

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026, 1:00 PM

GM695 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL NEDBAL, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030

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

On behalf of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH), I am in strong support of Governor Green's appointment of Michael Nedbal, Ph.D. to the RCUH Board of Directors. Dr. Nedbal currently serves as Vice President of Operations and Facility Security Officer (FSO) for Makai Ocean Engineering, an innovative ocean technology and engineering firm based in Waimanalo. Dr. Nedbal has worked for Makai Ocean Engineering for 25 years and focuses on finding creative technological solutions while meeting regulatory requirements. He is familiar with the obstacles and compliance requirements relating to federal contracts and would provide a valuable perspective with his experience from the private sector. Additionally, Dr. Nedbal has board-level expertise in corporate governance and executive oversight, strategic planning, research operations, and organizational stewardship.

In addition to his role at Makai Ocean Engineering, Dr. Nedbal serves as President for the Aloha Industrial Security Awareness Council (ISAC) and President for the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. He also has experience as a Co-Principal Investigator on National Science Foundation research projects. As for his educational background, Dr. Nedbal received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his Doctorate of Philosophy in Genetics from Texas A&M University.

I truly believe that Mr. Nedbal's guidance will help RCUH further its mission of supporting research, development, and training in Hawai'i. His familiarity with the research landscape will make him a valuable asset and I respectfully encourage the committee to approve his appointment.

Sincerely,



Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director