Testimony for Aug 22, 2019 Regent's Meeting

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Attached please find testimony from Jeffrey S. Portnoy for the August 22, 2019 meeting relating to Personnel Affairs and Board Governance

Agenda Item IV.A

Board of Regents Committee Structure

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As you know I am unable to attend this meeting. I stand in strong opposition to eliminating the Committee on Intercollegiate athletics, and I stand in opposition to limiting the merged committee into only dealing with athletic academics. It is clear, that across the Country and in Hawaii, intercollegiate athletics have become a significant part of secondary education. Observers of collegiate athletics, like AGB, have made it very clear that University and College Regents and Trustees must provide athletics the same leadership and oversight as other more traditional responsibilities, like academics and budgets. At UH, over 30 million dollars are budgeted for Athletics, far more than most University programs. Over the past 5 years, the Regents, under the leadership of the ICA committee, has recognized the importance of athletic oversight without interfering with the day to day operations of the Department. We have addressed issues such as safety, concussion protocol, facility upgrades, interactions between coaches, administrators, and the Regents, student fee issue affecting athletics, budget concerns, and I could go on and on. If there is need to eliminate a committee, I suggest you look elsewhere. This is not a time to go in reverse regarding the Regents role in the Athletic affairs of the University.