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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM550 on Apr 15, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 2:01:39 PM

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**GM550**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gilbert C. Doles	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, Please consider this letter in strong support for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, SIMEON ACOBA, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2017. Justice Acoba is eminently qualified to continue to serve as a Regent and should be allowed to continue in such capacity for the appointed term. He has much aloha for the University of Hawaii! Without any reservations, I fully support Justice Acoba's appointment and urge your committee and the full Senate to consent and approve him as well. Thank you, Gilbert C. Doles

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.

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April 15, 2015

### VIA FACSIMILE

Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Governor's Message No. 550**  
**SIMEON ACOBA, JR.**, nomination to the **Board of Regents of the**  
**University of Hawaii**  
Hearing Set for Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 1:30 PM, Conference Room  
211

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members:

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, I submit the following testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Simeon Acoba, Jr. to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. I have known Justice Acoba since I clerked for him in 2001-2002, and I cannot say enough about him or his professionalism, knowledge, commitment to public service, hard work, and ability to inspire others to do the right thing.

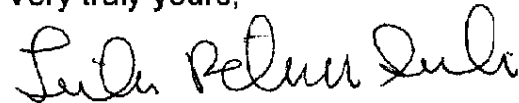
I first met when I clerked for him at the Hawaii Supreme Court. I was always impressed with his commitment to the law and to making sure that decisions of the Hawaii Supreme Court were well thought out and reasonable. In service to that commitment, Justice Acoba always gave 100%, often waking up before dawn to leave voicemail messages to us clerks regarding an opinion we were working on. I was also impressed with how smart Justice Acoba is and how thoroughly he understood the issues before him. Justice Acoba consistently displayed a deep sense of integrity, allowing his opinions to follow the law and common sense, rather than forcing the law to conform to an agenda. He was also (and continues to be) a mentor to me and to his

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other law clerks, the many interns he worked with over the years, and other members of the bar. Overall, it was truly a pleasure to work with him, and I continue to have a tremendous amount of respect for him, and I was and am honored to have clerked for him.

I am certain that Justice Acoba will make (as he undoubtedly already has made) a positive and valuable contribution to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. His commitment to public service (as shown by, among other things, his guidance of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission as former Chair), his involvement with higher education and mentoring students (as shown by his teaching at both Hawaii Pacific University and the William S. Richardson School of Law), as well as his common sense and incisive approaches to problems, can only assist the Board in assuring the successful future of the University of Hawaii. As an alumnus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the William S. Richardson School of Law, I strongly support Justice Simeon Acoba, Jr.'s confirmation as a Regent on the Board of Regents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leila M. Rothwell Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leila" being the most prominent.

Leila M. Rothwell Sullivan

LRS