

**University of Hawai'i**  
**Candidate Advisory Council**

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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Josh Green  
Governor, State of Hawai'i  
Executive Chambers  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Governor Green:

On behalf of the Candidate Advisory Council (CAC) of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and in conformity with the provisions of Act 72, 2013 Session Laws of Hawai'i, I am pleased to present the following candidates to you to fill the following seat for the term to begin July 1, 2025.

One (1) Maui County seat for a five-year appointment (currently filled by Regent Ernest Wilson)

1. Nicole M. Apoliona
2. Kuiokalani L. Gapero
3. Kaulana T. Kino
4. Felicitas B. Livaudais

The CAC complied with the statutory requirements and assessed candidates in a confidential, fair, independent, and nonpartisan manner. All candidates, as required by law, were asked to disclose any existing or anticipated contracts or financial transactions with the University of Hawai'i. Finally, with the assistance of licensed and accredited external firms, the CAC had background checks done on each candidate. Based on the applications and CVs submitted, interviews with candidates, contacts with references and background checks, the CAC believes that these candidates are able and willing to discharge the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Regents.

Brief biographies drafted by the candidates are attached.

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If you have any questions, please call 956-0321 or email at [borapp@hawaii.edu](mailto:borapp@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brigitte Yoshino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brigitte Yoshino, Chair  
Candidate Advisory Council

#### Attachments

c: Senator Ronald Kouchi, President, Hawai'i State Senate  
Representative Nadine Nakamura, Speaker, Hawai'i House of Representatives  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Representative Andrew Garrett, Chair, House Committee on Higher Education  
Regent Gabriel Lee, Chair, Board of Regents  
President Wendy Hensel, University of Hawai'i  
Members, Candidate Advisory Council

## **Nicole Malia Apoliona MD, FAAFP**

Nicole Malia Apoliona MD, FAAFP was born and raised in California. She is a graduate of Stanford University and UC Davis School of Medicine and moved to Hawaii in 1994 where she completed her Family Medicine Residency at UH JABSOM and began to explore her Native Hawaiian heritage. She moved to Maui in 1997 and where her first job was as the sole physician in the new Kaiser Kihei Clinic where she worked for 4 years doing outpatient family medicine and full scope adult inpatient medicine. From 2001-2022 she worked at Kula Hospital in the outpatient clinic and covering the emergency room and 100 bed LTC facility when needed. She was the Medical Directors from 2008-2022 and was active in the legislative and community advocacy for Maui Hospitals to leave HHSC and be operated by a private hospital entity.

Dr. Apoliona has served the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians as a director, alternate delegate to AAFP, vice president and president. She has been an Assistant Clinical Professor in the JABSOM Dept of Family Medicine from 1998-2002 and again from 2013 to the present. She has served on the board of the Pacific Cancer Foundation since 2009.

Dr. Apoliona is married to Peter Chin MD and they live in Kula Maui where they raised their family. She has studied hula with Aunty Gordean Bailey since 2004. She enjoys travel, hiking, floating in the ocean, and reading novels.

## Kuiokalani L. Gapero

Kuiokalani L. Gapero is an educator, mentor, and cultural practitioner dedicated to expanding Indigenous education for students and faculty across university systems. He teaches at Kamehameha Schools Maui, where he specializes in **Hawaiian Immersion, Hana No'eau (Arts), and He Ali'i Ka 'Āina (Sustainability)**. His work focuses on **place-based and project-based learning**, integrating Hawaiian language, culture, and environmental stewardship into education.

Kui has extensive experience in **curriculum development, experiential learning, and mentorship**, ensuring students gain practical skills while deepening their understanding of Hawaiian culture and history. He previously served as a **Hawaiian Language Lecturer at the University of Hawai'i Maui College** and as a **Cultural Resource Project Coordinator for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**, where he engaged in research, preservation efforts, and community outreach.

Beyond the classroom, Kui **coaches water polo** at Kamehameha Schools Maui and **paddling for Nā Kai 'Ewalu Canoe Club**, where he emphasizes teamwork, discipline, and leadership. He is a **member of Pā Ku'i a Holo**, a group that perpetuates **the traditional arts of Hawaiian warriors**, and **Ka Pā Hula o Ka Lei Lehua**, where he continues his hula practice. As a **member of Pā Kāneloa**, he also participates in **ceremonial 'awa practices**, reinforcing cultural traditions through education and practice.

Kui earned his **Master of Arts in Indigenous Education from Arizona State University**, where his research explored how **mo'olelo (traditional narratives) shape learning environments**. He is currently pursuing a **Doctorate in Organizational Leadership for Adaptation and Change at Chaminade University of Honolulu**, with a focus on improving education systems to better serve students and faculty.

With a background in **education, cultural preservation, and mentorship**, Kuiokalani Gapero remains committed to strengthening **learning experiences that integrate Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and practical application**.

## **Kaulana Kino**

Kaulana Kino is a battalion chief with the Maui Fire Department (MFD) and oversees operations in Wailuku, West Maui, Molokai and Lana`i. The 22-year veteran has held assignments in both operations and administration and also manages the department's Leadership Certification program comprised of tiered courses he developed based on national consensus standards.

Chief Kino began his career as a firefighter and in 12 years was promoted to fire captain at the age of 33. Of the 54 MFD captains at the time, he was the only under 40. In 2018, as a captain, he was a finalist for the position of department fire chief. At 16 years of service, he was promoted to battalion chief. He is the youngest chief officer and the fastest ever promoted to his position in the modern history of the MFD. He is considered one of the foremost experts in incident management and emergency services leadership within the State of Hawaii.

His community involvement has included as an American Red Cross Advisory Council board member; volunteering with local organizations, such as Maui County Health Volunteers and Sustainable Living Institute of Maui; and with Team Rubicon, a national disaster relief volunteer group primarily made up of military veterans. He has deployed to Texas and Florida multiple times for hurricane recovery and in Hawaii for several relief operations, for which he has previously been a recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award. He is a 2025 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow.

Chief Kino is a military veteran who specialized in combat communications and deployed to the Middle East in 2003 for the Global War on Terrorism. A lifelong student, he has a BA in Psychology and has also studied information systems and emergency management. He is also an alumnus of Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy and worked in several restaurants around Maui as both a sushi chef and a tournant.

He was born in Waikiki, Oahu and raised in Waiehu, graduating from H.P. Baldwin High School. He currently lives in Waiehu with his wife, Ashley, and three children: Hamilton, Boston and Celine. He enjoys travel, cooking, and walks on the beach near his home.

## **Felicitas B. Livaudais MD, FAAP**

Aloha. It is an honor to be considered for the Maui seat on the UH Board of Regents. I was born in the Philippines and came to the United States as a child with my family in 1974. I am proud to be a Filipino immigrant and a naturalized US citizen. We settled in San Francisco and I grew up on Haight Street, literally. Haight still had a lot of hippies and my school was quite diverse. During college at the University of San Francisco, I volunteered as a medical assistant at the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic. I used to roll sushi for their parties. Occasionally, I'd hop behind my doc's motorcycle to make house calls for the Grateful Dead. Medical school was at Tulane in New Orleans where I met my husband, Jerry. We trained at Charity Hospital where we learned the art of medicine from so many talented and generous mentors. This was the time during the AIDs epidemic. After a few years in Oregon, we moved our family to Maui in 2001. Most of my professional life has been in Maui which is home.

I have been a general pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente for almost 25 years. I love taking care of my patients and their families. The relationships made over a lifetime is so special. I often care for the babies of my previous patients. That is the joy of a pediatrician. I am also the neighbor island board member for Hawaii American Academy of Pediatrics. We became very close as a pediatric community, especially during the response to the Lahaina Fire. We had several projects to help our Lahaina families that was recognized by the national AAP. For the last 20 years, I have been a mentor and site coordinator for JABSOM's 3rd year medical student rotation in Maui. Many of my students have become part of our ohana and I am their Auntie Fely (Maui mom). I love contributing to the education of these young doctors. I encourage all of them to return to Hawaii after their training

My husband of 35 years is also my best friend. We have 2 children and 3 grandchildren with one more on the way this summer. Our nuclear family are a mixed plate: Filipino, Korean, French, Honduran, and Northern European. Our extended ohana are many including exchange students from Switzerland, France and Spain, as well as our previous medical students who are now doctors in various specialties. I love to cook, and we have many gatherings at our house to bring people together.

I see so many bright and capable young people in my practice. I know given the opportunities and tools, they can become the professionals of tomorrow. I believe UH can create a highly educated population to serve the people of Hawaii. As a potential candidate, my focus will be "growing our own". I want to support excellent education as well as students' wellbeing. I plan to retire in June 2026 but hope to continue my work with JABSOM. Mahalo for your consideration.