

**SB-1395-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:06:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Annika Nozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1395 SD1 relating to boards and commissions.

**SB-1395-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:17:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2021 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the purpose of this bill because it is important that members of board, commissions, councils, and committees be appointed in a timely manner if they are to meet and conduct business to accomplish their stated mission, and because of the following examples:

- Appointments to the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee has not been made since 2013, with the terms of office for those appointed at that time expiring in 2016. While the committee is not a “Commission” or “Board” per se, its appointments follow a similar process for appointments made to Boards and Commissions. Such appointments are made by the governor for a term of four years and are subject to confirmation of the Senate.
- The position of the member of the Land Commission “who shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural land practices” has not been filled since its incumbent, Aaron Mahi, resigned. I note that before the Senate this year is the Governor’s nomination to reappoint four members of the Commission, but it does not include this position.

When appointments are not made in a timely manner, the work of the Board, Commission, Council, or Committee is hindered. Putting into place a requirement that appointments be made within a certain timeframe may help, but it does beg the question of what the consequences are if the appointment is not made in a timely manner.

To provide some accountability, perhaps another option would be to require that the Governor’s Boards and Commission Office provide a quarterly report to the legislature on the status of vacancies and the proactive action they are taking to fill them within 60 days of their vacancy.

Thus, appropriate amendments to the bill may be necessary to address the issue of the consequences for failure to make appointments in a timely manner and to require a quarterly report on vacancies.