

From: [Dr. Michael Chun](#)
To: [HRE Testimony](#)
Subject: Eric K. Martinson
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 9:52:42 AM

Senator Jill Tokuda
Senate Higher Education Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Aloha e Honorable Tokuda,

It is with great enthusiasm that I endorse the nomination of Eric K. Martinson to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents [GM 310 AND GM 468]. I have known Eric for over twenty years as a professional colleague and personal friend and feel well-qualified to comment on his qualities and attributes that will serve him well as a Regent of the University of Hawai'i.

Eric was a financial analyst at the Bishop Estate in 1988 when I joined its beneficiary, The Kamehameha Schools, as President. At that time, Eric worked closely with former Trustee Matsy Takabuki, earning organization-wide respect and appreciation for his probing and analytic intellect and eventually became Director of the Estate's Financial Assets Division responsible for its global financial portfolio. In that capacity, Eric retained responsibility for Division operations; however, it was his ability to think and vision strategically that proved vital to the success of our portfolio and in my mind, is his greatest strength. During this time, Eric interacted and engaged with the finest minds and experts in national and international finance and helped transform the Bishop Estate into a major player in the financial world. Eric left the Bishop Estate in solid financial condition after laying a foundation upon which further growth could and did occur. In his humble fashion, Eric will deflect all praise and recognition to his mentor, Matsy; however, Matsy himself would say otherwise and point to Eric's role in the Bishop Estate's financial success as key. Clearly, Eric brings to the Board of Regents two important professional attributes -- relevant experience and rigorous intellect, both of which will contribute greatly to the work of the Board.

In describing Eric Martinson at the personal level, the first descriptor that comes to mind is integrity. His word is good, truth is never compromised, decisions are evenhanded not judgmental and he strives to do right without being righteous. Eric has many attractive attributes; however, integrity is what shines brightly in my eyes and is the single-most important quality in which my respect and esteem for him is rooted. But integrity also requires courage because oftentimes doing the right thing means standing by your self. Eric has demonstrated this quality as well. At a decisive point in his career, Eric was faced with compromising his integrity on the one hand by "going along to get along" and keeping his integrity on the other by stepping away from an institution that he loved dearly and a career that was gaining momentum. He stepped away. That took courage and sacrifice, which the Board of Regents needs as it deals with the different interests, needs and views of the University of Hawai'i's many stakeholders.

Eric is an effective communicator who is at the same time candid and

collaborative. For some, candor and collaboration might appear oppositional. However, how the message is delivered will determine whether the message is delivered and Eric is able to engage in conversations and deliberations that are forthright and open without being confrontational because he focuses on issues not personalities and because he listens with respect and with an open mind. He is able to honor other views without agreeing to those views and as a result is able to sustain discussions and dialogue to reach reasonable compromise. The Board of Regents is all about communications and effective communicators are vital to its work. Eric's accomplished communications skills will add greatly to the work of the Board.

Having graduated from Kamehameha Schools, Eric has firm roots in his Hawaiian culture. He is an accomplished dancer and embraces the traditions of his Polynesian ancestors. However, Eric is also very much entrenched in his Japanese culture, providing important leadership to the Japanese Cultural Center and introducing his children to those traditions as well. Of course his professional success is testimony to his ease and skill in operating within Western culture. What all of this points to is Eric's comfort with diversity, a uniquely distinguishing feature of the University of Hawai'i. He is a child of diversity, having experienced all that comes with being multi-cultural, including the stereotyping associated with different ethnicities. These experiences have helped to make him the person that he is today -- one who appreciates the richness that diversity brings to our lives and accepting of those who look, think and act differently than he does. The Board of Regents itself is a diverse body and Eric will add to this important characteristic.

In summary, Eric Martinson is extremely well-qualified to serve as Regent of the University of Hawai'i -- he brings credible competence, upstanding character and engaging chemistry to the work of the Board and will serve with distinction. At Kamehameha, we strive to inspire and instill in our students those values and lessons that will help them to become "good and industrious men and women" in accordance with the Will of our benefactress, Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Eric learned those lessons and values well as evidenced by how he lives his life each day.

Mahalo for this opportunity to attest my support for Eric K. Martinson's nomination to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. Hawai'i's higher education system will be well served by his appointment.

Michael J. Chun, PhD
President and Headmaster
Kamehameha Schools - Kapalama
Honolulu, Hawai'i

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Personal Testimony Presented before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
March 17, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

Governor's Message No. 468
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii
Gubernatorial Nominee ERIC K. MARTINSON
Term to Expire: 06/30/2014

by
Andrew G. Hashimoto

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Hashimoto, and I am the Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am pleased to contribute personal testimony to the decision-making process on GM 468, the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Eric K. Martinson as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and extends Mr. Martinson's term specified in GM 310 from expiring on 6/30/09 to 6/30/2014. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawaii or CTAHR.

I am in strong support for Eric Martinson's appointment to the Board of Regents.

I served with Eric on the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate Board of Advisors. I was privileged to observe Eric's active participation in Board matters, and was impressed with his exemplary attributes as a strong supporter of scientific innovations, his command and knowledge of sound financial management, and his commitment and unwavering service as a professional and community-minded individual seeking solutions to complex problems that had far-reaching effects.

Mr. Martinson is currently a Managing Director of Tradewind Capital Group, Inc., a private equity and real estate investment and asset management company in Honolulu, and formerly held a similar position at MN Capital Partners, LLC.

He has held leadership positions in many community and professional organizations. He was elected the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) for the fiscal year 2007-2008, and notably, participated earlier on the JCCH's Committee to Save the Center, which quickly and successfully raised \$9 million to clear JCCH's large building debt. He has been a member of the boards of the Sierra Club, Sopogy, Inc., Royal Hawaiian Showroom LLC, BPA Technologies, Entrepreneurs Foundation of Hawaii, Hawaii Imin Shiryo Hozon Kai, to name a few.

Additionally, Mr. Martinson is an alumnus of UH and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance. He earned an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in behalf of Mr. Eric K. Martinson's confirmation.