



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
August 30, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

by
David Lassner
President, University of Hawai'i
WRITTEN ONLY

GM 34 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission For Higher Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Colleen Sathre, for a term to expire 6-30-2021.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 34 and the appointment of Dr. Colleen Sathre to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Dr. Sathre for nearly 30 years and worked closely with her at the University of Hawai'i for nearly 20 years, until her retirement. More recently we have served together as two of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners. I can assure you that she is an excellent, dedicated and respected Commissioner and would continue as such if reappointed.

Dr. Sathre has spent her entire career in public service, giving back to her community through her commitment to education. Her passion and dedication for increasing higher education opportunity for all students was clearly demonstrated through her 27 years of progressively responsible service to UH culminating in her vice presidency. In addition, she served as higher education planning consultant for the Consortium of Pacific Education, past board member of the Hawai'i Organization of Women Leaders, and service for a term as the coordinator of the Hawai'i Network of the American Council on Education's National Identification Program for Women in Academic Administration.

I am confident that Dr. Sathre would continue to work diligently for the collective good of the 15 members of WICHE on the vast range of educational challenges and opportunities we all face. Dr. Sathre understands first-hand the need for creative and thoughtful solutions to hard problems, and knows what it takes to implement strategic initiatives at scale. These characteristics, and her extensive experience working with Boards in both the public and non-profit sectors, will enable Dr. Sathre to continue to serve with distinction. She is an articulate and steadfast representative of Hawai'i and would serve our State well in a continuing role as one of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 34 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Dr. Colleen Sathre's nomination to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

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

My name is Hae Okimoto, and I am the Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, at the University of Hawai‘i. I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in wholehearted support of the Governor’s nominee, Dr. Colleen Sathre, for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for the State of Hawai‘i.

I have had the privilege and honor to have known Dr. Sathre both professionally and as a friend, for almost 20 years. During her tenure at UH, Dr. Sathre dedicated her career to increasing higher education opportunity for all students and contributed to her community through her work in education. She was an excellent and devoted administrator and now exhibits those traits as a current WICHE Commissioner.

I believe that Dr. Sathre would continue to work for the good of WICHE. Dr. Sathre understands and appreciates the need for thinking outside the box to resolve tough problems, and is open and willing to work for the collaborative good of the commission.

I respectfully encourage the committee to recommend advise and consent for Dr. Sathre, as commissioner for WICHE.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support of GM 34.