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June 29, 2004

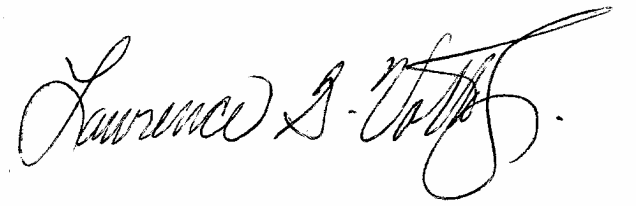
Dr. Susan Brown
Director, HPC Engagement Program
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Susan,

I enthusiastically support Professor Philip Johnson's proposal called "Assessing HPCS Productivity with Purpose-Based Benchmarks at MHPCC" to the "Advancing University Research with High Performance Computing (HPC) through Increased Student Engagement" program. Sun Microsystems has become aware that major improvements in high performance computing will require major new research initiatives to understand the software engineering of these systems, and the development of new tools and technologies to address the unique challenges involved with the design, implementation, and maintenance of these systems.

Professor Johnson's research supervision of Mike Paulding will provide important initial findings in this area, and the use of platforms at the Maui High Performance Computing Center will help these results be more useful and relevant in real-world HPCS settings.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence G. Votta Jr.

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Reference Biography:

Dr. Lawrence G. Votta Jr. received his B.S. degree in Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland in 1973, and his Ph.D. degree in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1979. He is a Distinguished Engineer at Sun Microsystems improving the software and system reliability and availability of Sun's products. Larry is the Productivity and Reliability, Availability and Serviceability Principle Investigator for Sun Microsystems' successful DARPA Phase II High Performance/Productivity Computer System project. Larry has authored or coauthored more than 60 papers and chapters of 2 books in Software Engineering (and another 10 papers in Physics) including empirical studies of software development from highly controlled experiments investigating the best methods for design reviews and code inspection to anecdotal studies of a developer's time usage in a large software development. Larry is a member of the IEEE and ACM.