



# **SB2803**

RELATING TO THE  
REGENTS CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

University of Hawai'  
**Regents Candidate Advisory Council**

Roy Takeyama, Chair  
Karl Fujii, Vice Chair  
L. Thomas Ramsey, Secretary  
Dove Atherall,  
Member  
Nelson Befitel, Member  
Neil Bellinger, Member  
Kathryn Matayoshi, Member

**Written Testimony to the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
on  
SB 2803, Relating to the Regents Candidate Advisory Council**

**Thursday, February 18, 2010, 1:15 p.m.**

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

We support Senate Bill 2803 with the following modifications:

Page 2, Line 6: Delete the word "working" and replace with the word "advisory".

Page 2, Lines 11-13: Delete the phrase, "together with the regents candidate advisory council, will recruit, screen, and qualify candidates" and replace with the phrase, "will provide input to the regents candidate advisory council."

Our next recruitment period will begin in Fall 2011 for the student regent whose term will end on June 30, 2012.

As outlined in our report dated December 2009 (copy attached), the RCAC will convene a body of students, with the assistance of the "advisory" group, to review the applications. That body of students would be the existing cross-campus council of elected student leaders. Alternatively, the council of elected student leaders could delegate the review to a subcommittee of itself. The student review will precede and inform the deliberations of the RCAC for selecting student candidates for further consideration.

Your consideration of our suggested modifications would be very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy Y. Takeyama, Chairman  
Regents Candidate Advisory Council

# ATTACHMENT A

## University of Hawai'i Regents Candidate Advisory Council

Roy Takeyama, Chair  
Karl Fujii, Vice Chair  
Dr. L. Thomas Ramsey, Secretary  
Dove Atherall, Member  
Nelson Befitel, Member  
Neil Bellingier, Member  
Kathryn Matayoshi, Member

### *Report of the Regents Candidate Advisory Council as Requested in SCR 51, SD 1 December 2009*

As requested in SCR 51, SD 1 of the 2009 Legislative Session, a working group was convened to increase student involvement in the recruitment and evaluation of candidates for the student member of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Regents Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) member Ginger Takeshita met with student leaders from all ten campuses in October of 2009. After additional discussions, and consultation with the UH Office of General Counsel, a method was decided by which the working group itself would comment upon student applications.

A key obstacle was the confidentiality of all applications. The working group, the RCAC, and the UH Office of General Counsel drafted a waiver form that asked student applicants to permit the release by the RCAC of their names and applications to the working group. This form was sent to all student applicants by the RCAC. All but two of the student candidates allowed the release of their applications.

To allow time for the student applicants to return the waivers, and then additional time for review by the working group, the RCAC postponed all deliberations about student applications until December 17, 2009, and postponed all interviews of student applicants until January 11, 2010. We summarize below the entire process:

- The applications of all students, except those of the non-signers, were forwarded to the working group for review and comment.
- The RCAC asked the working group to recommend from 4 to 6 candidates. The working group complied and sent such a recommendation on December 15, in sufficient time for a December 17 RCAC meeting.
- On December 17, the RCAC reviewed all student applicants, including those who had not signed waivers. The input from the working group played a major role in deciding which candidates to interview in January.
- After the early January interviews, the RCAC will select student candidates for (1) the routine background checks (criminal records, civil court records, credit screens, etc.), and (2) consultation with the references provided by each candidate. This is the same procedure as is used to fill all other vacancies on the Board of Regents.
- After review of the background checks and reference reports, the RCAC expects to send a list of finalists to the governor by March 1, 2010.

## **Recommendations**

The RCAC will again review student applications two years from now, in 2011. Prior to that, the RCAC will modify its rules as follows:

- When students apply for the student regent position, have a release waiver available with the application. It is the opinion of the RCAC that probably 100% will sign the waiver, if the waiver is available when the students are making their applications.
- Have the RCAC convene a body of students to review the released applications. That body of students would be the existing cross-campus council of elected student leaders. Alternatively, the council of elected student leaders could delegate the review to a subcommittee of itself.
- The student review will precede and inform the deliberations of the RCAC for selecting student candidates for further consideration.
- The RCAC does not support any statutory changes.

Respectfully submitted,



Roy Y. Takeyama, Chairman  
Regents Candidate Advisory Council



The Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 18, 2010  
1:15 p.m.

**SB 2803, Relating to the Regents Candidate Advisory Council**

Dear Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) does not support passage of this bill.

The interests of faculty and the communities they serve are diminished when active faculty leadership are precluded from serving on the Board of Regents Candidate Advisory Council for five years because of service to the institution.

The All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs addresses the academic program and its' quality and effectiveness. These Senate Chairs are knowledgeable about the academic challenges facing the UH system and are fully conversant in anticipating the future needs of all campuses. To silence the voice of campus leadership through establishing an artificial barrier to serve on the Board of Regents Candidate Advisory Committee undermines the value that faculty bring to the institution. It is an affront to faculty that are actively engaged in pursuing academic quality.

In contrast, this bill enhances student representation. While the interest of students should be an element of Board of Regents selection, it is an element that is transitory and ever changing.

If this bill is intending to improve the Board of Regents selection process, it does not accomplish that. If changes are desired, then UHPA urges the Committee to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the current Board of Regents Advisory Council and propose changes that will enhance the selection process.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman  
Associate Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

## Testimony in Support of SB 2803

**TO:** Honorable Senator Russell Kokubun, Chair,  
Committee on Higher Education

**TESTIFIER:** Joseph Lewis, Student  
University of Hawaii, West Oahu

**HEARING: SB 2803**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 2010

**TIME:** 1:15 pm

**LOCATION:** Conference Room 225

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Aloha Chair Kokubun and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management and operation of the University of Hawaii and is the highest level of university governance. Equally important is the process used to select these regents.

As currently written, students who are engaged and have participated in student governance within five years of their vacancy from office are ineligible to apply for the seat reserved on the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) for a student.

It is important to realize that student leaders voluntarily give of their time to learn and serve the University of Hawaii community, and are therefore better equipped to engage in affairs relating to the selection of a Board of Regent.

In summary, I solely and full heartily support the proposed amendments on SB2803 for the following reason:

- 1) Promotes a fair and balanced selection process
- 2) Keeps students actively engaged in affairs relating to their university.
- 3) Student government leaders are knowledgeable about issues surrounding the University.
- 4) Minimizes the controversy about how regents are selected and by whom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Lewis  
Student, University of Hawaii-West Oahu

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I believe that having student input on the selection of the student regent is extremely important. As a four-year senator of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii (ASUH) and the current UH Manoa second delegate to the University of Hawaii Student Caucus (UHSC), I have encountered numerous issues in which UH students would greatly benefit from having their voices heard by the Board of Regents, in the form of student regent position. I believe that the more involvement students have in the selection process, the better the student regent position can serve its purpose of expressing student perspectives in the BOR's decision-making process.

I approve of the requirement for a one-year hiatus from the UHSC Executive Board in the Regents Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC), because I think that that this will be able to decrease the amount of undue influence that may result from a prospective student regent having ties to this body. However, I believe that it may be advantageous to allow former UHSC Executive Board members onto the RCAC, because these individuals are student leaders who have an intricate understanding of the roles that BOR decisions play in the lives of students. Thus, the one-year hiatus is a good compromise.

Finally, I applaud the addition of a working group with ample student representation who will work with the RCAC to recruit, screen and qualify candidates for the student regent position. I would also recommend that the input of this working group be given more than a mere nod, and actually be taken into consideration when the RCAC puts forth their final recommendations to the governor. The purpose of the working group should be to advise the RCAC on their recommendation for the student regent. If this purpose is established, I hope that the future student regents who are selected will be able to work with students governments and bridge the gap between the BOR and real UH students.

I thank you for your work on this legislation and for taking the time to read my testimony. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [mmpchock@hawaii.edu](mailto:mmpchock@hawaii.edu).

Yours truly,  
Megan Chock.