



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
April 4, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

by

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WRITTEN ONLY

GM 613 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission For Higher Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Carol Lee, for a term to expire 6-30-2020.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 613 and the nomination of Ms. Carol Lee to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known and worked with Ms. Lee closely during our service together on WICHE. It is clear that she is an excellent and respected Commissioner and would continue as such if reappointed.

As an individual, Ms. Lee is committed to giving back to her community. Her passion and dedication for increasing higher education opportunity, accessibility and promotion for all students is demonstrated through Ms. Lee's service as a trustee at St. Andrews Priory School (12 years), elected member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education (two and a half years, prior to replacement of the appointed board), as a WICHE Commissioner for the State of Hawai'i (five years) and her service as the Associate Dean for the University of Hawai'i (UH) Richardson School of Law (10 years).

Ms. Lee is a true problem-solver and would work diligently for the collective good of the 15 state members of WICHE on the vast range of significant educational challenges. She has extensive experience working with Boards in both the public and non-profit sectors, and she understands the difficulties and challenges faced within the current economic climate with reduced funding to education. These characteristics enable Ms. Lee to build upon her educational foundation and I know she would continue to make an immense contribution to WICHE.

More broadly, in her role as a UH retiree and higher education advocate, Ms. Lee recognizes the intertwined missions and interests. She is an articulate representative and would serve UH well in continuing to liaison on our and WICHE's behalf as a Commissioner.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 613 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Ms. Carol Lee's nomination to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.