

Keith Yoshitaka Amemiya

I'm seeking a University of Hawaii Board of Regents position because I have a passion for serving our communities and doing what I can to make Hawaii a better place for everyone, especially our younger generations. In particular, I have a passion for education, as a strong educational system with opportunities for all is critical to any successful and thriving society.

I was born and raised in Hawaii, and am a proud U.H. graduate with two degrees (U.H.-Manoa, BBA (Finance) and William S. Richardson School of Law (J.D.).

I began my professional career as a litigation attorney and quickly became involved with the Hawaii State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, which serves as the HSBA's community service arm. As the YLD's President, I oversaw programs such as the statewide High School Mock Trial Competition and Legal Lines (volunteer attorney hotline). Also, in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Action Center, I spearheaded the first-ever production of a video on the Temporary Restraining Order process for domestic violence victims.

I next became the Hawaii High School Athletic Association's Executive Director, where I oversaw the athletic programs of all 95 high schools and their 33,000+ student-athletes statewide. As the HHSAA's Executive Director, I often visited all 95 high schools and regularly met with their principals, other administrators, athletic directors, coaches, parents, and student-athletes. I also regularly met with Governors, Mayors, legislators, our congressional delegation, City Councilmembers and County officials, U.H. athletics administrators, coaches, and employees, and business leaders statewide. Through these opportunities, I got to know every community across the state and their respective leaders well, including their issues and concerns.

During my HHSAA tenure, we more than doubled the number of state championships such that Hawaii had the most state championships of any state in the country. We also more than doubled the amount of sports opportunities for smaller schools and female student-athletes in particular so that college opportunities for all of our student-athletes reached all-time highs. Additionally, we raised significant sums of money to support high school athletic programs statewide, including our neighbor island high schools.

Next, and importantly in terms of my application to become a Regent, I was selected to be the BOR's Executive Administrator and Secretary. As BOR Secretary, I helped prepare for and run the monthly BOR meetings, participated in weekly consult meetings with the U.H. President and the BOR Chair and Vice Chair, and worked closely with and regularly with all of the Regents. Similarly, I worked closely with the U.H. President and her executive team, as well as the Chancellors of the 10 campuses. Moreover, I visited all 10 campuses regularly and worked in U.H.-Manoa's Bachman Hall, where most of the U.H. System leadership was located at the time.

Following my U.H. BOR Office tenure, I became an executive at Island Holdings, one of the State's largest locally owned companies. I gained private sector experience and successfully oversaw two of Island Holdings' subsidiaries, Atlas Insurance Agency and Pacxa, achieve record revenue and profitability numbers.

Currently, I'm Central Pacific Bank's Senior Vice President of Community Relations, where I'm again able to work with and in communities statewide to support their respective residents and businesses, particularly those in need and those that serve our most vulnerable populations. Also, during my tenure at CPB, I've worked closely with and supported various U.H. causes such as the College Opportunities Program, PACE, UHERO, the Shidler College of Business, the William S. Richardson School of Law, U.H. Maui College, and U.H. Athletics. Indeed, U.H. is one of the top CPB beneficiaries in terms of total grant amounts provided annually.

Last, above and beyond my professional experience, I've served on numerous statewide education-based Boards and Commissions:

- Hawaii State Board of Education
- Teach for America
- Assets School
- The Learning Coalition
- Hawaii High School Athletic Association
- Advisory Commission on Gender Equity in Athletics

In sum, I have a passion for the University of Hawaii and higher education, I have direct experience with and knowledge of the U.H. System, the BOR Office, and the Regents themselves, I have extensive public, private, and non-profit sector executive leadership experience, and I have worked with and in our communities statewide throughout my career.