

GM 547

Testimony –

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, DAVID IHA, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
DIRECTOR

RANDY BALDEMOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

April 14, 2015

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS**

For Hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 2015
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 211

BY

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Governor's Message No. 547
Consideration & Confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
Gubernatorial Nominee, David Iha

CHAIRPERSON BRIAN TANIGUCHI AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS:

I strongly support the nomination and confirmation of David Iha to serve as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Mr. Iha has served in the University of Hawai'i System in various departments and capacities for a number of years. He has been instrumental in the development of programs, curriculum and administration.

Mr. Iha continues to passionately serve the communities of Kaua'i, the University of Hawai'i and the State of Hawaii. Mr. Iha's commitment to these communities will bring tremendous experience and knowledge to the Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of David Iha's nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: lputnam45@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM547 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 6:13:34 AM

GM547

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for HEA on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Putnam	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: David Iha served with distinction in several important positions through a long career at the University of Hawaii. He has deep knowledge of the programs and challenges throughout the system. He also has a strong record of community involvement and is widely recognized as trustworthy. David Iha will no doubt be an outstanding Regent.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony in support of GM 547: David Iha to the Board of Regents

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

April 15, 2015 @ 1:30pm

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 211

To: Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, HI 96819
amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani, I am the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity at UH Manoa but do not represent UH. I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. David Iha as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i. Mr. Iha received his graduate degree from UH and has served UH in many administrative roles, including secretary to the BOR. He has demonstrated excellence in leadership and brings understanding and expertise to issues facing UH.

As part of my responsibilities at UH and my community service, I have had the honor to observe and work with Mr. Iha on UH and community activities. We both served on the board of the Hawaii Community Foundation, the largest foundation in Hawaii. He was a very valued member of the HCF board because he had expertise in budgets, program management and an extensive network of community contacts in many sectors of our state. His community work is very valuable to UH's outreach and service to the community.

In my decades of work at UH Manoa, I have had the opportunity to work with many administrators. I would like to take this public opportunity to thank Mr. Iha for his leadership and management as a UH administrator. He has always been open and supportive of my efforts to increase the number and success of underrepresented groups and support community partnerships.

I am confident that Mr. Iha will be able to utilize his experience and qualifications to benefit UH and our state as a member of the Board of Regent. He has a deep appreciation of higher education and UH issues and resources. I respectfully ask you to confirm his nomination as a Regent.

10 April 2015

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 547

Governor Ige's Nomination of **David Iha** to Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i

Dear Mr. Taniguchi and Committee Members:

As the chief executive and spiritual head of the United Church of Christ (UCC) in Hawai'i, I have known David Iha for over twelve years in several roles and capacities he has served, and I am strongly supportive of his nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.

Mr. Iha, his wife, Shirley, and his family have been long-time and active members of Lihue Christian Church on Kaua'i. Mr. Iha has sung in the choir for many years and has served in every leadership capacity of that church, including several stints as the Moderator, equivalent to the president of a board. He is a servant-leader in the best sense of the word, deeply faithful and loving, selfless and self-effacing.

Mr. Iha has also served in leadership roles in the wider church, including the Kaua'i Association, made up of the 13 UCC churches on the island. Currently, he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Hawai'i Conference UCC Council, which is the board or governing body of the UCC denomination here in the islands, composed of over 130 churches on six islands. In addition, he is a trustee of our Hawai'i Conference Foundation and the chair of its Investment Committee.

In all of these roles, Mr. Iha has brought to bear his experience, wisdom and knowledge and helped the church, Kaua'i Association and Hawai'i Conference deal with governance, organizational, administrative and financial issues. I personally have found Mr. Iha to be always well-prepared for meetings. And in meetings and with people, he is fully present and is a thoughtful and reflective listener. He is patient and kind in hearing all sides and from all people on an issue or matter. He asks relevant and revealing questions. And he helps facilitate or negotiate solutions that are fair, make sense and serve the whole.

As active as Mr. Iha is, I know that he does not take his commitments or responsibilities lightly. I have personally witnessed that he has never accepted a position, appointment or nomination without having given it much thought and prayer and after thorough discussion with his wife and family. Even with this current nomination as a Regent, he called me with great concern about

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson
10 April 2015
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how it would affect his ability to serve the United Church of Christ. For this reason, I am confident that should he be confirmed, he will take to heart, and with great passion, his charge from the State of Hawai'i to serve all the stakeholders of the University of Hawai'i system, a cause and institution for which he has much aloha. And I am confident that those who have served alongside Mr. Iha in the Hawai'i Conference share my support of his nomination to, and believe that he is eminently qualified for, this important office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Buck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles Buck
Conference Minister

From: [Clyde Kodani](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM - 547
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 2:25:19 PM

Chair Brian Taniguchi, and Members of the Higher Ed Committee –

RE: GM – 547 (DAVID IHA – NOMINEE FOR U.H. BOARD OF REGENTS)

Please accept this email as my testimony in **SUPPORT** of Mr. David Iha for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I've known David when he served as Provost for Kauai Community College, then as Secretary to the Board of Regents. Mr. Iha has the passion and the utmost respect for the University of Hawaii, and especially it's Student Body.

With his background in financing, and experience with the inner workings of the University, Mr. Iha will be a tremendous asset to the University's Board of Regents, and I ask that you confirm his nomination to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Clyde T. Kodani
President, Kodani and Assoc. Engineers, LLC.
Lihue, Kauai
(Emeritus Regent)

From: [Jan TenBruggencate](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 547, David Iha for Board of Regents
Date: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 2:24:28 PM

Testimony in support of GM 547, the nomination of David Iha as the Kaua`i County member of the Board of Regents.

Aloha Sen. Taniguchi and members of the committee.

I would like to add my voice in support of naming David Iha to the University of Hawai`i Board of Regents.

There are few individuals in the state more qualified, given his long years of service to the university and directly to the Board of Regents before his retirement.

I have known David Iha for many years, starting when I was a Honolulu Advertiser reporter covering educational issues and he was chancellor at Kauai Community College. Currently, we both serve on the board of the Kaua`i Island Utility Cooperative, where I have found David to be quiet, thorough, and respected by his peers.

His calm temperament and commitment to public service are assets that would be of great value to our university system.

--Jan TenBruggencate

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Jan TenBruggencate
Island Strategy LLC
jan@islandstrategy.com
cell: 808-639-9900
land: 808-245-7825

Jean B. Navarro
PO Box 1459
Honoka'a, HI 96727
Kalopa51@aol.com 808-938-7512

April 8, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

RE: Reference for Mr. Wayne Higaki for UH Board of Regents

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi,

I first met Wayne Higaki when we both served on the Hamakua-Kohala Community Health Center Board and worked closely with him for six years as he mentored me into the Board President position.

This was a time period of huge changes in health care, in particular funding, and the need for expansion of the scope of services at the same time. Wayne was able to guide us through that first wave of uncomfortable but needed change and kept the Health Center upright.

Since then, Wayne has had many other opportunities to show his strong leadership skills when change was in the wind, most recently with the North Hawai'i Community Hospital where he serves as the Director of Development. I observed him on many occasions keep his integrity and sense of fairness in place during heated turmoil at community meetings and constant changes in leadership at the hospital.

In addition Wayne has served on committees with Workforce Development and the Disability Enhancement Initiative where our paths crossed again because of my position with the Arc of Kona, which includes placing persons with a diagnosis of a disability into competitive employment. Again, Wayne sees the bigger vision, and can maneuver through changes professionally to the benefit of many.

I am fortunate to be a Casual Instructor for UH Hilo teaching Basic Grant Writing for Non Profits and Caregiving Certification. The eight years that I have been an Instructor for UH has brought to my attention the many challenges that lie ahead for Hawai'i as we address important issues in education including funding, quality and rigor of coursework, the development new and relevant degrees and an environment that allows local students the ability to learn, succeed and work in a career of their choice without moving away from home, family, and the beautiful values that we treasure.

I believe that Wayne himself is an example of how someone from the local community can make significant contributions that lead to positive outcomes for others.

I want to highly recommend Wayne Higaki to you for the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents knowing that he will be making decisions for all of our futures with the best intentions for everyone concerned.

If you desire more information please email me at the address above.

Most Sincerely Submitted,

Jean B. Navarro

Arc of Kona Vice President for Programs and Vocational Services

UH Hilo Casual Instructor, College of Continuing Education and Community Service

From: [Teofilo Tacbian](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: David Iha for Board of Regents, University of Hawaii, GM547
Date: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:50:52 PM

Aloha Senators,

David Iha spent all of his career in the field of Education, more in Higher Education. He has demonstrated his concern for the community and the Institution that he serves throughout his career. He was part of the team that built the Kauai Community College in Puhi. He served as Provost of the Community College and continued to improve the campus as well as added new curriculum to meet the needs of the students here on Kauai.

I've served with him for 9 years on the Board of Directors at Kauai Island Utility Cooperative where he demonstrated a well balanced approach to issues concerning the Coop. He showed good leadership skills when he headed the committee that drafted the Strategic Plan for KIUC making us one of the leading Utilities in the Country in Renewable Energy.

He will represent us well on the Board of Regents. Kauai needs someone like David Iha to represent us on the Board. I humbly ask for your confirmation of his nomination.

Mahalo,

Teofilo Phil Tacbian, Chairman Emeritus & Director
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee St. Suite 1
Lihue Hawaii 96766
Phone: 808-651-3683

From: [Shigemoto, Tom at Kukui"ula](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: [David Iha \(davidiha58@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: GM 547
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:02:14 PM

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson, Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts,
Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I am honored to present this testimony in full support of Mr. David Iha to the U.H. Board of Regents. In Mr. Iha, Governor Ige has made an excellent choice to serve as Kauai's representative on this prestigious, educational board. I have known David for as long as I can remember, first as a youngster growing up on the same island reading and hearing about his prowess as a scholar athlete at Kauai High School, then later his accolades at Wheaton where he excelled as it's quarterback for four years. It's not only about his athletic abilities that set this great man apart from other folks. His bio and list of accomplishments speak volumes for they kind of person the University will be getting. He is a thoughtful, kind, considerate individual who understands the role and responsibilities of the University system, having served as its executive administrator for eight years. With this experience he certainly understands the nuances and the challenges the University faces and I believe truly believes in the University and what it means to the students on Kauai and in the state. He also served as a Provost for the Kauai Community College and building the foundation for the various programs that are so important to student's futures.

I have served with David on our Lihue Christian Church Board of Trustees, have been his supporter during his term as moderator and as he continues as a tireless servant of the Lord. He is a very devout leader and has a leadership style which galvanizes rather than polarizes people. It's the same with his leadership of the KIUC board and why he continues to be re-elected to that very important board.

I implore you and your committee members to approve David's appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. You will not be disappointed. Thank you. Aloha.

Tom Shigemoto

From: [Yoshimitsu Higa](#)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: [Yoshimitsu David Iha](#)
Subject: GM547
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 4:31:12 PM

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chairperson, Hawai'i Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

I am extremely honored and pleased to submit this letter supporting Dr. Yoshimitsu David Iha's nomination to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents by The Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i.

It has been my privilege the past 25 years to enjoy a close association and friendship with Dr. David Iha. It began when he came to visit the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan, as a member of the delegation from Hawai'i led by Emeritus Regent Edward Kuba. David Iha, then Provost of Kaua'i Community College and I, then Dean of the Junior College of the University of the Ryukyus, entered into a sister university agreement in 1991. We initiated an International Study Tour Program for the first time at KCC, a resounding success thanks to the College's genuine spirit of aloha hospitality. It amazes me that this elective program is still continuing with Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing and with Okinawa Christian University, and that it has even fostered the exchange of faculty and curricula from University of Hawai'i at Manoa's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I attribute this success to Dr. David Iha's committed leadership. For his dedication and contributions to international higher education, University of the Ryukyus bestowed him an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in 2003.

To have worked with him these many years has been my good fortune. To have known him and his family has been one of my best pleasures. His administration of academic institutions is without peer, but it is his clarity of vision, breadth of compassion and devotion to public service that will well guide the University of Hawai'i. Indeed, I strongly recommend Dr. Yoshimitsu David Iha to its Board of Regents.

Respectfully,

Yoshimitsu Higa, Ed.D.
Emeritus Professor of University of the Ryukyus
Recipient of Emperor's Order of the Sacred Treasure