

LATE
SB 453

LATE



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2013, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Room 414

Testimony of
Policy Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Higher Education Committee
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Bill 453 - 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

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 453 (SB453). The bill proposes 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.

The constitutional amendment will modify the appointment process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii by deleting constitutional reference to the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

The Governor believes that the University of Hawaii system is the single most underutilized public resource in Hawaii. UH contributes to and plays a leadership role in every element of improving Hawaii. The UH Regents provide vital leadership to ensure that college is accessible and affordable for students on all islands, support the entrepreneurial professor, facilitate innovation and technology transfer, support renovation, support premier education and research projects, and improve student success.

In making appointments for boards and commissions, the Governor considers the individual qualities—personal and professional—of the candidates, as well as how the candidates would balance the board in terms of their experience, skill sets or perspectives. The Board of Regents' balance among the members is important to fulfill the Board's charge to govern and steward public higher education. Governor

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Abercrombie believes that flexibility need to balance many characteristics of the candidates to reflect the diversity of Hawaii and the functional needs of the Board of Regents. Considering only a limited "short list" of candidates currently provided by a candidate advisory council makes it extremely challenging to balance the Board on the many dimensions of importance to the University and our state.

The UH and state are best served by a process that increases the Governor's flexibility to appoint Regents which is accomplished by SB453.

Thank you for your consideration.