

SB 1240

Testimony

Measure Title:	PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO MODIFY THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.
Report Title:	Constitutional Amendment; University of Hawaii; Board of Regents; Candidate Advisory Council (ConAm)
Description:	Proposes an amendment to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii state constitution to modify the appointment process for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii. Repeals the requirement that appointments to the University of Hawaii board of regents be made from pools of qualified candidates presented to the governor by the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HEA, JDL
Introducer(s):	KIM, Taniguchi



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
February 5, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

by
David Lassner
President, University of Hawai'i

SB 1240 – PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO MODIFY THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB1240, which proposes a constitutional amendment to modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i **supports** this measure.

We believe that repealing the requirement that appointments to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents be made from pools of qualified candidates presented to the governor by the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i will provide the Governor with more flexibility and choice in identifying and appointing the best possible Regents for the University of Hawai'i. A similar approach was recently taken for the selection of the Board of Education and this measure would provide a consistent process for both of these important boards.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Thursday, February 5, 2015
2:00 p.m.

SB 1240, Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to Article X, Section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution to Modify the Appointment Process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Committee Members:

On behalf of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, our union supports the repeal of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents through a constitutional amendment. We believe the current system used to select members of the Board of Regents has become so onerous that many outstanding citizens, who would have made excellent Board of Regents, are not willing to submit to the advisory council process. In the past, UHPA opposed the current approach and has continued to do so believing it did not represent the interests of the faculty nor the institution itself.

We believe that the Governor should have the authority to nominate and appoint Board of Regent members on their own volition. The Governor, in order to be accountable to the people, should not be limited in his or her choices through a restricted list garnered by an advisory committee. Senate consent is the correct mechanism to ensure the appropriateness of the appointment.

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly strongly recommends passage of this bill.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristeen Hanselman".

Kristeen Hanselman
Associate Executive Director

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and Arts Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Re: Support of SB 1240 Relating to the Board of Regents University of Hawai'i

My name is Bret Polopolus-Meredith, and I am a graduate student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in support of SB 1240 proposing an amendment to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii state constitution to modify the appointment process for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii.

The current relationship between the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (BoR) and graduate students at UH Mānoa is slightly above an all-time low. In October, 2014, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) voted No Confidence in the Board of Regents as a Body. GSO stated the following: the BoR has damaged UH by overseeing a high turn over rate in senior administration positions, the BoR disregarded key stakeholders over the firing of Mānoa Chancellor Thomas Apple, the BoR did not conduct a satisfactorily rigorous presidential search and did not adhere to the spirit of the rules, the BoR is responsible for fostering an environment of mistrust.

BoR members have made a small step to improve communication by coming to a GSO Executive meeting and hosting a breakfast with GSO and ASUH. Otherwise, little has been done to improve the situation. UHM has an interim chancellor. There are no announced plans to start a search for a permanent chancellor. Senior administration is rumored to be discussing the elimination of the Mānoa chancellor position. There has been no change to the process by which a campus chancellor or the system president are evaluated and removed. Despite President David Lassner admitting that the process was 'flawed'.

As for the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC), there is limited faculty or student representation. It is my understanding that after June 30, 2015 there will no longer be a student voice on RCAC. The selection of nominees, in my recent observation, has not been transparent. There is often too quick a turn-around from RCAC selection to governor nominee. Further, RCAC is an additional unnecessary bureaucratic layer.

I would prefer a simpler, more public, and open nomination process for BoR members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Bret Polopolus-Meredith
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808-304-9334

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: unheelim@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1240 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:18:07 PM

SB1240

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Unhee Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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