



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
SYSTEM

**Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**

**Testimony by:**

**Kendra Oishi, Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents**

**S.B. No. 3354 – PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.**

**S.B. No. 3355 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

These comments on S.B. No. 3354 and S.B. No. 3355 are offered in my capacity as the Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board) has not yet had the opportunity to discuss these measures. Discussion is expected to occur at the Board's next meeting on February 17, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on S.B. No. 3354 and S.B. No. 3355.



# Association of Emeritus Regents

James H.Q. Lee, Chair  
Andres Albano, Jr. Vice-Chair  
J. F. Blanco, Secretary-Treasurer

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 3355**  
**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Hearing Date  
3:00 PM, Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Submitted by  
ASSOCIATION OF EMERITUS REGENTS  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Senator Donna Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Higher Education (HRE)  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2022

Senator Donna Kim, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

This testimony is being submitted by the Association of Emeritus Regents of the University of Hawaii (AER). The University's Board of Regents (BOR) established the AER on January 13, 1995. Our members include all former University Regents appointed by Governors Ariyoshi, Waihee, Cayetano, Lingle, and Ige.

The Association of Emeritus Regents University of Hawaii **is in opposition to SB 3355**, which requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to submit proposed legislation to establish a president of community colleges who shall be the head of the University of Hawaii community colleges and who shall report directly to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii

Under Article X, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the University of Hawaii has exclusive jurisdiction over the internal jurisdiction, management, and operation of the university.

**AER believes SB 3355 violates the Hawaii State Constitution and asks that the bill be held in Committee.**

Committee on Higher Education  
The Hawaii State Senate  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 3354 and 3355 Testimony

January 31, 2022

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and esteemed members of the Higher Education Committee,

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE BILLS SB 3354 and SB 3357, which seek to separate the University of Hawai'i (UH) from its associated community colleges, instead establishing each as separate entities with their own Board of Regents (BOR), BOR Candidate Advisory Board, and President.

As an instructor in the University of Hawai'i Community College (UHCC) System that takes part in my campus faculty senate and curriculum committee, I see a few benefits to your proposal, such as allocating separate budgets for the UHCCs and four-year UH institutions. However, the number and seriousness of problems arising from this proposed segregation eclipse any perceived benefits. If this proposed separation occurs, union representation will be problematic with the need to represent two separate entities, workers that split time between our four-year and two-year campuses risk losing benefits, and articulation among campuses would suffer. Additionally, this act introduces additional bureaucracy by means of a second BOR and President, and invites additional legislative micromanagement of college and university affairs that are currently the kuleana of campus and university governing bodies, faculty, our union, and students. It is imperative to make sure policy and management of the university system remains in the hands of those that have a background in academia in order to ensure academic freedom, rigor, student support, and the ability to continually serve all university stakeholders.

As someone who has worked professionally both within and outside academia, I can assure you that fully understanding the intricacies of academic operations takes time, effort, and experience. Making large structural and policy decisions without discussing them with university leadership, faculty, and students within the University System or understanding the far-reaching implications of implementation endangers the quality of education and service we provide to our students and communities and will have multiple unintended negative consequences.

For all these reasons and more, I ask that you OPPOSE BILLS SB 3354 and 3355 and instead proceed with restructuring and large scale changes to the university only after holding discussions with UHCC leadership, faculty, students, and other stakeholders. Mahalo nui!

Sincerely,



Erika Molyneux  
Instructor, New Media Arts  
Leeward Community College