



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
April 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

by  
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GM 575 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Gubernatorial Nominee, Colleen Sathre, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 575 and the appointment of Dr. Colleen Sathre to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Dr. Sathre for over 30 years and worked closely with her at the University of Hawai'i for nearly 20 years, until her retirement. More recently we have served collaboratively as two of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners. She is a valued member of the Policy Research and Analysis Committee and now also plays a critical role on the WICHE Nominating Committee, a position of great trust. I can attest that she is an excellent, dedicated and respected Commissioner who would continue as such if reappointed.

Dr. Sathre has spent her entire career in public service, giving back to her community through her commitment to education. Her passion and dedication for increasing higher education opportunity for all students was clearly demonstrated through her 31 years of progressively responsible service to UH culminating in her vice presidency. In addition, she served as higher education planning consultant for the Consortium of Pacific Education, past board member of the Hawai'i Organization of Women Leaders, and service for a term as the coordinator of the Hawai'i Network of the American Council on Education's National Identification Program for Women in Academic Administration.

I am confident that Dr. Sathre would continue to work diligently to help WICHE address for our region the vast range of educational challenges and opportunities we all face, including in this most dynamic and uncertain COVID environment. Dr. Sathre understands first-hand the need for creative and thoughtful solutions to hard problems, and can identify and articulate what it takes to implement strategic initiatives at scale. These characteristics, and her extensive experience working with Boards in both the public and non-profit sectors, will enable Dr. Sathre to continue to serve with distinction. She is an articulate and steadfast representative of Hawai'i and would serve our State well in a continuing role as one of Hawai'i's WICHE Commissioners.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 575 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Dr. Colleen Sathre's nomination to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.