

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1453

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 21 2009

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 307

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 307, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

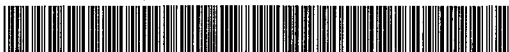
G.M. No. 307 RAMON S. DE LA PENA PHD,
for a term to expire 6-30-2012,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by the nominee, and finds Ramon S. de la Pena to have the necessary qualifications to be appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this nomination from the Kauai County Office of the Mayor; Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce; National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Region 12; Filipino Coalition for Solidarity; Oahu Filipino Community Council; Filipino American Citizens League; A&B Properties, Inc.; Northrup Grumman; Pecson & Associates; and three individuals. Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Ramon S. de la Pena, Ph.D., is an Emeritus Agronomist and Professor, University of Hawaii. Dr. de la Pena has an extensive and distinguished career as an agronomist, and has been associated with the University of Hawaii since the 1960s. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines, and master's and doctorate degrees from the



University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. de la Pena worked as a Research Agronomist at the Kauai Experiment Station from 1967 until his retirement in 2001, where he conducted research on tropical crop production with an emphasis on taro production and improvement. He has published over eighty-five scientific papers in tropical agriculture, and throughout his career, has served as a mentor to high school students on Kauai. Dr. de la Pena is also active in numerous community organizations, including the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce, and the Kauai Pangasinan Association, and has served on the County of Kauai Charter Review Commission, County of Kauai Planning Commission, and County of Kauai Office of Elderly Affairs Policy Board. He is a reappointment to the Board of Regents, where he has served since 2004.

Your Committee discussed several critical issues with Dr. de la Pena, including the importance of research and research funding for the University of Hawaii System, the cultural considerations that may be arise during the research process, and the opportunities for the University related to federal funding in energy and renewable energy projects and research. Your Committee has also reviewed Dr. de la Pena's responses to questions regarding his motivation as a member of the Board of Regents, his goals and priorities for the University, his views on the University presidential selection process, his suggestions for dealing with the unprecedented budget crisis, and his views on the current ten-campus University of Hawaii System.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



JILL TOKUDA, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* 307	Committee Referral: HRE	Date: 3/17/09		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345			
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	✓			
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	6	-	-	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes