

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February 26, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB 1105 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF REGENTS CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

My name is Maura Stephens-Chu, and I am a University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Graduate Student Organization (GSO) delegate to the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus, the organization chartered by the Board of Regents that represents over 50,000 students in the University of Hawai‘i System. The UH Student Caucus (UHSC) stands in **strong support of HB 1105**. We strongly agree with the stated purpose of the bill: “to ensure that the recommendations of the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii help to support the creation of a board that represents the diverse interests of the people of the State of Hawaii” (Section 1, lines 8-12).

Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 304A-104.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Candidate Advisory Council to present candidates who reflect the diversity of public university stakeholders: We wholeheartedly support this amendment and believe that the BOR, which “has exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university” (<https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/>), should reflect the community that it and the university serve.

Regarding the proposed amendment of the appointing authorities of the Candidate Advisory Council: We strongly support this amendment and believe that it will ensure that diverse candidates are presented to the Governor for appointment to the BOR. The UHSC enthusiastically welcomes the opportunity to appoint a member of the Candidate Advisory Council, and we support extending the same opportunity to the University of Hawai‘i Alumni Association, the University of Hawai‘i All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs, and Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Regarding the proposed amendment of the terms of the Candidate Advisory Council: We agree with the two-year term limit for all members except those appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

**In conclusion, the UHSC strongly supports HB 1105, and we encourage you to support this bill as well.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Maura Stephens-Chu

Delegate, University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus

President, Graduate Student Organization

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

[maura4@hawaii.edu](mailto:maura4@hawaii.edu)

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 1:43:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Miller	Academic Labor United	Support	No

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Alex Miller and I am the current chair of Academic Labor United, the unrecognized union for graduate assistants at the University of Hawai'i. ALU stands in support of HB 1105 to amend the appointing authorities of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and to include further guidance to the candidate advisory council in the selection of BoR candidates for recommendation to the Governor.**

**ALU is fighting to form a recognized labor union for graduate student workers because currently we do not have a seat at the table to determine our working conditions. This lack of a voice in workplace governance leads to poor working conditions for many of us, which negatively affects our quality of life, as well as our learning conditions and those of our undergraduate students. ALU supports this bill because, similarly to a union, it would give students, workers, and other important stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai'i greater representation in university governance, which will assist the university in its mission to serve the people of Hawai'i.**

**Hawaii Revised Statutes 304A-104 instructs the state senate to "consider whether the board reflects the diversity of the student population, the various counties of the State, and a broad representation of higher education-related stakeholders" when determining whether to confirm the Governor's appointees to the Board of Regents. We believe the spirit of this statute should be carried by this bill into the entire selection process for the Board of Regents because it reflects an understanding that the University of Hawai'i exists to serve all the people of Hawai'i and the people who live, work, and learn at the University's 10 campuses, both now and in future generations.**

**Currently, the power in the Regents selection process is held nearly entirely by the Governor's office. The Governor's appointees have a majority of positions on the Candidate Advisory Council, which then recommends candidates back to the Governor. Essentially, the Governor's office holds nearly all the power to select**

**the people who will govern UH. We believe this power should be shared with the people it most affects—workers and students. By making the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs and the UH Student Caucus appointing authorities, the interests of these groups are represented. Without a voice in university governance, it is hard for workers to provide quality education and it is hard for students' needs to be considered when shaping the learning environment at UH.**

**We also believe in sharing the power of University governance not just with the people of Hawai'i, which it exists to serve, but in explicitly centering members of communities who are most underserved both historically and currently by public education in Hawai'i. This is why we strongly support OHA as an appointing authority to the candidate advisory council, and in guiding the CAC to think seriously and critically about recommending members of these communities to the governor for appointment to the Board of Regents. The communities we are talking about are the Filipinx, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and disability communities, to name some. They are higher education stakeholders we believe have been overlooked in the process of university governance. The inclusion of an OHA appointee on the CAC will help the CAC consider the university's stated mission as a "Native Hawaiian Place of Learning" in the selection of BoR candidates.**

**Public education is a public good and should be a right for all of Hawai'i's people. The University of Hawai'i must provide quality education for all of Hawai'i's people. We believe that can only happen by sharing the power of university governance more directly with workers, students, and the community. This is one step in that process. Thank you.**



## Association of Emeritus Regents University of Hawai'i

James Lee, Chair  
Andres Albano, Vice Chair  
Joseph F. Blanco, Secretary-Treasurer

February 25, 2021

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: James Lee, Chair  
Association of Emeritus Regents  
2224 Dole Street  
Bachman Hall #209  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

RE: HB 1105, HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS  
CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL – **SUPPORT with Amendments**  
Hearing date: Friday, February 26, 2021  
Hearing time: 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Mark Nakashima and Vice Chair Scot Matayoshi:

The Association of Emeritus Regents was created by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents in January 1995. Our membership is comprised of all former regents and board executive secretaries of UH.

On behalf of my fellow officers who are acting on behalf of the Association, we support HB 1105 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL with the following amendments noted below. The amendments proposed by HB 1105 supports the University's commitment to shared governance by ensuring that the CAC membership includes representatives from the faculty and student systemwide governance organizations. Furthermore, the inclusion of a voting member appointed by the board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the University's mission as a Native Hawaiian and indigenous serving institution.



## Association of Emeritus Regents University of Hawai'i

*The AER respectfully requests the Committee to amend the bill to provide a vote to the member appointed to the Candidate Advisory Council by the Association of Emeritus Regents Chair. The AER appointed member is the only CAC member with direct experience serving on the Board of Regents. Emeritus Regents have firsthand knowledge of the expectations of Regents and are able to discern candidates' capacity to commit to the University in light of the time commitment, fit with the University's institutional culture, and expectations for governance in public higher education systems.*

*The AER respectfully recommends the Committee consider amending the bill to add a member to represent the UH Community Colleges. Regents serve on the governing board of Hawaii's public higher education system and are responsible for decisions impacting the seven UH Community Colleges campuses. Furthermore, Regents concurrently serve on the Career and Technical Education Board to address Hawaii's workforce development needs. Adding a UH Community Colleges representative will provide a vital perspective in vetting Regent candidates who may potentially decide on matters impacting Hawaii's workforce development, vocational programs, and community college students.*

Please feel free to contact me at [aeruh@hawaii.edu](mailto:aeruh@hawaii.edu) should you have any questions regarding this matter.

With warmest and best regard,

James Lee  
Chair



Young Progressives Demanding Action  
P.O. Box 11105  
Honolulu, HI 96828

February 25, 2021

**TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**RE: Testimony in Support of HB1105 HD1**

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action **supports HB1105 HD1**. However, we don't believe that the advisory council appointments made by stakeholder organizations in subsections (e)(4), (e)(5), and (e)(6) should have their terms limited to two years while other appointments remain for four. We feel the term lengths of appointees from all stakeholders should be equal.

We stand in solidarity with Academic Labor United (ALU) in the belief that students should have a larger say in who runs the University and how. Students, and in particular student employees and laborers, are routinely maligned and excluded from the university's decision-making process. However, these decisions can have severe, even dire, implications on their academic careers, professional careers, mental health and quality of life.

This needs to end. Students deserve a seat at the table, and our organization will continue to advocate for expanded student power throughout the University of Hawai'i System.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron  
Board President & Secretary  
action@ypdahawaii.org

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:04:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahea Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1105.



**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:01:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cynthia Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 1105** to amend the appointing authorities of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and to include further guidance to the candidate advisory council in the selection of BoR candidates for recommendation to the Governor.

I believe this bill will create a more democratic process for appointing Regents to govern Hawai'i's only public higher education university and will better represent the diverse stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai'i, including workers and students at UH, as well as members of communities historically and contemporarily underrepresented and underserved by public higher education in Hawai'i, including Native Hawaiians, Oceanic peoples, Filipinx, and people with disabilities. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Cynthia Franklin

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:19:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah Manshel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 1105** to amend the appointing authorities of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and to include further guidance to the candidate advisory council in the selection of BoR candidates for recommendation to the Governor.

I believe this bill will create a more democratic process for appointing Regents to govern Hawai'i's only public higher education university and will better represent the diverse stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai'i, including workers and students at UH, as well as members of communities historically and contemporarily underrepresented and underserved by public higher education in Hawai'i, including Native Hawaiians, Oceanic peoples, Filipinx, and people with disabilities. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Hannah Manshel, Assistant Professor of English, UH Manoa

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:29:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
noel kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 1105** to amend the appointing authorities of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and to include further guidance to the candidate advisory council in the selection of BoR candidates for recommendation to the Governor.

Aloha. I was a UH faculty for forty-eight years. I believe this bill will create a more democratic process for appointing Regents to govern Hawai'i's only public higher education university and will better represent the diverse stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai'i, including workers and students at UH, as well as members of communities historically and contemporarily underrepresented and underserved by public higher education in Hawai'i, including Native Hawaiians, Oceanic peoples, Filipinx, and people with disabilities. Please pass this bill.

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:07:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Subramanian Shankar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will democratize the Board of Regents that governs the University of Hawai`i. University of Hawai`i plays a key role in the creation of a skilled workforce and informed citizenship. As the only public higher education system in the state it is vital that it be led and advised by a diversity of members of the community and especially those with knowledge of higher education. Rather than lobbyists and people with ties to business interests that care little for or have little knowledge of public higher education, we need the Board of Regents to be composed of stakeholders who care about the young people of Hawai`i and who will ensure that an affordable education in a variety of fields will remain available. The BOR as currently composed does not reflect the diverse population of the state sufficiently nor have the necessary knowledge of higher education. By revising the council that puts forward candidates for the BOR, this bill ensures that the right candidates will be appointed as regents. I support this bill and I hope you will too.

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice-Chair

Date: Friday, February 26, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB1105: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I  
BOARD OF REGENTS CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

My name is Donovan Kamakani Albano, and I am an ASUH Mānoa delegate to the University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus, the representative organization of the University of Hawai‘i System as chartered by the Board of Regents that represents over 50,000 students. The UH Student Caucus (UHSC) stands in **strong support of HB1105 and we urge you to vote YES on this bill.**

Pursuant to Article X, Hawai‘i State Constitution, and Chapter 304A, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents, the governing body of the University of Hawai‘i system, “formulates policy and exercises control over the university through its executive officer, the university president, and has exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management and operation of the university.” The decisions that are made by the BOR will, in many ways, impact student experiences and the operation of the University of Hawai‘i as we pursue this important journey in our lives. Students make the university what it is.

As the UHSC comprise of delegates from the 11 student governments across the UH system, it is imperative that we be a part of the conversation that will impact operations and governing of the University, and one step can be through affording the Student Caucus with the ability to appoint one member to the Regents Candidate Advisory Council. The bill would amend that candidate advisory council candidates should “reflect the diversity of the student population, the counties of the State, and a broad representation of higher education-related stakeholders,” of which includes but is not limited to “current and former University of Hawaii faculty, staff, and students; National Board Certified public school teachers, and members of communities historically and contemporarily underserved by and underrepresented in public higher education in Hawaii.” This is critically important, and the UHSC feels that amending the Revised Statutes to provide student leaders with the opportunity to appoint a member to the advisory council is one positive way to amplify student voices and ensure that those who serve on the candidate advisory council will effectively serve our interests, as the Regents should.

I believe that this bill will create a more democratic process for appointing Regents to govern Hawai‘i’s only public higher education university and will better represent the diverse stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai‘i, including workers and students at UH, as well as members of communities historically and contemporarily underrepresented and underserved by public higher education in Hawai‘i, including Native Hawaiians, Oceanic peoples, BIPOC, and people with disabilities.

**I strongly support HB1105 and urge you to vote YES on this measure.** Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Donavan Kamakani Albano  
UH Mānoa Delegate, UH Student Caucus  
[albanodc@hawaii.edu](mailto:albanodc@hawaii.edu)

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 2:04:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Seems to be the most democratic approach to ensuring the Board of Regents is the most reflective of those most impacted and invested in the success of the UH system.

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 2:07:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Markus Wessendorf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I would like to testify **in strong support of HB 1105** to amend the appointing authorities of the candidate advisory council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i and to include further guidance to the candidate advisory council in the selection of BoR candidates for recommendation to the Governor.

I believe this bill will create a more democratic process for appointing Regents to govern Hawai'i's only public higher education university and will better represent the diverse stakeholders in public higher education in Hawai'i, including workers and students at UH, as well as members of communities historically and contemporarily underrepresented and underserved by public higher education in Hawai'i, including Native Hawaiians, Oceanic peoples, Filipinx, and people with disabilities. Please pass this bill.

Aloha.



**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 3:27:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm a UH Mānoa alumni and I support HB1105 and believe workers at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa should have more say in who gets selected into the board of regents.

The students and workers of UH as well as former students should have a voice in who runs the University and who gets to decide the environment we have to work and learn in! HB1105 would change who appoints members of the Candidate Advisory Council which helps select candidates for the Board of Regents.

Support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

**HB-1105-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 1:04:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henry boothe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly SUPPORT this bill for a more democratic process in UH BOR proceses with regards to the communities they effect in the work of UH across the state.

Mahalo,

Henry Boothe