



The Committee on Ways and Means
And
The Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, March 3, 2022
Room 211, Videoconference

RE: **SB 3187 SD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents Candidate Advisory Council**

Attention: Chairs Donovan Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of the Committees

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **strongly opposes the intent and purpose of SB 3187, SD1**. The Candidate Advisory Council serves an important purpose and function to ensure seeking out the best qualified candidates and vetting prior to submitting their names for consideration.

SB 3187, SD1 supports removing any outside, independent entity to review and vet candidates for one of the most important higher education positions in the state, that of Regent. The bill puts Regent selection and Regent confirmation **ALL** within the walls of the legislature and executive office.

Under the premise of an open and transparent government, the process proposed to follow the Constitutional Amendment language runs contrary to and does not allow multiple stakeholders to participate in the process.

UHPA strongly opposes the intent and purpose of SB 3187, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary
The Hawaii State Senate
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: OPPOSE SB 3186 & 3187

February 28, 2022

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Roberts, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees,

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE BILLS SB 3186 SD1 and SB 3187 SD1, which seek to repeal and eliminate the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (BOR) Candidate Advisory Council.

I am an instructor at Leeward Community College writing as an individual that is impacted by all choices the Board of Regents (BOR) makes as the governing body of the University of Hawai'i System. As someone who is deeply committed to the quality and integrity of our institutional education and mission and the service of UH-System stakeholders, I find it of extreme importance that BOR appointees are qualified, and free of political leanings that would jeopardize the integrity of UH-System governance.

While I understand that these measures are being considered due to a lack of qualified applicants for BOR positions, I urge the Senate to consider ways in which to help encourage applicants and adjust the procedure and policies involving the Candidate Advisory Council to solve this problem, rather than complete elimination of the University of Hawai'i BOR Candidate Advisory Council. Please avoid minimizing the important task this council performs by retaining oversight of the majority of BOR appointments. Please maintain the University of Hawai'i BOR Candidate Advisory Council consider alternative means to ensure BOR appointees are educated, unbiased, non politicized, and service-minded in order to most effectively serve the interests of residents and UH-System stakeholders.

Without this kind of council, I worry candidates may not have the background or qualifications to make the best choices for our students or University System. Allowing the governor to choose any candidate he or she wishes may make these important positions more vulnerable to political leanings, rather than choosing candidates that have the background to best support the mission of our State University system.

For all these reasons and more, I strongly support OPPOSING BILLS SB 3186 SD1 and SB 3187 SD1 and help secure the quality of higher education on our islands for years to come. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,



Erika Molyneux
Instructor, New Media Arts
Leeward Community College

SB-3187-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 10:42:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Governor should not have this Authority. The universaty should be in charge of this!