

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

GM802 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DAVID KARL, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029

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 David Karl, Ph.D. to the RCUH Board of Directors. Dr. Karl is internationally recognized as a pioneering leader in the field of microbial oceanography and has dedicated decades of service to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As the Victor and Peggy Brandstrom Pavel Professor of Microbial Oceanography and Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE), he has built and led world-class research programs that have elevated Hawai'i's global standing in ocean and climate science. His ability to build partnerships, steward resources, and guide impactful research programs aligns closely with the mission and operational scope of RCUH.

Dr. Karl's tenure at the University of Hawai'i has spanned more than 40 years and his institutional knowledge has been invaluable to both UH and RCUH. He has been a reviewer for national peer-reviewed scientific journals throughout his career and retains membership in both national and local professional societies. As an individual who has completed more than 70 oceanographic cruises, he is more than aware of both the technical and administrative challenges that researchers can face in academia. Throughout his time on the RCUH Board of Directors, Dr. Karl has also been a vocal advocate for both RCUH employees and UH Principal Investigators, whether it's questioning policy or supporting a procedural change that benefits UH researchers.

In summary, Dr. Karl's combination of scientific expertise, visionary leadership, and deep commitment to Hawai'i's research enterprise will help RCUH further its mission of supporting research, development, and training in Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Leonard R. Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
THE HONORABLE DONNA KIM, CHAIR, AND THE HON. MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR
17 April 2026
Dylan P. Armstrong (*Individual Capacity*)

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

Thank you for considering my support of David Karl for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) Board of Directors, via Governor's Message 802.

The RCUH is under-recognized by the public in terms of scope and impact. Its work is necessary to government's full function, including the University of Hawai'i as well as the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which is under-budgeted on both land and sea.

- Dr. Karl has been a leading pillar of SOEST, which is reputable worldwide and attracts students internationally. Additionally, there is great connectivity between the research and science activities of UH-SOEST and RCUH, with many research projects staffed by RCUH through the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. As a CTAHR graduate, I proudly took SOEST course electives to strengthen my scientific knowledge.
- His prestigious career in scholarly research and writing merits consideration. He co-edited the book on Biogeochemistry by Princeton University's illustrious earth systems scientist Heinrich Holland, who passed away in 2012. Dr. Karl has also conducted extensive peer review of academic research articles, in addition to the many he has authored.
- Decades of research and international collaboration has lent itself to Dr. Karl's extensive awards and fellowships. He has been elected to both the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Science. These are high honors.
- The Scripps Institution of Oceanography where Dr. Karl obtained his Ph.D is the most prestigious oceanographic center in the United States. I know it firsthand as a former La Jolla resident. who once aspired to attending UCSD and studying there. One of Dr. Karl's other alma maters, Florida State University, is also a landmark oceanographic institution.

I am not acquainted with Dr. Karl personally. He is well familiar to me by reputation and through his association with these noteworthy scientists and institutions.

As your Committee considers Hawai'i's strategic future, where the islands are a stronghold for oceanographic research and commerce and naval supremacy in a multi-polar world, expertise such as Dr. Karl's can be of great use, to help direct institutions like RCUH.

Mahalo nui loa,
DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG
Individual Capacity