

For Immediate Release

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Roberta Chu elected president of The Kohala Center board of directors

KAMUELA, Hawai'i—February 2008—Roberta Fujimoto Chu, Senior Vice President, Bank of Hawai'i, has been elected president of The Kohala Center's board of directors. The Kohala Center is an independent institute for research and education that respectfully engages the Island of Hawai'i as a living laboratory for humanity.

"Roberta is widely recognized as a business leader committed to excellence, and she brings an unusual level of financial rigor and organizational innovation to our work," said Matt Hamabata, Executive Director of The Kohala Center.

"I am here to ensure that The Kohala Center fulfills its potential to build teaching and research programs of the very highest quality that truly serve Island communities and enhance Island environments," said Chu. A graduate of Hilo High School and Mount Holyoke College, she is the 2007 recipient of the Athena Award, an international businesswomen's recognition.

New members joining Chu and other movers and shakers on The Kohala Center board are Richard Ha, John Powers and James Takamine. Ha, a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Māno'a, is a leading figure in sustainable agriculture. He was recognized as the 2006 Hawai'i Farmer of the Year and is a Rainforest Alliance ECO O.K. Award recipient.

Powers, a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University Law School, is an expert in estate planning, probate, trust and non-profit law.

Takamine, a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, Macalester College, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, is the market manager for American Savings Bank on Hawai'i Island. In 2007, Takamine was chosen by *Pacific Business News* as among the "Forty Under Forty" from more than 100 nominees for excellence in their business careers as well as commitment to community service.

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Continuing on the board of directors are Marni Herkes, Executive Director of Kona Executive Association, Administrator of West Hawai'i Fisheries Council, owner of Consulting by Marni, as well as former president of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce; Robert Lindsey Jr., Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustee; Monty Richards of Kahua Ranch and Ian Robertson of The Robertson Company.

After seven years of outstanding service, Dr. Christian L. Gulbrandsen, Professor Emeritus and former dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and Carl A. Carlson, of Hu'ehu'e Ventures LLC, and former trustee of Parker Ranch and former regent of the University of Hawai'i, are resigning from the board of directors.

"I have greatly appreciated their steadfast guidance and their inspiration as we started up this ambitious project called The Kohala Center," Hamabata said. "Chris' and Carl's leadership and generosity have been invaluable to our efforts."

Since its beginning in 2001, The Kohala Center has sought to sustain the natural environment, strengthen the social fabric and develop the economy of Hawai'i Island through innovations in education and research. Through its innovative teaching and research programs on ocean sciences, environmental studies, alternative energy and global health, the Center can help communities on the Island and around the world thrive—ecologically, economically, culturally and socially. With the expert assistance of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, all new Western teaching and research programs are oriented to the Island's spiritual, cultural and natural landscape. The Center's current project partners include the University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Community College, Brown University, Cornell University, the U.S. Office of Naval Research, the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Yale University, and the University of California at Santa Barbara, among many others.

For more information about The Kohala Center, visit www.kohalacenter.org, contact info@kohalacenter.org or call 808-887-6411.