



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, April 17, 2024, at 2:01 p.m.

By

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University of Hawai'i System

GM 784 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRENCE GEORGE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
06-30-2028

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Terrence George to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

With extensive experience and a clear vision, Mr. George is exceptionally qualified for this critical role. His dedication to enhancing student success and expanding educational opportunities aligns with WICHE's mission, ensuring everyone has the chance to pursue higher education and achieve their aspirations.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Mr. George has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in supporting public education, postsecondary access, and promoting student success. From his leadership at the Consuelo Foundation to his Board roles with the Hawai'i P-20 Council, Hawai'i Medical Services Association (HMSA), and the Hawai'i Business Roundtable, he has consistently worked at the intersection of education, health, and economic development. His insights will be a valuable asset to the Commission's regional and intercultural efforts—especially as WICHE deepens its engagement with the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message 784, and I respectfully urge you to consent to Mr. Terrence George's nomination to serve on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. I look forward to the contributions Mr. George will bring to the WICHE Commission in service to students and communities throughout the West.