



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

**Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

Testimony by:

Jamie Go, Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents

S.B. No. 838 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

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

The Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (Board) held discussions on S.B. No. 838, which would require the Vice President of Community Colleges to report directly to the Board, at its February 16, 2023, meeting and respectfully opposes passage of this measure.

The highly integrated University of Hawai'i System (UH System), consisting of campuses with distinct missions, provides students with a full array of post-secondary educational opportunities. While the nature of this scholastic structure enables students to meet their immediate educational needs, the synergistic relationship between the ten campuses of the UH System also affords students with the chance to further their higher educational pursuits through numerous collaborative pathways that have been established via UH policies and practices.

In addition, the responsibility for managing this distinctive and effective structure of public higher education in Hawai'i currently rests with a single executive officer as elucidated in Article X, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, which states, in part, that: *“The board shall have the power to formulate policy, and to exercise control over the university through its executive officer, the president of the university, who shall be appointed by the board. The board shall also have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university.”*

Requiring the Vice President of Community Colleges to report directly to the Board would serve to disrupt the current management structure of the UH system, which has worked well to date, and affect the synergy created by already established campus integration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. No. 838.