

# SB 1239

## Testimony

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**Report Title:** University of Hawaii; Board of Regents; Candidate Advisory Council; Repeal

**Description:** Reestablishes 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 by repealing the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii; effective upon ratification of a constitutional amendment to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution that deletes provisions related to the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii.

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HEA, WAM/JDL

**Introducer(s):** KIM, Taniguchi



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 5, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

by  
David Lassner  
President, University of Hawai'i

### SB 1239 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB1239, which proposes to reestablish 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 Hawai'i by repealing the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, upon ratification of a constitutional amendment to article X, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution that deletes provisions related to the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i **supports** this measure.

We believe that repealing the requirement that appointments of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents be made from pools of qualified candidates presented to the governor by the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i will provide the Governor with more flexibility and choice in identifying and appointing the best possible Regents for the University of Hawai'i. A similar approach was recently taken for the selection of the Board of Education and this measure would provide a consistent process for both of these important boards.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Thursday, February 5, 2015  
2:00 p.m.

**SB 1239, Relating to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.**

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Committee Members:

On behalf of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, our union supports the repeal of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents through ratification of a constitutional amendment. We believe the current system used to select members of the Board of Regents has become so onerous that many outstanding citizens, who would have made excellent Board of Regents, are not willing to submit to the advisory council process. In the past, UHPA opposed the current approach and has continued to do so believing it did not represent the interests of the faculty nor the institution itself.

We believe that the Governor should have the authority to nominate and appoint Board of Regent members. The Governor, in order to be accountable to the people, should not be limited in his or her choices through a restricted list garnered by an advisory committee. Senate consent is the correct mechanism to ensure the appropriateness of the appointment.

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly strongly recommends passage of this bill.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristeen Hanselman', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Kristeen Hanselman  
Associate Executive Director

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY**

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 224

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education and Arts Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Re: Support of SB 1239 Relating to the Board of Regents University of Hawai'i

My name is Bret Polopolus-Meredith, and I am a graduate student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in support of SB 1239 to reestablish 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 by repealing the candidate advisory council.

The current relationship between the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (BoR) and graduate students at UH Mānoa is slightly above an all-time low. In October, 2014, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) voted No Confidence in the Board of Regents as a Body. GSO stated the following: the BoR has damaged UH by overseeing a high turn over rate in senior administration positions, the BoR disregarded key stakeholders over the firing of Mānoa Chancellor Thomas Apple, the BoR did not conduct a satisfactorily rigorous presidential search and did not adhere to the spirit of the rules, the BoR is responsible for fostering an environment of mistrust.

BoR members have made a small step to improve communication by coming to a GSO Executive meeting and hosting a breakfast with GSO and ASUH. Otherwise, little has been done to improve the situation. UHM has an interim chancellor. There are no announced plans to start a search for a permanent chancellor. Senior administration is rumored to be discussing the elimination of the Mānoa chancellor position. There has been no change to the process by which a campus chancellor or the system president are evaluated and removed. Despite President David Lassner admitting that the process was 'flawed'.

As for the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC), there is limited faculty or student representation. It is my understanding that after June 30, 2015 there will no longer be a student voice on RCAC. The selection of nominees, in my recent observation, has not been transparent. There is often too quick a turn-around from RCAC selection to governor nominee. Further, RCAC is an additional unnecessary bureaucratic layer.

I would prefer a simpler, more public, and open nomination process for BoR members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,  
Bret Polopolus-Meredith  
bp32@hawaii.edu  
808-304-9334

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HEA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [unheelim@gmail.com](mailto:unheelim@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:16:49 PM

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**SB1239**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HEA on Feb 5, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Unhee Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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