



# ASUH

Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i  
YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**LATE**

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 016

**Re: OPPOSITION TO SB 2316 – PROPOSING AN 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.**

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz, and I am the president of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii, the undergraduate student government at UH Manoa. We represent the voices of over 10,000 full-time classified undergraduate students on the UHM campus. Our constituents **strongly oppose** the passage of Senate Bill 2316 - Proposing an 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 final candidates of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii have historically been first recommended by the Regents Candidate Advisory Council for the University of Hawaii, then referred to the Senate for advice and consent, and are finally appointed by the Governor. The amendments being proposed to Article X, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution would eliminate the Regents Candidate Advisory Council’s role in the selection process for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, allowing the Governor and members of the State Legislature to have sole control of the appointments to these positions. Although the ASUH recognizes the important roles that the Governor and the Legislature play in ensuring the University’s success, SB 2316 represents a step in the wrong direction.

The ASUH recognizes supports and respects the current processes in place to appoint Board of Regents members. The Regents Candidate Advisory Council for the University of Hawaii was formed specifically for the purpose of creating the most fair selection process possible. The current process is also much more selective, as the Regents Candidate Advisory Council provides an additional layer of screening that the Board of Regents candidates must pass through before being appointed. Finally, members of the Regents Candidate Advisory Council are often experts in UH’s governance, facilities, students, faculty, and

education. This indeed makes the Council best qualified to recommend candidates to serve on the Board of Regents.

The ASUH foresees a detrimental impact to the entire university system if this current selection process is not honored and a candidate unfit to serve on the Board of Regents is appointed simply because it did not go through screening of the Regents Candidate Advisory Council.

It is for these reasons that the 10,000 full-time classified, undergraduate students on the UH Manoa campus strongly urge you to defer SB 2316 - proposing an 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.

Thank you very much for your time.

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz  
President  
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