

# Hawaii State FCU Board of Directors Candidates



**Rochelle Lee Gregson**

#### **HSFCU Experience**

I have been an HSFCU member for nearly 50 years, more recently serving as a member and previously Chair, of the HSFCU Nominating Committee.

#### **Education**

Graduate of Roosevelt High School in Honolulu and the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus with a BA in American Studies.

#### **Work Experience**

Work experience includes working as a committee aide at the Hawaii State Legislature; VP Allocations and Agency Relations with the Aloha United Way; Deputy Director with the Hawaii State Teachers Association; CEO of the Honolulu Board of REALTORS.

#### **Board Qualifications**

In addition to my experience as CEO of a large membership organization, I have an understanding of technology and its place in our future. Balancing this with my skills in managing relationships and working with people is an asset I bring to the Board if elected.

#### **Primary Focus if Elected**

My focus is on being part of an effective team that assures that the assets of the credit union are managed with members' best interests in mind and to identify and create opportunities for members to become involved with the credit union.

#### **Personal Statement**

Thank you for taking time to vote and be part of a process that gives members an opportunity to decide on their leaders. In addition to your support of my candidacy, I ask that you consider taking the next step by becoming involved in the governance and programs of the organization. The people who work on your behalf, the staff of the credit union, are incredibly committed and capable. Your working with them as a team is good for everyone.



**Monica Toguchi Ryan**

#### **HSFCU Experience**

I joined HSFCU when I was considering a career in law and worked for Hawaii Family Court, when I was 20 years old. HSFCU was the first bank that I joined as an adult. I later was a recipient to the HSFCU Scholarship Program back in 2002 upon being accepted for a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon.

#### **Education**

I attended Mililani High School, and then completed a BA/BSc in Business Administration followed by a Master's in Education in 2002. I then attended the University of Oregon as a Ph.D. candidate in Counseling Psychology. After 7 years, I resigned from my program to take over Highway Inn when my father suffered a brain aneurysm.

#### **Work Experience**

I am the 3rd generation owner of Highway Inn; a Hawaiian food establishment started in 1947. Despite our humble beginnings, we now employ 120 people across our three locations in Waipahu, Kaka'ako and Bishop Museum. I have always been engaged with our family business from dishwasher to CEO since I was 14 years old. While at University of Oregon, I worked with students with possible learning disabilities such as ADD/ADHD, reading and math disabilities, and then as a college instructor in the Master's Program in Marriage and Family Therapy.

#### **Board Qualifications**

Running a business in Hawaii is challenging. However, since taking over my family's business, we have trebled in size in terms of revenue, employees, locations and profits. Highway Inn is now one of the largest women owned businesses in Hawaii.

#### **Primary Focus if Elected**

My expertise is in the operation, growth and success of small businesses. If elected, I would leverage my grassroots experiences to help develop opportunities and programs for our membership to become their own small business success story.

#### **Personal Statement**

I look forward to the opportunity to serve you, using my business experience to make positive contributions as a board member.



**Ryan S. Morita**

#### **HSFCU Experience**

I have been a member for over 27 years.

#### **Education**

Kalani High School; University of Hawaii at Manoa, BBA (Finance); Columbia University, MPA; University of Notre Dame, MBA.

#### **Work Experience**

Asset Management, PNC Multifamily Capital; Operations Finance, Intel Corporation; Credit Portfolio Management, Bank of Hawaii; Housing Development, HHFD; Economic Development, OHA; Project Management, DOT-Harbors; Renewable Energy, DBEDT.

#### **Board Qualifications**

I have served three years as your Board representative, the last two years as Vice-Chairperson. I also possess extensive experience in finance (i.e., managed a \$200 million portfolio), a strong background in business and government operations, and experience serving on other non-profit boards. These qualities and experiences will enable me to continue to make financially sound decisions on behalf of our members and better identify the products, services and key strategic initiatives that can best meet the needs of our growing membership.

#### **Primary Focus if Elected**

I will focus on further strengthening our customer engagement and customer centric strategies that provides a key competitive advantage for our credit union. This approach entails strategically positioning resources to continue to support our core members that built our credit union, while also making the necessary investments to attract, retain and lay the foundation for the next generation of members, and all with the goal of delivering more value to our membership and enabling our HSFCU to thrive in the years ahead.

#### **Personal Statement**

For over 27 years, I have benefited from our HSFCU. My family and friends are also long time members. Given these strong connections, I am very committed to not only upholding the values of our organization, but also ensuring that we retain our strong financial footing, while also making future investments that will enhance value to our members and the community.



**Joshua Strickler**

#### **HSFCU Experience**

I have been a member of HSFCU for 8 years and I have served on the HSFCU Supervisory Committee for the last 6 years. Over this time I have had many conversations about the difference between HSFCU and a bank and why I volunteer my time to work with HSFCU. To me, the difference is marble. When you walk into banks, you see marble floors and other things that the shareholders have built using profits from fees charged to customers. HSFCU is made up of members serving members, such as the Board of Directors, and members do not have much use for marble floors. Members need online banking without lots of fees and low cost loans for their homes and businesses. HSFCU provides these services and many others without charging excessive fees for things like marble floors. This is why HSFCU was not involved in the financial scandals we have seen in recent years such as the Wells Fargo "fake account" scandal. This commitment to service instead of profits is why I am a proud member of HSFCU and why I would like to serve on the Board of Directors.

#### **Education**

I have a mechanical engineering degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a law degree and MBA from the University of Hawaii.

#### **Work Experience**

I currently work as a project manager at Johnson Controls building energy efficiency projects across Hawaii. I have previously worked at the State Energy Office and at the Public Utilities commission.

#### **Board Qualifications**

(see HSFCU Experience)

#### **Primary Focus if Elected**

During my time volunteering on the Supervisory Committee, I found that member concerns start with a member's understanding of HSFCU's various services. My primary focus will be educating our members about the services HSFCU can provide and what products best suit a member's needs. Smarter members are happier members and happier members will lead to more members.

#### **Personal Statement**

(see HSFCU Experience)