

## Written Testimony on HB620

- A. Committee Chair Isaac W. Choy  
Committee Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama  
HED (Higher Education)  
Proposing a constitutional amendment to ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.
- B. Kaleo Gagne  
Associated Student of University of Hawai'i - Honolulu Community College (ASUH-HCC) Student Government President; University of Hawai'i System Caucus, Advocacy and Awareness Chair
- C. Thursday, January 31, 2013
- D. Opposition to HB620, Proposing a constitutional amendment to ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.
- E. My name is Kaleo Gagne I am the ASUH-HCC Honolulu Community College Student Government President and the UH System Caucus, Advocacy and Awareness Chair. I am providing testimony in opposition to HB620.
- F. As student body president it is my responsibility to be the voice of our students and to teach our students that they have a voice within the UH System. When you remove the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) and allow the Governor of Hawai'i to make the appointments as stated in Section 6 of HB620, the voice of the students are being taken away. The seven-member RCAC committee has one student member as part of the council. This is where the voice of the student is being heard by asking many questions of candidates that are applying for the Regent position. I feel with a seven-member committee there is more accountability than with one individual making the decisions for everyone.  
As a member of UH System Caucus I am one of many who oppose this constitutional amendment. We all collectively feel this takes the voice of the student away and does not allow any part of the decision making process.
- G. Please do not take away the voice of the students, allow us to continue to be part of the decision making process and let our voices be heard. I am asking along with the UH System Caucus to please vote in opposition to this measure HB620.  
Thank You

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

Karl Fujii, Chair  
Neil Bellinger, Vice Chair  
L. Thomas Ramsey, Secretary  
Andres Albano, Member  
Nelson Befitel, Member  
Joseph Blanco, Member  
Somerset Wong, Member

THE HONORABLE ISAAC W. CHOY, CHAIR  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

January 30, 2013

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO  
H. B. 620

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

Hearing Date:  
January 31, 2013, 2:00 pm House Conference Room 309

Submitted by:  
OFFICERS OF THE REGENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The officers of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council of the University of Hawaii submit testimony in opposition to H. B. 620.

This proposed legislation calls for amending Article X, Section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution to modify the appointment process for the board of regents. Passage of this constitutional amendment would abolish the enabling authority of the RCAC and re-establish the governor's authority to nominate and, with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint the members of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii.

The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), the only national association that serves the interests and needs of academic governing boards on issues related to higher education governance and leadership, strongly believes that an essential best practice is to engage independent screening bodies to assist with the nominating process to identify outstanding citizens to serve as regents.

Further, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) have gone on record to say their focus on accreditation is how the Board is functioning. The issue of how UH Regents are selected, or the qualifications of members of the Board of Regents was never raised as an issue in any UH campus accreditation.

In addition to the RCAC screening process, the governor remains the appointing authority for the Board of Regents. The Senate also continues to provide the important role of advise and consent on the Governor's nominee. An additional benefit under the current RCAC process allows the Speaker of the House to appoint one member to the RCAC. That member plays an integral role in the formation of a list of regent candidates the RCAC presents to the governor for consideration. The proposed bill would remove any direct involvement the State House currently has in the regent selection process.

The RCAC selection process involves seeking out university regent candidates who are broadly representative of the public interest and public good, bring diverse skill sets and points or views to the board, and have the commitment and qualifications to serve. The Council's selection process is comprehensive, transparent, well balanced, and solely and exclusively merit-based. The compilation of candidate regents lists occurs only after the RCAC completes its comprehensive review and selection process. It is significant that for the first time in the UH's 100 year existence, the RCAC process encourages all UH stakeholders to participate in the selection process by submitting BOR candidates for consideration.

It is important to distinguish between the selection of regent candidates and how the Board of Regents governs. How the Board of Regents governs is solely an internal leadership issue between the Board and the President. Rather than single out the regent selection process, we suggest what is more constructive and needed is for the committee to question the current practices governing the University.

In closing, we strongly urge the Committee to table this bill.

Karl Fujii, Chair  
Neil Bellinger, Vice-Chair  
L. Thomas Ramsey, Secretary  
Regents Candidate Advisory Council  
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**LATE**

Written Testimony on HB620

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Committee Vice-Chair Linda Ichiyama  
HED (Higher Education)  
Proposing a constitutional amendment to ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.
- B. Tracey Imper  
Associated Student of University of Hawai'i - Leeward Community College Student Government President; University of Hawai'i Student Caucus, Executive Chair
- C. Thursday, January 31, 2013
- D. Opposition to HB620, Proposing a constitutional amendment to ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i.
- E. My name is Tracey Imper. I am the Student Government President at University of Hawai'i- Leeward Community College and Executive Chair of the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus. Today I am providing testimony in opposition to HB620.
- F. As Student Government President it is my responsibility to advocate for my fellow students. It is also my job to make sure that they have a voice. When you remove the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) and allow the Governor of Hawai'i to make the appointments as stated in Section 6 of HB620, the voice of the students is being taken away. The seven-member RCAC committee has one student member as part of the council. This is where the voice of our students are being heard, by asking many questions of candidates that are applying for the Regent position. I feel with a seven-member committee there is more accountability than with one individual making the decisions for everyone.  
As a member of UH System Caucus I am one of many who oppose this constitutional amendment. We all collectively feel this takes the voice of the student away and does not allow any part of the decision making process. We have already passed a resolution within the UH-Student Caucus that has been presented to the committee.
- G. Please do not take away the voice of the students, allow us to continue to be part of the decision making process and let our voices be heard. I am asking along with the UH Student Caucus to please vote in opposition to this measure HB620.  
Thank You.

**LATE**

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 6:29 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** waimeavalleygirl@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB620 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB620**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonnyjean Manini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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