



LATE

SB2319 SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF REGENTS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 21, 2018

10:10 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the proposed inclusion of an at-large seat on the University of Hawai'i (UH) Board of Regents with demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as proposed by SB2319 SD1. OHA does not take a position on the other amendments proposed in this measure.

An at-large member with expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices will provide the UH Board of Regents with invaluable and relevant insight in its academic and extracurricular decisionmaking. For example, UH's Strategic Directions for 2015-21 identify four priorities developed by the UH Board of Regents for the university; one such priority is UH's commitment to being a foremost indigenous-serving institution, by embracing its unique responsibilities to Hawai'i's indigenous Native Hawaiian people. Accordingly, having an individual with expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices would help UH advance this priority.

In addition, UH also administers lands and resources of particular significance in Hawaiian culture, and for Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Most notably, Maunakea, a place with great historical and cultural significance to the Native Hawaiian people, has been subject to UH control and management for decades; the failure of UH to ensure the cultural and environmental integrity of Maunakea, including through the protection of traditional and customary rights and practices, has led to significant controversy in the Native Hawaiian community. The administration of other UH-controlled lands and programs may also impact, positively and negatively, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and underlying cultural sites and resources. An individual with expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and familiarity with issues of importance to the Hawaiian community, will help to ensure that UH operations better recognize the cultural significance of places such as Maunakea, and protect the cultural practices associated with such places.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2319 SD1 with the proposed at-large seat and attendant qualifications on the UH Board of Regents. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



ASUH

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

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 10:10 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

Re: OPPOSITION TO SB 2319 SD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS.

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 2319 - Relating to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

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.

Additionally, SB 2319 places a major restriction on many qualified students to be nominated and appointed as a Student Regent Member, or any regent member position at all. With the requirements as outlined in this bill, and the solo control over the selection process by the State Legislature, students are not given the fair chance to be recognized, seen, or heard by those who are most familiar with the University of Hawaii up to date to be nominated to serve on the BOR. The ASUH believes that the processes to nominate and appoint members of the Board as outlined in SB 2319, most importantly the selection process of the Student Regent Member, limits equal access for students to take on the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Regents, ultimately affecting the quality of the pool of candidates, and the Board of Regents, and the quality of student representation.

As a Student Body President, representing the ASUH, I have been elected by my constituents through an election process. The role of president for a student government association and its responsibilities that are assumed are understood to be fulfilled for the constituents the body represents. I serve full-time, classified undergraduate students at UH Manoa. If the Student Regent were to be selected based on the selection process outlined in SB 2319, this would require time for the student to learn and develop as a Regent while learning and developing to serve as President or the equivalent at the student's campus student government, impact the student's commitment to their duty as a President or the equivalent, impact the student's time invested towards school and other responsibilities, as well as pose issues with continuity of student representation on the Board of Regents.

From my perspective as President of the ASUH, with the time invested to my course load for Architecture in the Bachelor's of Environmental Design program, in addition to serving undergraduates at UH Manoa and my commitment to work to earn money, it would be difficult to also serve as the BOR Student Regent during my term. My schedule as a student would not permit my ability to attend all Board of Regents meetings. This can hurt my performance in school as I would have to miss classes to attend the meetings and I would need to find other time to study or work on my projects which I no longer have. While most presidents from each campus student government serve on the UH Student Caucus, the quality of student representation can still be of a concern if the President or equivalent that is also to serve as the BOR student regent is not informed of the activity by members of the UH Student Caucus. I feel that with the current processes to nominate and appoint our Regents, it is fair and equally accessible opportunity to our students at UH Manoa.

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 2319 - Relating to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Thank you very much for you time.

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz
President
Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa
jldc2@hawaii.edu



UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII
STUDENT CAUCUS

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 10:10 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

Re: **OPPOSITION TO SB 2319 SD 1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS.**

My name is Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz, and I am the Chairperson of the UH Student Caucus, the UH system wide association of all campus student governments. We represent over 50,000 students in the University of Hawaii System. The UH Student Caucus (UHSC) stands in **strong opposition to SB 2319 SD 1**, that amends the composition and term limit of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii, 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, requires the governor to fill a vacancy on the board of regents within ninety days, abolishes the regents candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii and requires the governor to nominate new members to the board of regents.

SB 2319 SD 1 as currently written does not revise the current selection process and qualifications to serve on the Board of Regents for the University of Hawaii to be effective or efficient. The proposed language in SB 2319 SD 1 instead creates the process to be unfair and makes the opportunity to serve on the BOR inequitable to students in the University of Hawaii System.

Like any election process to serve on campus student governments or organizations, anyone who is a qualified student can be nominated and elected or appointed to be a representative in that group. The opportunity to serve and be a voice for others, should not be restricted. Roles like these should be passed onto or offered to those who are supported by their peers amongst the related constituency or by those that are most objective, yet also most familiar with the organization. All Regent positions on the BOR are similar of that they are voluntary positions that are filled with people who want to share their voice, and in particular, the Student Regent position is similar of that to being a representative of students wanting to represent student perspectives in discussions and decision making.

By shifting full authority of the selection of Regents to the Governor, eliminates the opportunity for many qualified students to be selected to serve on the BOR. Opportunities to serve on the Board of Regents should be equally accessible for students. Students who are willing to serve, willing to take time out of their own personal and academic schedules to commit, should not be turned away due to specific qualifications that are pre-determined. Students who are interested in serving on the Board of Regents deserve to be listened to or recognized in the selection process. Without processes such as referencing names provided by the Candidate Advisory Council (CAC), or most importantly utilizing the CAC to specifically review all nominations, we lose out on the additional layer that would at least

review all nominations of qualified students. This additional layer of review provides equal opportunity for students to move forward for selection by a group that is familiar with the University. The proposed changes in SB 2319 SD 1 to the current processes also severely impacts the quality of the candidate pool, most importantly the candidate pool for the Student Regent position.

While the UHSC feels that the oversight of the University System by the Board of Regents can become more efficient, we support the current processes in place to appoint Board of Regents members. The current process is much more selective than previously, and members of the Regents Candidate Advisory Council (CAC) are often informed in UH's governance, facilities, students, faculty, and education. This makes the CAC best qualified to recommend candidates to serve on the Board of Regents.

The UHSC urges you to defeat SB 2319 SD 1 so that our students have the equal opportunity to serve on the Board of Regents and to ensure the consideration of quality of the candidates in the appointment process. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz
Chairperson
UH Student Caucus
jldc2@hawaii.edu