



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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by
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SB 3186 SD1 – PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 6, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION TO REPEAL THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS CANDIDATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 3186 SD1. This bill was originally introduced to repeal the Candidate Advisory Council for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i (UH).

The SD1 as posted additionally proposes a devastating diminution of the role of the Board of Regents and its responsibilities for the internal structure, management, and operations of the university.

The deletion of one word ("exclusive") on page 2 line 6 in this SD1 would eviscerate UH's "autonomy" in favor of the State Legislature having "exclusive jurisdiction" to pass laws that they exclusively determine to be of "statewide concern."

Not only is this an unwarranted and unjustified change that would reverse two decades of public policy, but neither the title nor the purpose of SB 3186 includes any reference to eliminating, lessening, or "clarifying" the University's autonomy. Nor is there any justification set forth in the bill or the HRE committee report for this proposed seismic shift in the role of the Board of Regents and the very ability of the University of Hawai'i to function as Hawai'i's statewide system of public higher education under the State constitution.

UH did not submit testimony on this bill when it was heard by the Senate Higher Education Committee since UH had no position at that time regarding the bill as initially proposed, which would delete the Regent Candidate Advisory Council process. We are strongly opposed to this current measure that includes the new language introduced in SD1 without justification or explanation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this measure.