

University of Hawai'i
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KAPI'OLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE *LATE*
STUDENT CONGRESS
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Statement of Support to the Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, SD1

TO: Hon. JILL N. TOKUDA (D - Kaneohe, Kailua and Keolu)
Chair, Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Higher Education

TESTIFIER: JOHN G. V. CANDO
Vice Chairman
Associated Students of Kapi'olani Community College
Student Congress (ASKCC-SC)

DATE: April 9, 2009

Aloha Chair Senator Tokuda and distinguished members of the State Senate Committee on Higher Education:

As an elected student leader, I fully support this proposed measure to be implemented to the Regents Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC). This measure will ensure that student constituents are given the time and opportunity to raise their own voices and input on who will be selected as the next Student Regent in the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (UHBOR) through their respective student governments.

I believe that the Student Regent in the UHBOR should be the ultimate voice of the common student in the highest levels of university governance as it is the only Regent seat that has a specific constituency, which are all the UH students – both in the university and community college levels. This proposal will guarantee that future Student Regent candidates be directly consulted with that constituency.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify to this honorable committee and I humbly ask the members of this body to **pass and fully endorse** this resolution.

Matt Prellberg
Opposition to SCR 51 SD 1
Senate Higher Education
Thursday April 9, 2009 1:15PM
Conference Room 225

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Matt Prellberg, I am a Senator and Chairperson of the External Affairs Committee for the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Senate, the elected body representing approximately 11,000 undergraduate students, and also sit as ASUH Manoa Delegate to the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus. I stand in opposition to SCR 51, SD 1 and ask that the resolution be held.

As a student leader I am concerned with the intent of this resolution and the message it would send to the legislature, the Board of Regents, the Regent Candidate Advisory Council and the 50,000 students enrolled in the University of Hawai'i system. The resolution states, "the student member is the only member of the Board of Regents who represents a specific constituency," which is an inaccurate and misleading statement. Per HRS 26-11, twelve regents are selected in regards to the district they live in and one student regent is selected to ensure diversity amongst the Board, however the regents are not selected to serve the interests of a specific constituency. It is the responsibility of all regents to support and advocate for the students and for the University of Hawai'i, not just the student regent. As part of the regent selection process, the Regent Candidate Advisory Council has established numerous duties and qualification for regents, including that:

- "As individuals, regents make no commitments on behalf of the board to constituents"
- "Regents are responsible for considering, balancing and integrating a wide variety of interests and needs, including community interests, in formulating policies that benefit the university system."
- "The board is an independent policy-making body that reflects the public interest in its activities and decisions. It defends the institution from undue influence and pressure from political and special interests."

The resolution calls for a working group of students to "establish a process to ensure student involvement in the recruitment and evaluation of candidates for the student member of the Board of Regents prior to submission of the candidate pool to the Governor." This clause is unnecessary because there is already a student whom sits on the Regent Candidate Advisory Council as appointed by the University of Hawaii Student Caucus (HRS 304A-104.5.) Act 56 of 2007 session laws goes further to state that members of the RCAC "may not necessarily represent the perspective of any one member or the perspective of any constituent group that designated a representative to serve on the council," when deciding duties of the Board of Regents and by passing this resolution, we would be encouraging just that.

This resolution is unfounded and unnecessary. All regents represent the student population in a tedious and time consuming position. Students already have a place in the screening and selection process and it would be unfair and biased to put this much of a spotlight on the student regent.

Please hold SCR 51, SD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Matt Prellberg
Senator at Large
External Affairs Chair
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa
ASUH Manoa Delegate
University of Hawai'i Student Caucus