MEMORANDUM

TO: Randolph Moore
Chair, UH Board of Regents

VIA: David Lassner
President

VIA: Robert Bley-Vroman
Interim Chancellor

FROM: Reed Dasenbrock
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: AWARD OF THE HONORARY DOCTORATE OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE TO ROBERT MASUDA, MARTHA NUSSBAUM AND CHARLES NAINOA THOMPSON

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:
It is requested that the Board of Regents confer the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Robert Masuda, Martha Nussbaum and Charles Nainoa Thompson.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:
With the approval of the Regents, the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree will be conferred upon Robert Masuda and Martha Nussbaum at the 2015 Mid-Year Commencement Exercises and Charles Nainoa Thompson at the 105th Annual Commencement Exercises in May 2016.

ADDITIONAL COST:
No additional costs are associated with this request.

PURPOSE:
To recognize the outstanding contributions of the recipients in their respective fields.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Regent Policy 5.209, III. A., states that the Board may confer honorary degrees to individuals with distinguished accomplishments.

At Mānoa, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs convenes a committee to review proposals for honorary doctorates and to make a recommendation to the chancellor. The UH Manoa Awards Committee has reviewed and is strongly in support of the proposal to award the
Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree upon Robert Masuda, Martha Nussbaum and Charles Nainoa Thompson for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

Robert Masuda
Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Masuda has served the people and State of Hawai‘i in various capacities. Mr. Masuda grew up in the Honolulu waterfront district of Kaka‘ako and spent his summers and vacation with grandparents on the island of Hawai‘i, both places where he grew to love ocean and forest activities since childhood. Since then, he has spent over 40 years as a leader in building and operating YMCA organizations in Hawai‘i and abroad, and over seven years of public service on County, State and Federal levels.

Mr. Masuda acted as Senior Advisor of Special Programs Development for the U.S. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Island Forestry; was the First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the State of Hawai‘i; and served as a YMCA executive at the local, national, and international levels as President/Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of Honolulu, Executive Director of the YMCA International Division, Director of the YMCA USA International Office for China & the Pacific, and President/Chief Executive Officer of the Island of Hawai‘i YMCA. Mr. Masuda’s service included complex international work spanning four continents, including the Pacific region, the Middle East and the United States. He also served as Director of the Department of Parks & Recreation for the City & County of Honolulu. He earned a BS in Applied Behavioral Science & Group Work Education from George William College and an Executive MBA from the University of Hawai‘i. In 2011, he was honored by the Hawaii Conservation Alliance with the Distinguished Service Award.

Martha Nussbaum
Ms. Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, appointed in the Philosophy Department, Law School, and Divinity School, an Associate in the Classics Department and the Political Science Department, a Member of the Committee on Southern Asian Studies, a Board Member of the Human Rights Program, and is the founder and Coordinator of the Center for Comparative Constitutionalism, all at the University of Chicago. Her publications include Aristotle’s De Motu Animalium, The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy Love’s Knowledge, Poetic Justice, For Love of Country, Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education, Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions, Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership, and Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities.

Ms. Nussbaum received her BA from NYU and her MA and PhD from Harvard. She has taught at Harvard, Brown, and Oxford Universities. From 1986 to 1993, Ms. Nussbaum was a research advisor at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, a part of the United Nations University. She has chaired the Committee on International Cooperation and the Committee on the Status of Women of the American Philosophical Association, and currently chairs its new Committee for Public Philosophy and is a member of the Association's National Board. Ms. Nussbaum has been a member of the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Board of the American Council of Learned Societies.
She has received honorary degrees from various colleges and universities including Grinnell College, Williams College, The College of William and Mary, The University of St. Andrews (Scotland), the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) and the New School University. She received the Barnard College Medal of Distinction in 2003, the Radcliffe Alumnae Recognition Award in 2007, and the Centennial Medal of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University in 2010. She received the Brandeis Creative Arts Award in Non-Fiction for 1990, and the PEN Spielvogel-Diamondstein Award for the best collection of essays in 1991, won the Ness Book Award of the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 1998, and the Grawemeyer Award in Education in 2002.

Charles Nainoa Thompson
Mr. Thompson is the Executive Director of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Since 1976, he has played an integral role in the design, construction, sailing, and navigation of the Hawai’i Maritime Center's double-hulled voyaging canoe, Hokule’a.

Mr. Thompson studied non-instrument navigation, or wayfinding, under master navigator Mau Piailug of Satawal, Micronesia. Thompson is the first Hawaiian to practice the art of wayfinding on long distance ocean voyages since such voyaging ended around the 14th century. His first long voyage took place in 1980, when he navigated Hokule’a from Hawai’i to Tahiti and back. In 1985-87, he navigated Hokule’a without instruments across Polynesia from Hawai’i to New Zealand and back, stopping at islands along the way while covering more than 16,000 ocean miles. Thompson has trained other Hawaiians and Polynesians in the art of wayfinding and led a revival of traditional arts associated with voyaging in Hawai’i and Polynesia. In 1992, Thompson again took Hokule’a to Rarotonga for the Sixth Pacific Arts Festival celebrating the revival of traditional canoe building. In 1995, Thompson directed a voyage entitled "Na 'Ohana Holo Moana - The Voyaging Families of the Vast Ocean," that took three Hawaiian canoes - Hokule’a, Hawai’iloa, and Makali’i to Tahiti, where they were joined by five other Polynesian canoes from the Cook Islands, New Zealand, and Tahiti. These, with the exception of the Tahitian canoes, then sailed to the Marquesas, to Hawai’i, and back to their homeland. The Hokule’a and a companion canoe, the Hikianalia are currently on the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, which will travel the globe to grow a global movement toward a sustainable world. The voyage will cover 47,000 miles, 85 ports, and 26 countries over its three-year duration. Mr. Thompson plays an integral role in this truly epic voyage.

Another of Mr. Thompson’s current endeavors is developing an educational program for the schoolchildren of Hawai’i to teach them about Polynesian voyaging traditions and instill them with pride in their ancient seafaring heritage. The program will emphasize not just knowledge about ancient traditions, but also modern scientific knowledge about the ocean and sky and environmental principles based on traditional values for insuring the conservation of resources and a safe, healthy, sustainable future for Hawai’i.

ACTION RECOMMENDED
It is recommended that the Board of Regents confer the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Robert Masuda, Martha Nussbaum and Charles Nainoa Thompson.

c: Vice Chancellor Dasenbrock