



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

**Senate Committee on Education
Monday, February 9, 2026 1:05 P.M.**

Testimony by: Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents

SB 2659 RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

These comments on SB2659 are offered in my capacity as the Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board) has not yet had the opportunity to discuss this measure. Discussion is expected to occur at the Board's next regular meeting on February 19, 2026, and the Board may act to address this bill at that time.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on SB 2659.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2026

S.B. 2659— RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 2659 which prohibits active employees of the University of Hawaii and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii from serving on the Board of Regents.

One of the Board of Regent positions is specifically designated to be a student of the University system. In past instances, the Student Regent has been enrolled in a professional or advanced degree program and concurrently holding full time employment while pursuing her degree. While the individual had been employed on a full-time basis, serving on the board was in the capacity as a student. If an individual meets the requirement to serve as a student, she should not be disqualified or penalized based on her employment. In the instances where former student regents were also University employees, the HGEA could not find reports of any conflicts or improprieties that arose from serving in the dual role.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of S.B. 2659.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director