

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Hawaii Professional Assembly Endorses Ed Case for U.S. Senate

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) Board of Directors voted today to endorse Ed Case for the U.S. Senate. UHPA represents nearly 4,000 faculty members at 10 campuses in the University of Hawaii system statewide.

The UHPA Political Endorsement Committee, composed of UH faculty members, spent considerable time interviewing Democratic candidates running for congressional seats over the past few weeks. The committee presented its recommendations to the Board of Directors this morning at a regularly scheduled monthly board meeting.

UHPA takes its political endorsements seriously and designed a process that would be a fair, effective assessment tool. The committee's questions focused on funding for public higher education and the challenges facing faculty and students locally and across the nation. The endorsement decision was based on who could best represent the interests of the University of Hawaii faculty, the students, and the role of public higher education in Congress, now and into the future.

"We believe Ed Case showed a seasoned perspective of the role of public higher education, and presented comprehensive solutions to challenges facing faculty," said **Adrienne Valdez**, UHPA Board President, who also served on the Political Endorsement Committee. "He believes the federal government should not micromanage higher education and that standards and assessment should be left to faculty members."

"We also saw Mr. Case's increased recognition of the need for collaboration and a much more inclusive attitude that was open to bringing faculty to the table for discussion. We believe he will earnestly reach out to faculty to explore possible solutions to issues if he is elected to the U.S. Senate," Valdez said.

Case is running against Congresswoman Mazie Hirono in the primary for the U.S. Senate. They will be vying for the seat that will be vacated as a result of the retirement of veteran Senator Daniel Akaka and the winner of the general election will serve with senior Senator Daniel Inouye.

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