



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 6, 2025

S.B. 1254— RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 1254 which prohibits active employees of the University of Hawaii from serving on the Board of Regents.

One of the Board of Regent positions is specifically designated to be a student of the University system. Occasionally, the Student Regent is from a professional or advanced degree program and is concurrently holding full time employment while pursuing their higher education. The position is designated for a student of the University system, they are serving on the board for their capacity as a student. If an individual meets that requirement they should not be disqualified or penalized based on where they are employed. Previous student regents were also University employees and we are not aware of any conflicts or improprieties that arose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of S.B. 1254.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-1254

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:16:42 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/6/2025 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee,

As a student of the University of Hawaii, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1254. I appreciate the intent of this bill which seeks to improve the governance of our university by ensuring greater accountability, transparency, and fairness in the Board of Regents' appointment process. This bill is vital not just for the future of the university but for the students who rely on it for **quality** education and opportunities. I want to know that the leadership overseeing my education is competent, fair, and committed to the well-being of students. By ensuring that those on the Board are not current employees of the University of Hawaii or its research corporation. This crucial step will help ensure that decisions made at the highest levels are in the best interest of all **students**, free from any personal or professional bias.

Mahalo for your time.

Stanford J. Fichtman

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Testimony in opposition to SB 1254
RE: Relating To The Board Of Regents

By: Stanford J. Fichtman

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1254, relating to the Board of Regents. This bill specifically prohibits active employees of the University of Hawaii and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii from serving on the Board of Regents. My testimony is in **opposition** to the measure.

For my testimony, I would like to point out that the Board of Regents has put in place provisions to address the conflict of interest issue stated in the purpose section. The Board of Regents enacted Regents Policy 2.206, the Policy on Regents as employees, to manage any potential or perceived conflicts.

Article X, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution, which outlines the responsibilities of the Board of Regents, states, "The board shall also have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." I urge the Committee to consider how excluding employees can hinder the Board's ability to truly understand the institution. Silencing the voices of those who are directly involved with the daily workings of the university limits the Board's ability to create informed, effective policies. Engaging with employees is crucial for the Board to address key issues and make decisions that will benefit the entire university community

These are just a couple of several issues that make this bill's intent flawed. Other testifiers today will bring up other issues with this bill that will highlight those other issues.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in **opposition** to Senate Bill 1254.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stanford J. Fichtman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stanford J. Fichtman