanding interpersonal abilities, fosters collaboration and constructive dialogue among colleagues, stakeholders, and community. He is especially adept at navigating complex issues, listening attentively to diverse perspectives, and making well-informed decisions that serve the best interests of the community and organizations that he represents. This level of discernment and aloha is particularly critical to such a position at such a level in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of Alapaki Nahale-a being confirmed as Board of Regent for the University of Hawai‘i.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:34:34 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Shum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a current student at UH, I have a complete lack of trust in this candiate. Under his tenior as a regent, student resident halls have fallen into disrepair. Now he is the chair of the regents and have been absent from his duties.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:38:31 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayna Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this nomination as this candidate wouldn't be a good fit

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:47:46 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makai Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Alapaki Nahale'a being confirmed to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:21:16 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Shim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Alapaki Nahale-a to be considered to the UH Board of Regents. In the last 4 years, Mr. Nahale-a hasn't done anything to improve the University. It is shocking how Mr. Nahale-a willfully neglected his duties specially with regards to keeping the University President accountable espeically for issues such as student resident halls. He is now being considered for chair of the Regents and I have no confidence tha the University will success under his leadership.

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Date: February 27, 2024
Committee: Senate Higher Education Committee
Re: GM 597, Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee,
ALAPAKI NAHALE-A

Aloha!

I am writing in support of Alapaki Nahale-a to serve as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and small business owner who resides in Honolulu. I have earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Hawai'i and therefore care deeply about it and its ability to shape the future of our state.

I have worked closely, sometimes on a daily or weekly basis, with Alapaki for more than 15 years. In his role as a charter school leader and later as the executive director of the charter schools' collective organization, and mine as an advocate for charter school funding and policies at the state legislature, we shared our love for public education in Hawai'i. In nearly every job and role we have had since then, our professional paths have intersected. In every case, I have had the highest degree of respect for his integrity and vision. Alapaki is insightful, diligent and community-oriented. He has a long history of educational leadership. I vividly recall a speech he gave at a Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, speaking about the challenges of promoting culture-based education. The audience was filled with hundreds of attendees. Tears formed into the corners of my eyes as Alapaki spoke about the impact of education on every individual's life and our collective future. We leapt to give him a standing ovation. I truly believe that Alapaki exemplifies every good trait that we need in leader at the Board of Regents.

Please favorably approve his nomination.

SHAN S. TSUTSUI

12th Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii

Testimony of
Shan S. Tsutsui

Before the Senate Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

1:45 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Video Conference

In Support of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 597

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alapaki Nahale-a, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I write in support of Governor's Message 597, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alapaki Nahale-a, for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

As a former Hawaii State Senate President and Lieutenant Governor, I have worked with Mr. Nahale-a in his previous capacity as Chair of the Hawaii State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

It is my hope today that Mr. Nahale-a is confirmed for a second term so that he may continue to guide the Board of Regents as they pursue evidence-based decision-making no matter where it leads, select a new system president, and ensure that the university system remains committed to its statewide vision and purpose while educating and protecting our most valuable asset, the next generation of leaders. The University of Hawaii system is critical to the holistic well-being of our state and Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:35:47 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill L Nunokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate's Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Jill Nunokawa and I am writing as a concerned and committed community member.

I am in strong OPPOSITION to GM 597 regarding the re appointment of Alapaki Nahale-a. During his first five year term, the student dorms have gone to shambles, there have been blatant Title IX violations in athletics and the system President/Chancellor of Manoa/PI on huge DOD contracts has been allowed to run the board without proper oversight, intervention and implementation/enforcement of fiduciary duties by the Board of Regents.

Also, since he has assumed the title of BOR Chair, he consistently cuts off the female board of regent members, whether unconscious, implicit bias or intentional, and allows certain male board of regent members to talk indefinitely, which extends board meetings and subjects students, faculty and community members to an onslaught of personal opinions and political rhetoric, as well as bullying and intimidation tactics.

I know the Senate cares about board governance at the University of Hawaii. It is imperative to confirm regents who act independently, with integrity and conscious regard for students, faculty and community and who do not condone or allow bullying and intimidation of free speech.

Therefore, in order to truly appoint regents who have the necessary character, temperament, integrity and honesty this committee must vote NO on GM 597.

Thank you all for your time, consideration and continued support of the University of Hawaii.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:38:21 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Collin Mansanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of Alapaki Nahale-a's confirmation to the board of regents. The current state of student housing on campus is my primary concern, ensuring livable conditions for students directly impacts their educational potential. I sincerely hope that Alapaki and his fellow members will prioritize student housing if he is confirmed.

Thank you.

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:53:43 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Chew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and committee,

I submit testimony in opposition of Alapaki Nahalea's confirmation to the board of regents. This is due to the lack of demonstrable action to hold the University Administration accountable. The current state of student housing is a prime example. The inability of Alapaki to hold the University Administration accountable for performance, both positive and negative, is my primary concern.

Thank you

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:59:58 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support the confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:49:02 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kū'ike Kamakea-Ohelo

41-272 Huli street

Waimānalo HI, 96795.

Kuike.farmaloha@gmail.com

808-389-3165

Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i

Subject: Support Letter for Gubernatorial Nominee, Alapaki Nahale-A

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the gubernatorial nominee, Alapaki Nahale-A, for a position on the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. As a member of the university community and a concerned citizen, I believe that Mr. Nahale-A's extensive experience, exceptional leadership skills, and commitment to education make him an ideal candidate for this important role.

Having closely followed Mr. Nahale-A's career and his contributions to the community, I am impressed by his deep understanding of the challenges faced by the education system in Hawai'i. His passion for promoting equitable access to quality education and his commitment to fostering

an inclusive and diverse environment align perfectly with the values and goals of the University of Hawai'i.

Throughout his career, Mr. Nahale-A has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills. His previous roles at the 'Iole Global Resilience Hub, Kamehameha Schools and Hawaiian Home Lands Trust have allowed him to develop a keen sense of strategic planning, fiscal management, and policy implementation. These skills will undoubtedly prove invaluable in advocating for the needs and interests of the university and its stakeholders.

Furthermore, Mr. Nahale-A's commitment to collaboration and community engagement is commendable. He has a proven track record of building strong partnerships with various stakeholders, including faculty members, students, administrators, and community organizations. His ability to bring diverse voices together and foster a spirit of cooperation will be instrumental in addressing the complex challenges that the University of Hawai'i faces in today's ever-changing landscape.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Nahale-A is known for his integrity, empathy, and dedication to public service. He possesses the qualities of a compassionate and effective leader who will prioritize the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. His inclusive approach and willingness to listen to different perspectives will ensure that the Board of Regents makes informed decisions that benefit the entire university community.

Considering all these factors, I wholeheartedly support Mr. Alapaki Nahale-A's nomination for the position of a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. I am confident that his experience, expertise, and commitment to education will greatly contribute to the advancement and success of our esteemed university.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to support Mr. Nahale-A's nomination, as his appointment would undoubtedly benefit the University of Hawai'i and the wider community.

Sincerely,

Kū'ike Kamakea-Ohelo

41-272 Huli street

Waimānalo HI, 96795.

Kuike.farmaloha@gmail.com

808-389-3165

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee

I submit testimony in opposition of Alapaki Nahale-a's confirmation to the board of regents. Due to the lack of demonstrable action to hold the University Administration accountable. The current state of student housing is a prime example. The inability of Alapaki to hold the University Administration accountable for performance, both positive and negative, is my primary concern. Ultimately I hope that Alapaki will make positive changes if he is confirmed.

Thank you

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:48:25 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Baldado	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have concerns on our UH Hilo campus

I'm not sure who to voice my concerns to.

The old dorms is terrible from building to landscaping but right up the road is Imiloa beautiful landscape I don't know the difference. The new dorms are terrible lighting is bad

The grounds is not maintained

There are bushes by the back of the dorms. The students need to walk across a dangerous street for their meals

Not sure who is responsible for this. But I've been to a campus on the mainland where it's well maintained and safe . Food places accessible for the students to eat

Parking is a problem but there's about 5-6 vans parked that looks like it does not run .

What can I do as a parent of a student that attends UH ?

Thank you

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:21:43 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Lei Kaponu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of Alapaki Nahale-a for reappointment as a UH Regent. He has a rare breadth of experience in education across P-20 and beyond.

Monday, February 26th, 2024

LATE

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Higher Education
From: Lennie Espinoza

Opposition to the Approval of Alapaki Nahale-a as a UH Regent.

Saludo Chair Mercado Kim, and honorable members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Lennie Espinoza and I am a community leader and alumni of UH Hilo. Graduating in 2023, I was a dormer at Hale Ikena F204 and F303 from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. I am writing in opposition of Chair Alapaki Nahale-a being confirmed into the UH Board of Regents, and request that the Higher Education Committee vote against his appointment. Through first hand experience as a UHH student, I firmly believe that as a Hawai'i County Regent, Nahale-a has done nothing of significance that can be felt by the UHH student body, and has remained silent when confronted by the issues faced by students across campus.

Despite his many years working in community engagement and resources, Hawai'i county regent Nahale-a shows very little passion about the quality and quantity of resources accessible to students on UHH campus. Our laundry mats are constantly having issues, and the Hale Ikena dryers do not work. My roommates and I began going out in town to do our laundry, paying more for gas and public transport as well as spending more time away from our studies. Our appliances are rusted and quite literally falling apart, with paint chips and rust dust covering our kitchen floors. Along with black mold in our bathrooms that housing has told us "they can't do anything about", I believe it is time we have regents who care enough about the **health** and **wellbeing** of students to delegate time, initiative, and funding to the living conditions we pay to live in.

Within my 4 semesters living on campus, as well as at this very moment, students are being consistently **displaced** and moved around the dorms due to plumbing and electricity issues. In the middle of semesters, we are having to pack our things and move due to flooding and power outages. The following are images sent to me by a peer and member of Ngelekel Belau Club, who has had to relocate dorms with no answer regarding refunds or support as of 02/08/24. This impacted his school work, as well as practice for UH Hilo's beloved annual International Night:



Lastly, as a 2 spirit LGBTQIA+ community member and activist, the lack of respect and support there is for queer students across campus and housing is disgusting. We are placed with genders that we do not identify with or are isolated due to the university “not knowing what to do with us”. We are **dead-named**, **misgendered**, and consistently **disrespected** by both student staff and administration. Despite Chris Holland’s lies during the last Board of Regents meeting (02/15), UHH and UHH housing is well aware of the issues 2STGNC+ UHH students face when housing on campus and working with UH staff. I, as well as my transgender siblings on campus, have brought up our issues **repeatedly**, going to Chris Holland, UHHSA, and the Office of Equal Opportunity on many separate occasions.

As a UHH alumni, I find myself hesitant to show pride in my school due to the lack of care the board of regents and UH leadership as a whole show for our student body. As the Higher Education Committee, the treatment of students, who are the heart and soul of the University of Hawai‘i, should be of utmost importance to you. We deserve attentive, active leaders, and Chair Alapaki Nahale-a has proven he does not fulfill this need. I hope you all listen to the voices of UH students, and choose a regent who stands for the values, needs, and identities of **all** past, current, and future students. Thank you.

- Lennie Espinoza

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:26:28 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Malia Warrington	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do NOT support the confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A.

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:54:36 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Montserrat Montanes i Arbo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

do NOT support the confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A.

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:45:23 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am concerned about Interim Regent Nahale-a's transparency and independence from the current UH administration.

LATE

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Higher Education

Opposition to Approving Interim Hawai'i County Regent Alapaki Nahale-a as a UH Regent

Aloha mai kākou e Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Kyla-Marie K.T. Kauhahao and I am a graduate student of UH Hilo. I am writing in opposition to the Alapaki Nahale-a being approved to the UH Board of Regents, and am requesting the Higher Education Committee to vote against his appointment. It is in my belief and experience that as a Hawai'i Country Regent, Nahale-a hasn't paid enough attention to the students' needs, safety, and well-being. UH Hilo Housing is somewhat of a mess, as I have presented on record in front of the Board of Regents at their February 15th Regent meeting at the Daniel K. Inouye Pharmacy College where I spoke on behalf of a friend's experience and my concerns in regard to such negligence of student dormers. Nahale-a has done nothing of significance that has positively impacted students at UH Hilo in his time being here, especially post-covid and when presented with problems that students face, he has either remained silent, or not taken student concerns as significant enough to act.

This opposition is not an attack on his character, I want that to be clear. I am very grateful to his support in the community as a community member. However, in his role as a interim regent and chair, he has not shown much regard for the students in Hawai'i County, especially when they raise their voices about what is going on in UH Housing or equality issues regarding minority and LGBTQIA2S+ students. We as the students are the people who the Board of Regents should be serving and striving to listen to. And yet, this has not be reflected to us students.

Hawai'i County is large and the UH system is deeply imbedded into the reality of our communities. We in Hawai'i County need a regent who is going to listen to the community and its own students, faculty, and staff about the type of future we want as a system, especially in regards to equality issues, climate change, military affiliation/divestment from the military, community-engaged research, and equal opportunities. A regent who can stand firm for their

students in the face of opposing ideas, opinions, and agendas in order to clearly and honestly represent all of the voices brought before them. The last regent meeting had shown this through the location alone. Why was the Board of Regents meeting up at the Pharmacy College, where most of the student body at UH Hilo does not access? Why hold it during school hours when most students have classes? And why was there barely any student or townhalls in which students could have access to the Regents after class hours? As should we deserve and demand better from all of our regents, but especially from UH Hilo students, we deserve better from our Hawai'i County Regent.

It is my sincere hope that Governor Green, the Chair, Vice Chair, and all the honorable members of the Higher Education Committee will hear the voices of the students in which the UH serves, and will be able to choose a Regent who reflects the hopes and ideals of a University that listens to the voices of its students, faculty, and staff of not only Hawai'i County, but Hawai'i as a whole. We hope for a Regent who is able to stand firm in the vision of the future, a future that is forward thinking about the future students of the University of Hawai'i. As a graduate student whose heart is from, in, for, and serves Hawai'i County, I hope you will all listen to my voice.

Mahalo for your consideration and time,

Kyla-Marie K.T. Kauhailhao

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:24:56 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I *oppose* the confirmation of Regent Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents based on a poor voting record.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Hannah Hartmann

Pāpa'ikou, 96781

University of Hawai'i Alumni '23

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:25:48 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Doktor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senate Higher Education committee,

This is in regards to confirming three Regents including Regent Abercrombie ([GM 596](#)), and Regent Nahale-a ([GM 597](#)). With no shocker, I testify as UH-Mānoa alumni in support in calling for Regent Abercrombie to not be confirmed to the Board of Regents

Moreover, I am advocating for Nahale-a's removal due to conflicts of interest. As Chair he has not enforced on those who defend the administration or provide agendas in transparent manner.

Mahalo nui for your advocacy,

Pete Doktor

Moanalua

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:15:52 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marti Townsend	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Student leaders currently enrolled at the University of Hawai'i asked for my support in opposing the confirmation of Alapaki Nahale-a to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents. The students have evaluated his service as a Regent over the last 5 years and their assessment is far from stellar. They have found that Mr. Nahale-a works against transparency and openness in Regent business. He controls the agenda, which limits the ability of other Regents to provide effective oversight of the University. His meeting management style favors men over women in the discussions and does not foster a culture of open, honest discussion or collaborative problem solving.

In my experience as an advocate-student while at UH Law School, I have found that close working relationships between regents and the university administrators are ripe for abuse and exploitation for personal gain and undermines the best interests of students, faculty, and residents. The Regents should provide a check on the decisions made by the administration, not a shield or a lubricant for actions that the beneficiaries of this institution would otherwise oppose.

Lastly, as a mother preparing to send a child to college, I am deeply dismayed at the state of the student and faculty housing at our flagship university. Mr. Nahale-a has been a Regent for five years. In that time, his leadership has seen millions of dollars come to the University and hardly any investment in the fundamental necessities of the University, such as the housing. University housing is falling apart. What has this Regent done to address this longstanding failure?

Thank you this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to the appointment of Alapaki Nahale-a to the Board of Regents.

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 2:47:28 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Marbella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO to GM597

LATE

GM-597

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:23:20 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/27/2024 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

do NOT support the confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALAPAKI NAHALE-A