

SB-919-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 11:07:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is nuts. There is no reason to reduce the number of board members unless you want to make the board less effective. The board meets frequently throughout the state. It his composed of professionals, all of whom are volunteers, who lead busy lives and will not be able to devote the time needed if there are fewer members.

Maybe a better suggestion is a consittutional amendment reducing the number of state senators and representatives commensurate with a reduction in staff size.

Please defeat this bill.

SB-919-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:38:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Putnam	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the committee,

My name is Lee Putnam. I am completing my fifth year of service on the Board of Regent and this year I have the honor of being the Chair. I have not applied for reappointment. So I believe this gives me both the objectivity and the background experience to share perspective on this bill. However, I am testifying as an individual and not on behalf of the Board. At the Regents meeting on Thursday, March 28, a resolution concerning this bill is on the agenda. After that meeting, we may be able to provide a formal position of the Board.

I am in complete agreement with the purposes of this bill, but I do not see how the changes proposed advance these purposes. Reducing the current number of Regents will seriously impact the ability of the Board to meet its fiduciary responsibilities. Segmentation of membership by congressional districts jeopardizes the balance of membership since six of the UH campuses are in CD1 and four are in CD2. Holding the President accountable is one of the primary functions of the Board of Regents and including this in statute is not only redundant but also intrudes on the current statute, Section 26-11(a) which states, "The board shall have **exclusive jurisdiction** over the internal organization and **management** of the university." [emphasis added]

The Board of Regents provides governance and oversight of the University of Hawaii. Over the near-term past, the University has made significant progress toward reaching strategic goals in every aspect other than providing appropriate facilities. The accomplishments in reducing the time to degree completion and increasing the numbers of graduates have been noted and emulated by many mainland institutions. A number of sustainability and cost containment measures have been implemented and tuition increases have been held to very modest amounts. The quality of educational programs is recognized in national and international rankings and by accreditation reviews. The University is closely linked to educational and community partners and has become nimble in adapting programs to meet student demand and workforce needs. In spite of declining funding, particularly at the Federal level, the research programs have been able to secure increasing amounts of support.

All of the Regents are volunteers and spend considerable amounts of time and attention preparing for and participating in meetings of committees and the Board. SB919 in its current form hinders this level of engagement. **I respectfully recommend that this bill not be enacted.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with the committee.

LATE

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March 27, 2019

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, chair, Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Representatives:

Subject: SB 919, SD 2 HD 2 (relating to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents)

There is an old adage “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” I believe this applies to the matter of this bill.

The bill proposes changes to the size and composition of the members of the Board of Regents. HD 1 of this bill is an improvement over SD 1, but the bill still does not state a rationale for any of the proposed changes.

Senate Standing Committee Report no. 941 dated March 1, 2019, the Senate’s most correspondence on this bill, states that the bill “will better enable the Board of Regents to fulfill its constitutional mandate to formulate policy and exercise control of the University.” HD 1 sheds no further light on a rationale, and none of the versions of this bill has offered an explanation as to how this bill will achieve these objectives.

In the absence of a reason to make these changes, I encourage you to hold this bill in your committee.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Randolph G. Moore