



Testimony of Support From Trustee Mililani Trask

1 message

Kahelelani Keawekane <kahelelanik@oha.org>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 12:36 PM

To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Cc: Mililani Trask <mililanit@oha.org>, "asuh@hawaii.edu" <asuh@hawaii.edu>

Aloha,

Please see the Testimony of Support From Trustee Mililani Trask included with this email.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kahelelani K. K. Keawekāne

Kahelelani K. K. Keawekāne

KE KUA KĀKO'O - KE KE'ENA O KE KUA
O MILILANI B. TRASK - MOKU O HAWAII
*Trustee Secretary - Office Of Trustee Mililani B.
Trask - Hawaii Island*

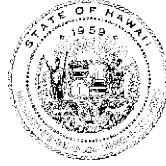
Phone | 808-582-0481

Web | www.oha.org

Email | kahelelanik@oha.org



 **UHM - Testimony to BOR .pdf**
121K



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Tuesday January 2, 2024

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street
Bachman Hall Room 209
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

Re: Testimony on Senate Resolution 05-24

Dear Board of Regents,

I am forwarding this letter as a testimony of strong support for Senate Resolution 05-24 (SR 05-24) in my capacity as an elected official as the Hawai'i Island Trustee for The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and as a community leader who has a long history of interfacing with the University of Hawai'i System in matters that have yet to be resolved. Examples of such matters are the Hawaiian Sacred Places (Wahi Pana) under the University of Hawai'i arrangement that have been and continue to be desecrated as well as the issues relating to the mismanagement of Mauna Kea. These are only two examples of the multitude of issues which the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents have been unable to resolve for years.

The University of Hawai'i utilizes thousands of acres of ceded lands and submerged lands that are set aside by law for the public and "Native Hawaiians." The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is a quasi-state agency created to oversee the Native Hawaiian's share of the revenue. As such, OHA should have a seat on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents (BOR) designated by the OHA Board of Trustees (BOT).

In order to be inclusive, representatives of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH) students, as well as faculty and staff and other stakeholders should be involved in the process to ensure that the policies and actions taken by the University of Hawai'i BOR are equitable and represented properly.

History demonstrates that the University of Hawai'i and the UH BOR have in part ignored the community, faculty and staff, and Native Hawaiian Practitioners with direct academic

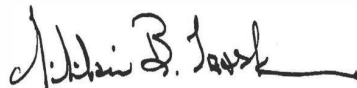
positions as well as cultural positions in relation to ceded lands impacted by University of Hawai‘i’s undertaking. Mauna Kea is an excellent example of this problem.

The UH, State, and Counties have spent millions of dollars trying to prohibit Hawaiians from exercising their right to worship and instead have arrested more than 50 Kūpuna and drug out the judicial system for the past 2 years with criminal litigation on charges the court threw out when the State failed to provide sufficient evidence of any criminal intent or violation.

Institutionalized racism and policies can only be changed and eradicated when they are no longer excluded from the decision making and are instead invited and included at the decision-making table.

It is time to include the students, the faculty, the staff, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs at the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents Table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mililani B. Trask", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mililani B. Trask
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees Vice Chair
Hawai‘i Island Trustee



Concerns Related to Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process

1 message

Kaiqing Su <ksu4@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 2:32 PM

Aloha,

Please see the attached testimony regarding Agenda Item A. Apologies for the late submission.

Best,

--

Kaiqing Su (she/her/hers)
Ph.D. student, Political Science
Graduate Assistant, Political Science
East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellow
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



UH Presidential Search Process Testimony _Kaiqing Su.pdf
60K

DATE: January 2nd, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Kaiqing Su

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Kaiqing Su and I am currently a first year PhD student in the Political Science department. I previously earned my Master’s in the same department and this is my third year in UH Mānoa. As an international student, I came to UH Mānoa to pursue my academic interests, to enjoy academic freedom and a nourishing, democratic university environment that are not available in many places around the world, which can only be achieved by involving students into key decision-making processes. Otherwise, without students and faculty, the public university is nothing but a corporation, a think tank, instead of a place for knowledge and genuine education.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who are dedicated throughout the process.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system-and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step. As students—both undergraduate and graduate ones—it is not only our right but also our responsibility to be part of the presidential selection process, with decision-making and voting power. The university is eventually serving the public, the community, university workers, and most importantly, future generations of students. As a student, I feel confident that my peers and colleagues from diverse backgrounds can best represent these groups. If not, this presidential selection process will also be a missed opportunity to educate students by having us involved in shared governance and political engagement.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai‘i.

Mahalo nui,

Kaiqing Su



Cardenas Pintor - Testimony for BOR

1 message

Cardenas Pintor <capintor@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 11:58 AM

Aloha,

I want to submit testimony regarding the selection process for president.

Aloha to those concerned,

I am Cardenas Pintor, the ASUH Senator for the Colleges of Health and Social Welfare. I double major in social work and women, gender, and sexuality studies. As someone majoring in areas that fight for equality and advocacy, the faculty and the students that make up the university must be included in the voting process. The faculty that helps make my education the quality it is deserves a vote, and the students preparing for a better future deserve a vote. A vote is different from a voice. A vote is an action that helps create effective change, a voice is something that is heard, which can go from one ear, out the other.

Mahalo nui,
Cardenas Pintor (Any pronouns)
Social Work Major

-

[Linkedin](#)



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

LATE TESTIMONY

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

TESTIMONY relating to presidential search

1 message

Lauren Taijeron <laurenht@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 4:13 PM

Testimony attached below. Please email me for questions or concerns.



Taijeron testimony .pdf
54K

January 2, 2023

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Lauren Taijeron

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Lauren Taijeron and I am currently an MA student studying Pacific Islands Studies.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who are dedicated throughout the process.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members.. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system-and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Lauren Taijeron



BOR Meeting 01/04/24 Testimony

1 message

Kyson James-Foree <kysonjf@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 7:24 PM

Aloha,

Attached is testimony relating to Agenda Item A for the BoR meeting on 01/04/24. I apologize for the late submission, thank you for your understanding.

Me ke aloha,
Kyson James-Foree



James-Foree BOR Meeting 01_04_24 Testimony .pdf
341K



Tuesday, January 2, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: ASUH Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee Chair

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A**. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kyson James-Force, I am a current senator for the College of Arts and Science in the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH) and I serve as the chair of our Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee.

I write to the board today as a member of ASUH and as a student to express my continued concerns regarding the Presidential Search Process and its lack of meaningful stakeholder involvement.

Utilizing a committee of the whole as the selection committee, although expanding the range of perspectives, still ignores our university's principles of shared governance and ignores the voices of students, faculty, and our wider community. From the perspective of the stakeholders, the current approved process by consolidating voting power to the Board of Regents and limiting stakeholders to an Advisory Group means that our input and involvement are minimal at best and have no lasting impact on the selection of the next UH President.

And although stakeholder involvement is technically achieved through surveys, open forums, and the Advisory Group, there still remains nothing to hold the BoR accountable to that input. Furthermore, surveys and open forums absolutely do not meet what should be considered the minimum for stakeholder involvement, considering that speaking on what is considered an ideal candidate is drastically different than speaking on the merits of prospective presidents of the University of Hawai'i and being able to vote in accordance to those merits.

I continue to urge the BoR to reconsider the inclusion of students, faculty, and community members on the Selection Committee and follow the precedent set by past Presidential Search Processes. Having individuals representing these groups sit on the Selection Committee, not only grants them a well-deserved voice and vote, but also ensures the BoR is not completely out of touch with the opinions and views of their stakeholders. Failure to do so will only breed an

environment of mistrust between the university's administration and stakeholder groups and fractures the ability for the future UH president to start with the full support of the student body, faculty, and community.

In regards to the Advisory Group, it is my hope that BoR considers granting it a position that is more actively involved in the recruitment and selection process, including but not limited to: interviewing candidates, providing the BoR with recommendations, and the ability to communicate in limited and controlled fashion with their respective stakeholder groups in order to promote transparency and inclusion.

It is further paramount that the Advisory Group consist of representation from 10 UH campuses, both student and faculty, as well as community members from across the pae 'āina.

The University of Hawai'i plays such a massive role in the lives of each individual across the State; therefore, the diversity of our State must be seen within the Advisory Group. Special interest should be paid to ensure that the membership in the Advisory Group is not limited to O'ahu but includes the neighboring islands.

It must also be said that representation on either the Selection Committee or the Advisory Group must be selected from the Stakeholder bodies themselves and not the BoR. There exist mechanisms within the UH system, such as Student Caucus and the faculty senates, for these bodies to develop and run election/nomination processes in order to put forward individuals to sit upon either of these bodies. To subvert these mechanisms is a drastic display of harm that only serves to injure the faith the stakeholders have in the BoR. I encourage the BoR to allow these bodies to fill representative seats on the Selection Committee and/or the Advisory Group.

I remain steadfast in my position that the BoR should opt to include students, faculty, and community members in the Selection Committee itself and that a seat at the table is the only guaranteed way that our opinions and voices are considered and accounted for. This Presidential Search Process represents a great opportunity to foster a healthy environment of cooperation across every level of the University of Hawai'i system and to allow every one of us to play a part in building the future of our university and by extension our beloved pae 'āina. And so I urge you, please do not throw away this chance.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony; it is my hope that the BoR will take into account the numerous voices that have come forward in favor of a more inclusive Presidential Search Process and consider ways to conduct its search accordingly.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyson James-Forre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kyson" being more prominent than the last name.

Kyson James-Forre

Senator for the College of Arts and Science

Chair for the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee



Concerns Related to Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process

1 message

May Okihiro <okihirom@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 11:02 PM

Aloha University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

I am a faculty member with the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine and the very proud parent of two undergraduate students at UH Manoa.

With President Lassiner's impending retirement, the selection of the next UH President will undoubtedly be one of the most *crucial* decisions for the UH Board of Regents (BoR). This decision will directly impact the direction of Hawaii's most important schools of higher education and thus the education and lives of thousands of students, as well as faculty and staff, across the Islands now and for years to come.

As such, it is imperative for the Presidential Selection Committee process be transparent, inclusive, and support the principles of shared governance at every step, from the outset. The process must include diverse UH stakeholders including students, faculty, staff and community members. These stakeholders should not be selected by the BoR. Rather, the BoR should utilize the University's elected student and faculty organizations, including ASUH, the Student Caucus and the UH Professional Assembly, to identify individuals who can commit to the search process and speak on behalf of their members. To be inclusive and to find the most appropriate candidate, it will be critical that these representatives have an integral role in the actual selection process and not be just advisors.

We know that having a larger, more diverse and inclusive selection process will take more time and require more patience from everyone. But, such a process will be rich, productive, community-centered, and build stakeholder trust in the process and the UH system, which will be an essential foundation for the success of the next UH President. UH is one of Hawaii's most important assets. Let's slow down and do this right.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

May Okihiro, MD MS
email: okihirom@hawaii.edu



01.02.24 Testimony Re. UH President Selection.pdf

47K

January 2, 2024

To: University of Hawaii Board of Regents

From: May Okihiro, MD MS

Re: Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

Aloha University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

I am a faculty member with the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine and the very proud parent of two undergraduate students at UH Manoa.

With President Lassiner's impending retirement, the selection of the next UH President will undoubtedly be one of the most crucial decisions for the UH Board of Regents (BoR). This decision will directly impact the direction of Hawaii's most important schools of higher education and thus the education and lives of thousands of students, as well as faculty and staff, across the Islands now and for years to come.

As such, it is imperative for the Presidential Selection Committee process be transparent, inclusive, and support the principles of shared governance at every step, from the outset. The process must include diverse UH stakeholders including students, faculty, staff and community members. These stakeholders should not be selected by the BoR. Rather, the BoR should utilize the University's elected student and faculty organizations, including ASUH, the Student Caucus and the UH Professional Assembly, to identify individuals who can commit to the search process and speak on behalf of their members. To be inclusive and to find the most appropriate candidate, it will be critical that these representatives have an integral role in the actual selection process (ie: vote) and not be just advisors.

We know that having a larger, more diverse and inclusive selection process will take more time and require more patience from everyone. But, such a process will be rich, productive, community-centered, and build stakeholder trust in the process and the UH system, which will be an essential foundation for the success of the next UH President. *UH is one of Hawaii's most important assets.* Let's slow down and do this right.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

May Okihiro, MD MS
email: okihirom@hawaii.edu



Testimony Regarding the Selection Process for a New UH President

1 message

Nicole Reyes <reyesn4@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 11:39 PM

Aloha e Chair Nahale-a and Regents,

I am writing this testimony with regard to the search process for a new UH President. The appointment of the President is one of the BOR's most important responsibilities. A new President would be vital in shaping the future of the UH System. Given the gravity of this decision, I would like to echo recommendations laid out for this process in a recent statement by the All Campus Council of Faculty and Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), of which I am a member:

- The selection process for a new UH President must align with best practices for shared governance. Faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders should be able to officially contribute to the recommendation of the next UH president.
- An inclusive presidential committee should include various stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, and UH community members.
- An inclusive presidential selection committee should be involved in all steps of the selection process, from creating the position profile to recommending finalists.
- The presidential selection process should be fully transparent and widely inclusive, as previous presidential search processes have been.

In addition, research indicates that university leaders are most successful when they understand and work in ways that align with organizational culture and values. Thus, as the University of Hawai'i lauds its diversity and aspires to be a leading Indigenous Serving Institution, it is also important that this search be conducted in ways that align with these values.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Nicole Alia Salis Reyes, Ed.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Educational Administration

College of Education

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

1776 University Ave, Wist 223

Honolulu, HI 96822

reyesn4@hawaii.edu

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Shannon Pōmaika'i Hennessey

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

shenness@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

January 2, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Shannon Pōmaika'i Hennessey

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

'Ano'ai kākou,

My name is Shannon Pōmaika'i Hennessey and I am currently a PhD student in the Political Science department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who are dedicated throughout the process.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members.. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system—and not just a select few—are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Creighton M. Litton

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

litton@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

It is critical that the search for a new UH president not be done by an outside group (i.e., that it be done internally), and that the search committee include strong representation of UH faculty, staff and students, in addition to outside community members.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Dianne Deauna

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

jdeauna@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UH Presidential Search Process Testimony - DEAUNA.pdf (28.3 kB)

January 2, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Dianne Deauna, PhD candidate, UH Mānoa

RE: Communicating Concerns Related to **Agenda Item III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group**

Good day to the Board of Regents,

I'm Dianne Deauna, an Oceanography PhD candidate at UH Mānoa.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. These entities are reserved to an advisory capacity, whose opinions will be considered "as requested", with no voting power for the selection process themselves. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders, goes directly against the principles of shared governance to which the University has previously committed.

We understand the BoR currently has a Student Regent position designed to represent student concerns, however, the current Student Regent's term will expire in May 2024, at which point the search will still be ongoing. The BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who will be present throughout the entire process, and also capture the wide-ranging makeup of the student community.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators to include non-BoR members in the

process. Alternatively, the BoR should utilize existing elected bodies to nominate the members of the Advisory Council. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of their constituents.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of UH President, it is imperative that the insights of those who make up the vast majority of the university system, not just a select few, are integrated into every step of the selection process.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board can work with the student body to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Dianne Deauna

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Benjamin Wiseman

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

bwiseman@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

BWiseman BoR Testimony Jan 4 2023.pdf (64.8 kB)

DATE: January 2, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Benjamin Wiseman, UH Manoa Graduate Student, Research Assistant, and member of Graduate Student Organization Executive Committee

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

Greetings Board of Regents,

My name is Benjamin Wiseman and I am currently a graduate student and graduate research assistant at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I also serve on the Executive Council of UH Mānoa's Graduate Student Organization.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

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The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students, and other administrators so as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system-and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of this concern,

Benjamin Wiseman

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Christian Ferm

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

sbeamer@uhpa.org

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

1.4.24 UHPA _BOR Testimony.pdf (237.1 kB)



Date: January 2, 2023

To: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

From: Christian Fern
Executive Director, University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

Subject: UH Presidential Search Process

Aloha Chair Nahale-a, Regents and Permitted Interaction Group Members:

Selecting the next president to lead the University of Hawai'i after current UH President David Lassner retires at the end of 2024 is an important decision with broad implications for the entire community, including UH faculty. UHPA appreciates the Board of Regents' commitment to transparency and for providing opportunities for us to weigh in on the selection process.

The community expects the Board of Regents to do its due diligence in the search process and has a vested interest in finding and selecting the best candidate for this position. We appreciate the Permitted Interaction Group's investment of time and energy to prepare the final report of the presidential selection process to give the community insight into the proposed processes. UHPA would like to share our concerns and provide input on these processes as the Board of Regents moves forward in selecting an ideal candidate for this position.

- **Selection Process**

UHPA believes the hiring of the next UH President requires a robust and thorough selection process, free from outside influence not in keeping with the University's autonomy. UHPA agrees that an organizational assessment to identify the needs of the UH is imperative, and wants to emphasize that the Board of Regents focus on conducting a comprehensive search to find the best, most qualified candidate, rather than rushing the process and risking the success of the University.

- **Role and Makeup of the Advisory Group**

UHPA encourages the creation of an Advisory Group made up of key university and community stakeholders who will be given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the selection process. UHPA advises that faculty be included within the Advisory Group

and that the Group's input will be actively sought and considered throughout the selection process, pursuant to R-20, Part 1(8) of the 2021-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement, which states the University will refer the following topic to the Faculty Senates: "[p]articipation in recruitment, selection, and evaluation of academic executive leadership at the campus and system level".

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and perspectives and hope UHPA can continue to be kept informed of the process as the Board of Regents moves forward in the search process. Mahalo.

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.

*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Jaret KC Leong, UH Staff Council Chair

Your Organization (optional)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

uhsc@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

UH Staff Council Testimonial (January 4, 2024).pdf (871.2 kB)



UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)
Executive Board

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

TO: Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i

FROM: Jaret KC Leong, Chair
UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Regarding **Agenda Item A. Further deliberation and Decision Making Regarding the Final Report from the Presidential Search Process Permitted Interaction Group, formed pursuant to Section 92-2.5(b), HRS, to Investigate and Make Recommendations Regarding the Presidential Search Process and Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process.**

The UH Staff Council (UHSC) stands by our previous testimonials (attached).

The UHSC strongly encourages the BOR to include shared governance representatives on the core search committee (with voting rights) and include them from the beginning phase of the search process.

Respectfully, we want to remind the Regents of the importance of continuing this university's proven and well-established shared governance partnership with its students, staff, and faculty.

UH Staff Council | University of Hawai'i
Email | uhsc@hawaii.edu

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)
Executive Board

The **UH Staff Council (UHSC)** is a collection of staff representatives/delegates (including campus staff senate/council chairs) from all 11 UH campuses*. The UH Staff Council serves in an equivalent capacity as similarly recognized UH advisory groups such as the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), Student Caucus, and Pūko'a Council.

**UH System is regarded as a “campus” within the UHSC.*

Please contact me at uhsc@hawaii.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Jaret KC Leong

UH Staff Council Chair

UH Staff Council | University of Hawai'i
Email | uhsc@hawaii.edu

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Monday, December 4, 2023

TO: Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i

FROM: Jaret KC Leong, Chair
UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Referencing the Board of Regents report: **BOR - IV.F. Deliberation and Decision Making Regarding the Final Report from the Presidential Search Process Permitted Interaction Group, formed pursuant to Section 92.2.5(b), HRS, to Investigate and Make Recommendations Regarding the Presidential Search Process and Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

The UH Staff Council (UHSC) supports the recommendations and action paragraphs within the report - except paragraphs J and K, for which we will provide our comments below. Additionally, we would like to comment further on paragraphs F (and G).

F (and G). We recommend the BOR separate the current position of the system President and Mānoa Chancellor and hire for system President only at this time.

The UH Staff Council (UHSC) agrees with this recommendation. The UH President should represent all campuses and not have a vested interest in any one campus.

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J. We recommend the BOR constitute a permitted interaction group as the search committee, to develop a pool of candidates, screen, and recommend to the BOR a list of three finalists for the BOR to consider (Presidential Search Permitted Interaction Group "PIG2").

K. Additionally, we recommend the search process include a separate advisory group to include non-board members representing groups such as faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and members of the broader community or other constituencies ("Advisory Group") consisting of between 4 and 6 members who will provide advice to PIG2 as requested by PIG2.

The UH Staff Council (UHSC) agrees with the recommendation to include shared governance representatives (students, staff, and faculty). However, we are extremely concerned that they will only be included in a diminished advisory role without voting rights and/or significant influence on the direction of the Presidential Search.

We strongly encourage the BOR to include shared governance representatives on the core search committee and include them from the beginning phase of the search process.

Additionally, we reiterate our testimony from November 16, 2023. In particular, it emphasizes the importance of continuing this university's proven and well-established shared governance partnership with its students, staff, and faculty.

Finally, we stand by the testimonials submitted by the campus staff senates/councils within the University of Hawai'i.



UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Please feel free to contact us at uhsc@hawaii.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Jaret KC Leong
UH Staff Council Chair

The **UH Staff Council (UHSC)** is a collection of staff representatives/delegates (including campus staff senate/council chairs) from all 11 UH campuses*. The UH Staff Council serves in an equivalent capacity as similarly recognized UH advisory groups such as the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), Student Caucus, and Pūko'a Council.

**UH System is regarded as a “campus” within the UHSC.*

Attachment | UH Staff Council Current Member List

UH Staff Council | University of Hawai'i
Email | uhsc@hawaii.edu

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council Members

Name	Campus	Title/Position
Kevin Andreshak	Kapi'olani Community College	Technology Operations Coordinator
Kealii Ballao	UH Maui College	Kāko'o Coordinator
Blaine Bautista <i>Co-Vice-Chair</i>	UH Hilo (Chair, Admin Affairs)	Info Tech Specialist
Kalei Carvalho	Kaua'i Community College	Educational Specialist
Theresa Deamicis	Honolulu Community College (Chair)	Sgt. University Security Officer
Carl Dionne	UH Mānoa (Past Chair)	IT Specialist
Matt Kalahiki	UH Hilo (Chair, Student Affairs)	Assistant Director, Campus Center
Tiffany Kasoga	Leeward Community College	Secretary
Kalekona Kingsbury	Leeward Community College	Circulation Manager
Kesha Kubo <i>Communications Officer</i>	Hawai'i Community College	Information Center Coordinator
Cory Kumataka	Honolulu Community College	Educational Specialist
Kathlen Lee	Kaua'i Community College	Academic Support
Adrian Lee	UH West O'ahu	Administrative Officer
Jaret KC Leong <i>Co-Chair</i>	UH Mānoa	Director of Mānoa Academy and Academic Pathways
Joseph Long	UH West O'ahu (Vice-Chair)	Director of Facilities
Brandon Marc Higa	Kapi'olani Community College	Director of Resource Development / Title III Project Director
Michelle Matsumoto	Windward Community College (Vice-Chair)	HR Specialist

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Name	Campus	Title/Position
Michael McIntosh	Windward Community College	Media Design Specialist
Kilohana Miller	UH Maui College	Policy/Institutional Analyst
Cheryl Miyahara	Kapi'olani Community College (Chair)	Secretary
Therese Nakadomari	UH West O'ahu	IT Director
Christie Nitta	UH Mānoa (Chair)	HR Manager
Grant Okamura	Leeward Community College	Auxiliary & Facilities Service Manager
Jennifer Ontai	UH System	Operations Specialist
Alana Ortiz	UH Hilo (Chair, Chancellor's Unit)	HR Assistant
Bernadine Souza	Kaua'i Community College	Contracts & Grant Specialist
Makana Tani	Windward Community College (Chair)	Student & Academic Support
Sherise Tiogangco	Hawai'i Community College	Registrar
Victoria Wong	UH System	Info Tech Specialist
Raquel Zane	UH Hilo (Chair, Academic Affairs)	Tech Specialist

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)
Executive Board

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

TO: Board of Regents
University of Hawai'i

FROM: Jaret KC Leong, Chair
UH Staff Council (UHSC)

Referencing the Board of Regents report: **BOR - VI.C. Report of the Presidential Selection Process Permitted Interaction Group established on October 19, 2023 pursuant to Section 92-2.5(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).**

Before commenting on the report, I would like to introduce the UH Staff Council (UHSC) to the UH Board of Regents - which President Lassner recently approved.

The UHSC is a collection of staff representatives/delegates from all 11 UH campuses (System is regarded as a "campus" within the UHSC with its own staff representatives/delegates). The UH Staff Council serves in an equivalent capacity as similarly recognized UH advisory groups such as the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), Student Caucus, and Pūko'a Council.

The UHSC Executive Board feels strongly that staff should be included in the UH Presidential Selection Process - and from an early stage. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of continuing the well-established shared governance process at this University.

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UH Staff Council (UHSC)

UH Staff Council (UHSC)
Executive Board

We understand that discussion on this topic will only occur at the special BOR meeting on December 7, 2023. However, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the UHSC to the BOR and emphasize our commitment to representing the staff at UH. For the December 7th meeting, we anticipate submitting a testimonial that speaks directly to the recommendations by the PIG. Additionally, I have encouraged our campus Staff Senates/Councils to consider submitting their own testimonials at that meeting.

Please feel free to contact me at uhsc@hawaii.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Jaret KC Leong
UH Staff Council Chair

Attachment | UHSC Charter

UH Staff Council | University of Hawai'i
Email | uhsc@hawaii.edu

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CHARTER OF THE UH STAFF COUNCIL (UHSC) UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

PREAMBLE

The UH Staff Council (UHSC) of the University of Hawai'i (UH) promotes the system of shared governance grounded in the pursuit of collegiality and transparency.

The UHSC is committed to the betterment of the university and is responsible for collaborating with the Administration in the development, review, and implementation of university policies and operations that impact and concern UH staff.

In recognition of the importance of Staff Senates throughout the University of Hawai'i in promoting shared governance and cooperative relationships among the staff, faculty, students, administration, and Board of Regents, the Staff Senates hereby establish the University of Hawai'i UH Staff Council (UHSC).

ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE UHSC

Section 1. Purpose

In sharing responsibility with the Administration, faculty, and students to attain the mission and goals of UH, the UHSC shall:

- Serve as the formal and independent voice for all UH staff members;
- Provide a platform for the exchange and coordination of information between staff, administrators, faculty, and students;
- Seek updates from administrators on a regular basis regarding matters that impact UH staff;
- Make recommendations and lend expertise to the UH President, UH Vice Presidents, and Staff Senates on institutional matters of direct staff concern;
- Cooperatively recommend staff representatives to serve on UH System-wide committees; and
- Foster a culture of respect and community among all employees at UH.

Section 2. Function

The Council shall serve as a channel of communication between UH staff and administrators on procedural and operational issues of UH-wide concern that may be raised by either the Senate or the Administration.

The Council shall serve in an equivalent capacity as similarly recognized UH System advisory groups such as the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs, Student Caucus, and Pūko'a Council.

Communications between the UHSC, UH Administration, and/or the Board of Regents shall be conducted through the UHSC Co-Chairs. The UHSC Co-Chairs shall serve on advisory groups to the UH President and senior leadership and as the official Senate representative to the Administration.

The primary responsibility for policy recommendations resides in individual Senates; therefore, recommendations of the UHSC shall not supersede policies of the individual Campus Staff Senates and consultation with the UHSC shall not of itself obviate the need for the Administration to consult with the individual Staff Senates.

In carrying out the aforementioned functions and responsibilities, the UHSC shall amend its Charter and Bylaws as it may deem necessary.

ARTICLE II ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HRS CHAPTER 89

Section 1. The UHSC, as a group or as a senator, shall not act as the exclusive representatives for any UHSC employment group or assume any responsibilities provided for under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 89 when participating in any University business.

Section 2. Any agreement negotiated by the University of Hawai'i, Board of Regents (BOR) with a duly authorized bargaining agent under Chapter 89 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and statutes administrative regulation, policies and procedures of the State of Hawai'i, BOR, UH System, shall supercede any conflicting provisions of this Charter.

ARTICLE III
AMENDMENTS & RATIFICATION TO THE CHARTER

Section 1. UHSC Chair shall give a 30-day notice to the UHSC membership of the proposed amendment and meeting date.

Section 2. There shall be a quorum at this meeting and the proposed amendment shall pass by a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. UHSC Co-Chairs shall send the pending approval amendment to the President of the University of Hawai'i for approval. Upon approval, the President of the University of Hawai'i shall notify the UHSC Co-Chairs in writing regarding the decision on the pending approval amendment.

APPROVED: David Lassner 2 June 2023
David Lassner, Ph.D. Date
President, University of Hawai'i



Written testimony for 1/4/24

1 message

Rosiana (Nani) Azman <rosiana@hawaii.edu>
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 12:23 PM

Aloha,

Attached, please find my written testimony for the BOR meeting on Jan 4, 2024.

Mahalo,
Nani

--



Rosiana (Nani) L. Azman, PhD
Psychology Professor, UH Maui College
310 W. Ka'ahumanu Avenue
Kahului, HI 96732
(808) 984-3259 | rosiana@hawaii.edu

she elle ella 'o ia



Azman BOR testimony 1.4.24v3.pdf
144K

Rosiana (Nani) Lynne Azman, PhD



January 2, 2024

To the Board of Regents at the University of Hawai'i:

My name is Dr. Nani Azman. I am professor of psychology at UH Maui College, and I've been teaching at the University of Hawai'i for over twenty years now.

The Presidential Selection Process Permitted Interaction Group's final report "recommend[s] the BOR hire a search firm with Hawai'i expertise and/or a Hawai'i focus to conduct a national search." While that sounds like a good idea in theory, nowhere does it mention that it would also be a search firm with expertise in higher education. I can find firms who understand Hawai'i's culture or I can find firms with higher education experience, but my Venn diagram does not overlap. Given the mistaken urgency that a new president must be hired before fall to submit the budget, which would be nice but is not at all necessary, I fear this frenzied, artificially time-crunched search will yield either a reliable higher education search firm that is clueless about the nuances of our island culture or a firm that understands Hawai'i but who may treat our university like a business. The former will bring us candidates who will likely want to swoop in to "save" us and make us more like the universities on the continent -- perhaps reminding us of presidents of Christmas past. The latter will try to impose a Walmart-like business model incongruent with the needs of higher education. We are not Walmart.

I know that many of you have strong business backgrounds, which I respect, but please allow me to explain why a university cannot be treated like a business. If the university is a business, then our product would be graduates. As a successful business, we would have high retention and graduation rates. The faculty in the different disciplines would be like the vendors. We hope that we're providing the right products, which would be education, to attract customers to come to our business. Here is where the analogy falls apart: who are our customers, the people we're attracting to the store? How can it be the students because they're our final product? I do not know of any successful business model in which the customer is also the product. This contradiction is why treating higher education like a business never works. It's also part of why "for-profit" universities lose credibility, and their degrees have little value.

As you move forward to decide how our university system will proceed when President Lassner steps down, I ask that you remember why we are all here. Faculty, administration, and staff alike are at this university system for one main reason: to educate our students. Without our students, there would be no need for a university in Hawai'i. Every decision we make must have our students' education and best interest in mind, and we need to remember all our students in all their diversity across the system at all of the different campuses as we choose new leadership.

As a faculty member teaching at the only institution of tertiary education for the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i, I can tell you that very few of my students fit the supposedly typical college student demographic. Most, not some, of my students work full time. With families to

support, they are lucky if they can squeeze in six or nine credits, on top of all their other obligations, but they eventually do so with pride and distinction. For many of my students, if they stop coming to class, it is not because they are lazy or unmotivated. They cannot stop working because they need to pay the bills. They cannot stop taking care of family because they understand honor and responsibility. Their family's needs come before their personal goals, but for financial stability, they need a system that provides credentials while accommodating their very difficult lives. These are my students, and we need a university system and a university leader that recognize them.

In closing, I need to ask: what's the rush? Before we hired President Lassner, we spent over a year on the search process. I can tell you, when my students submit work, it can be done quickly or it can be done properly. When we rush, the emphasis is on being done rather than on being done well. Hiring the next president is too important to the future of UH, and it needs to be a well-thought out, completely transparent process.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jyma", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



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LATE TESTIMONY

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony

Dustin Miguez <dmiguez@hawaii.edu>
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>
Cc: Dustin Miguez <dustinmiguez@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 10:12 PM

4 January Testimony
See: Attached Document

Dustin Miguez



4 January 2024 Testimony.pdf
927K

Board of Regents,

The testimony of student Dustin Migue submitted for the meeting on 4 January will cover right-wing political realities imposed on the student body, myself- included.

1. The Board of Regents referred student Dustin Migue on 28 December 2023 to the University of Hawaii administration. See: attached document. The very administration student Dustin Migue testified against. The administration is changing. Nikki Chun is temporarily appointed. Moreover, testimony was provided under the authority of the Board of Regents to act. Student Dustin Migue requires the Board of Regents to address the testimony provided on 7 December 2023 directly in a timely manner. To not do so under a changing administration will be a failure of the Board of Regents mandate.
2. The University of Hawaii administration has not contacted student Dustin Migue. See: attached document.
3. We live in a society stemming from the Buggery Act of 1533. Special interest profit from LGBT prohibition today including Queer students. Parents dress their effeminate gay male children in Batman shirts as- to justify their mannerisms. Such children are socialized to be sexual predators. Not to have families such as their siblings. Homosexuals such as I who are born poor become victims of socialization. Queer & LGBT students are denied a normalized childhood leading to denial of having children & families of our own.
4. The next president of the University of Hawaii should right what took place in 1993. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints utilized Hawaii as a base to rally what became known as the Defense of Marriage Act. Student Dustin Migue highly suggests a president that will move the university forward. A person with the authority to stand up to special interests ingrained into the Hawaiian economy. An educator who will expand the WGSS program into graduate studies. It is common knowledge to be accepted as Queer, a person needs to be in a predatory role. This places an undue burden compared to heterosexual students on the Queer student population. The next president should recognize this while embracing a multifaceted approach to education that includes poor LGBT students. LGBT students should not be indefinitely defunded as are the experiences of student Dustin Migue who is a disabled homosexual Gender & Sexuality Studies major.

2 January 2024
Digital Signature,
Dustin Migue



UNIVERSITY
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Board of Regents

December 28, 2023

DTS-2159

Mr. Dustin Miguez
LGBT Studies / Gender & Sexuality Studies
University of Hawaii
ID: 29523434

via email: dmiguez@hawaii.edu

Dear Mr. Miguez:

In response to your complaint of being denied access to public funding programs, the Board Office forwarded your allegations to the University of Hawaii Administration for further review and response.

We have received confirmation from the Administration through Vice Provost of Enrollment Management at Mānoa, Nikki Chun, that you have received all available financial aid that you are eligible for.

The Board of Regents appreciates your bringing this matter to our attention, however, given the situation, there is nothing further that the Board can do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Lau".

Yvonne Lau
Executive Administrator and Secretary
of the Board of Regents

2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall 209
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-8213
Fax: (808) 956-5156

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Dustin Miguez <dmiguez@hawaii.edu>

ID: 29523434

Dustin Miguez <dmiguez@hawaii.edu>

Thu, Nov 9, 2023 at 4:41 PM

To: David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>

Hola,

I am taking time out of my day to write. My field is Gender & Sexuality. I transferred into the UH system with a specialized degree in LGBT Studies. I presented UH with a residency status order based on disability. The medical order was denied. Moreover, after Nikki Chun asserted restrictions without providing just cause. Chun stated not a single person in leadership will respond to communication from student Dustin Miguez. I was denied financial assistance via VPSS. I was also denied facilitation assistance into the UH system as a victim of crime. I am indefinitely denied access to federal financial aid. I am aware technology interests are historically anti-LGBT.

This communication functions as official notification student Dustin Miguez notified UH leadership of the actions transpired regarding student Dustin Miguez.

If assistance is granted. This will be much appreciated. If UH continues to act in the manner i'm experiencing. A public show of character is demonstrated.

*This email was received in person
by Keda Monaco on 11/13/23.*

[Signature]



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LATE TESTIMONY

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Written Testimony

1 message

Jocelyn Brody <jbbrody@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Jan 3, 2024 at 10:29 AM

Sorry it's late! Please accept my written testimony about the new UH President search.

Thanks!
Josie



Jocelyn Brody Testimony.docx
14K

DATE

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Jocelyn Brody

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Jocelyn Brody and I am currently a first year PhD student in American Studies at UH Manoa.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who are dedicated throughout the process.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members.. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system-and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

It is also important to me that the BoR prioritizes quality, and finding a candidate who can serve the University of Hawaii system, and over expediency. Someone who cares about the people of Hawaii and shares our values as a school that claims to be a "Hawaiian place of learning."

Mahalo nui,
Jocelyn Brody



UNIVERSITY
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LATE TESTIMONY

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Testimony on presidential search for BOR 1.4.24

1 message

Carolyn M Stephenson <cstephen@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jan 3, 2024 at 6:49 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Attached please find my testimony for the BOR meeting tomorrow.

Carolyn Stephenson



BOR testimony on presidential search Stephenson 1.3.24.docx

14K

To: Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair
UH Board of Regents
cc: Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawaii at Mānoa
from: Carolyn Stephenson (cstephen@hawaii.edu)
UH Manoa faculty member
re: testimony on Presidential search
date: January 3, 2024

Aloha, Chair Nahale-a and members of the Board of Regents;

First, thank you for organizing the Presidential Search for David Lassner's replacement, and for opening up that process to the full Board of Regents, as opposed to the original proposal of the Permitted Interaction Group. We hope that the search committee will follow best practices in university presidential search committees and be as transparent as possible, and will include formal faculty representation, chosen by the faculty, in the search committee.

According to the American Association of University Professors, institutions reported that formal participation in Presidential search committees has grown over the last century to reach 94% of institutions. Faculty generally serve longer than any university president and are committed to the value of education. Faculty serve to protect the educational mission of the university, which in turn protects the public interest in higher education. The participation of faculty in the presidential search committee furthers the shared governance between board, administration and faculty that is essential to the excellence of the university. The excellence of the university is in turn key to the social, political, economic and cultural health of the state.

It is important that the guidelines for qualification of a university president specify that the president must have been a tenured member of a university faculty, in the case of UH, a tenured faculty member at an R1 university. To gain the respect of the faculty, which a president must do if s/he is to bring out the best in faculty members, the president must be able to demonstrate success in academics. To bring out the best in students, the president must be able to bring out the best in faculty. The shared governance between the president and administration and the board and the faculty will be strengthened by both the inclusion of faculty in the search process and by the importance of requiring that the university president have been a successful faculty member.

While the ultimate decision on the choice of our next UH president is the responsibility of the Board of Regents, the decision will be a better one if faculty are represented and if the president can be shown to have been a successful faculty member.

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*****All written testimony submitted are public documents. Therefore, any testimony submitted is public information and will be posted on the board's website.***

Your Name (required)

Michael Oishi

Your Organization (optional)

Leeward Community College

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

mtoishi@gmail.com

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Oishi_BOR_testimony_UH_president_search.pdf (105.8 kB)

3 January 2024

Michael Oishi
Arts and Humanities Division
Leeward Community College
96-045 Ala 'Ike
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Regents,

I strongly oppose several of the recommendations of the Presidential Search Process Permitted Interaction Group (PIG1) and urge you to consider other, more transparent and fairer alternatives for selecting the next president of the University of Hawai'i.

Of the several recommendations that PIG1 has advanced, I am particularly concerned about the unnecessarily abbreviated timeline recommended for this search, as well as the superficial means of soliciting feedback from affected constituents, particularly that of UH faculty. Not only do both recommendations threaten the number and quality of applicants for this important position, they also place at risk the mission, vision, and strategic plan of the University of Hawai'i and the communities it serves if a poor candidate is selected.

The president of Hawai'i's only system of public higher education must possess a unique repertoire of personal and professional skills and experiences to lead effectively, and for the long-term. The UH president must not only lead a major Research 1 university, but two other four-year campuses and seven community colleges, each with its own needs and concerns. To cull not only qualified candidates but, more importantly, the right candidate, will take time. PIG1's proposed recruitment period (February 15-April 15) is far too short a cycle to solicit a pool of good candidates. Searches for university presidents among UH's peer institutions are often conducted over a much longer recruitment period than this. As President David Lassner has already indicated his desire to remain in his current position through December 2024 (to see to fruition work he has already begun and to help with the transition to a new president), the regents should consider extending the proposed recruitment period. Doing so will not only allow more qualified candidates to organize and submit their application materials (which requires substantial time and effort), it will also provide a more competitive pool of applicants from which to select finalists. Short recruitment cycles tend to advantage serial applicants—ones who have pre-prepared (and often pabulum) application materials and who move from institution to institution but who often sacrifice the interests of the institution and the public it serves on the altar of their own professional ambitions. If the regents believe that Hawai'i deserves a premiere system of public higher education, they should also be willing to expend the time to recruit a premiere president. Please choose the next UH president carefully, not merely quickly.

Additionally, I urge the regents to rethink its methodology for soliciting feedback from key constituents, particularly UH faculty, via an advisory group. This proposed mechanism for accounting for faculty input overlooks R-20 of the 2021-2025 UH Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement which stipulates that Faculty Senates have rights of “Participation in recruitment, selection, and evaluation of academic executive leadership at the campus and system level. This responsibility may also be shared with other shared governance entities” (Part I, number 8, pg, 109). **PIG1’s current proposal elides the role of Faculty Senates and thus risks violating a key provision of the UH Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement.** However, and just as significantly, the relegation of faculty, students, staff, and community members to an advisory group undermines the transparency of a process that should meaningfully incorporate—and acknowledge—the perspectives and concerns of affected constituents to help ensure the selection of a president who can work productively with multiple groups with diverse experiences of and visions for the UH System. **To that end, the Presidential Search Permitted Interaction Group (PIG2), should include among its members representatives of the UH Board of Regents (BOR), UH Faculty Senates, ASUH, UH Staff Senates, Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao, and community members. Ensure that these important constituents are integrated into PIG2 and have a hand in the recommendation of a presidential finalist that is presented to the UH BOR.** From past experience, my campus has always ensured that all stakeholder groups (faculty, students, staff, and, where applicable, select members of the community) have had a place on the screening committees of our campus administrators. The current proposal to create an advisory group deviates from best practices and makes it too easy to marginalize or ignore altogether the feedback of the above groups as concerns would be relegated to one of several ancillary documents that *may* be read or taken into consideration. Such an advisory group not only risks an unpopular and potentially unsuccessful UH president, it also undermines faith in a fair and transparent selection process and a fair and transparent BOR. The UH BOR can and must do better than this.

As Regent Nahale-a notes in Esme Infante’s *Honolulu Star Advertiser* article of December 6, 2023, “Process is so important, so that (everyone) contributes to the ultimate decision, not undermine or privilege one perspective over the other” (A1, “Search for Next UH President Becoming a Battle for Control”). These are wise words, and ones that the UH Board of Regents should internalize. There is a metaphorical and literal high price for a lack of transparency, diversity, and feedback in the search for a university president. Indeed, as members of our UH faculty have already reminded us, a closed presidential search by the BOR led to the hiring and firing of Evan Dobbelle, UH president from 2001 to 2004. That debacle was no trifle. It cost the UH millions of dollars of hard-earned taxpayer resources, and millions more in the bloated administration that was created and which the UH continues to live with. More significantly, the selection of Evan Dobbelle did immense damage to the reputation of the UH System, which has made it even more difficult and costly to recruit qualified presidential applicants—and all due to a lack of transparency, critical scrutiny, and diverse voices that might have warned us of the danger that awaited us from that hasty and unwise decision.

The selection of a UH president is one of the most significant tasks the UH regents will undertake. It will have repercussions for the education and workforce development of thousands of individuals and will shape the future of our state, nation, and world for decades to come. While it is understandable to want to discharge this responsibility quickly, it is more important to

discharge this responsibility transparently, equitably, and thoughtfully. It is rare to have a full calendar year to fill such a consequential position. But considering that the BOR has such time, I urge you not to squander it, but to leverage it. Use this time to assemble a PIG2 that is diverse and which incorporates the perspectives, fears, and aspirations of key stakeholders of our UH System. Avoid the creation an advisory group whose views are only nominally or superficially considered for the mere appearance of due process. Democracy is a messy and slow process, but it is the best one to ensure fair and sound decisions.

Please reconsider PIG1's abbreviated timeline for the selection of our next UH president as well as its recommendation to relegate stakeholder perspectives to an advisory group.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Michael Oishi
Associate Professor, Literature
Arts and Humanities Division
Leeward Community College

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Your Name (required)

Kristen Ferrer

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

kk29@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

The current proposed presidential selection process does not align with best practices for shared governance as it would not allow faculty, staff, students, or other stakeholders to officially contribute to the recommendation of the next UH president.

An inclusive presidential committee should include various stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, and UH community members.

An inclusive presidential selection committee should be involved in all steps of the selection process, from creating the position profile to recommending finalists.

The presidential selection process should be fully transparent and widely inclusive, as previous presidential search processes have been.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required)

Karla Hayashi

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii at Hilo

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

karlah@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.2. Other Elements of the Presidential Search Process

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Please accept my testimony concerning the search committee composition, process, and timeline.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Jan 4 Testimony.pdf (61.2 kB)

Good morning Regents, President Lassner, and attendees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning concerning the search for the next President of the University of Hawai'i System. My name is Karla Hayashi, a faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo campus.

The authority to select the next UH President rests with the Board of Regents. The selection process, however, must be inclusive of all the stakeholders and should proceed in a timely manner intended to identify qualified candidates who possess the comprehensive academic and administrative knowledge of university operations. The next President must be able and qualified to take the helm of a system that includes the R1 public land-grant research university campus and four- and two-year campuses situated across the state.

Such an important position deserves the attention and commitment of numerous stakeholders, especially those whose daily experiences will be directly impacted by this individual. We all agree that the welfare and well-being of students is paramount. Their voices need to be represented in the effort to select a new President. Employees of the UH System as well as community members must also have their opportunities to be involved in the search process. An advisory body sounds reasonable, but how will you ensure our individual and collective voices are heard, listened to, and ultimately contribute to the selection of the next President.

In contrast to the short search process proposed, consider the following. Each campus typically conducts a year-long search for a Chancellor by including all of the various stakeholders on the search committee and scheduling a series of opportunities to meet with and hear from each finalist. These public meetings, along with meetings with various campus unit members, provides the campus community the ability to evaluate each finalist. Why then do you propose selecting the next President of such a large and complex system as ours in less than a year? This timeline is rushed and contradictory.

Concerns about undue influence on this search have already been publicly raised. Relegating student, employee, and community voices to a pro forma advisory role and rushing the search process only reinforces the perception that this may not be an objective and transparent search.

No one is questioning your authority to select the next UH President. We are, however, asking that the process to identify the next UH President be inclusive and transparent.

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Your Name (required)

Ethan Chang

Your Organization (optional)

UH Mānoa

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

change3@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

I oppose the current proposed presidential selection process for the following reasons:

The current process does not align with best practices for shared governance as it would not allow faculty, staff, students, or other stakeholders to officially contribute to the recommendation of the next UH president.

An inclusive presidential selection committee should be involved in all steps of the selection process, from creating the position profile to recommending finalists.

The presidential selection process should be fully transparent and widely inclusive, as previous presidential search processes have been.

aloha,
Ethan

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached



BOR TESTIMONY

1 message

KianaRose Dulan <kdulan@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Thu, Jan 4, 2024 at 6:58 AM

E kala mai for this being late, I hope I can still testify.

DATE: 1/4/24

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: KianaRose Dulan

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is KianaRose Dulan, and I am currently a student at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu studying Sustainable Community Food Systems and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

I'm writing to inform you about my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall problem with the process is that it needs to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff, and community members in selecting the next UH President.

There needs to be inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee. Implementing a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders, goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

The proposed Advisory Group comprises community members, faculty, staff, students, and other administrators, including non-board members. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals who can speak on behalf of a large group of people are selected.

I advocate for students, faculty, staff, and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee instead of just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board can develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university and the broader community as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,
KianaRose Dulan

--

Kiana Dulan (they/'o ia)
(808) 256-6040

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required)

Sam peck

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

Speck6@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.2. Other Elements of the Presidential Search Process

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

decisive voting power for new leadership must be given to the community, specifically Native Hawaiians and students

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

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Your Name (required)

Kayla Oshiro

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

kaylaso@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Oshiro Concerns Related to Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process .pdf (58.4 kB)

Jan 4, 2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Kayla Oshiro

Concerns Related to **Agenda Item A. Regarding Potential Action on the Presidential Search Process**

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Kayla Oshiro and I am currently a senior Public Health student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully include students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

I am primarily concerned with the lack of inclusion of these stakeholders in the Presidential Selection Committee itself. The implementation of a selection committee of all members of the Board of Regents, which does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR should expand student representation to have individuals who are dedicated throughout the process.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to be composed of community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the process. The BoR rather than select members to represent key stakeholders should utilize elected bodies to nominate members.. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that individuals are selected that can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee itself, as opposed to just an Advisory Group. Considering the reach of

this role, it is imperative that those who make up the vast majority of the university system-and not just a select few- are integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I hope that the board is able to develop a selection process that is inclusive of all members of the university, as well as the broader community, as we work together on making a historic decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Kayla Oshiro

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Your Name (required)

Christie Nitta

Your Organization (optional)

Manoa Staff Senate

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

cfukumae@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Comments Only

Your Testimony/Comments

Aloha Board of Regents,

Happy new year to all of you! My name is Christie Ann Nitta, Chair of the Manoa Staff Senate. As we all come together again on this same topic, I'm given the honor, once again of testifying on this topic of the selection process of our next President. I would like to reiterate what we stated in the last testimony, that as we move forward with the Presidential Search Process, the Mānoa Staff Senate would like to ensure we have a voice from inception to completion. While we know that the Board of Regents have already been composed of members, something that should also be brought to the table in the future is involving shared governance in the selection of Board of Regents Appointees. From listening and reading all other testimonies, it is very clear that moving forward as projected has major flaws and needs to really be analyzed by shared governance, and not just Board of Regents Appointees.

Thank you for your time, consideration and dedication to our University.

Mahalo Nui.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

Written Testimony - January 4, 2024.pdf (275.8 kB)



MĀNOA STAFF SENATE

January 3, 2024

TO: Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair
University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Christie Ann Nitta, Chair
Mānoa Staff Senate
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Nōweo Kai, Vice-Chair
Mānoa Staff Senate
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SUBJECT: Mānoa Staff Senate Written Testimony:
UH Presidential Search Process, Permitted Interaction Group

Dear Board of Regents,

As we all come together again on this same topic, we are given the honor, once again of testifying on this topic of the selection process of our next President. I would like to reiterate what we stated in our last testimony, that as we move forward with the Presidential Search Process, the Mānoa Staff Senate would like to ensure we have a voice from inception to completion. While we know that the Board of Regents have already been composed of members, something that should also be brought to the table in the future is involving shared governance in the selection of Board of Regents Appointees. From listening and reading all other testimonies, it is very clear that moving forward as projected has major flaws and needs to really be analyzed by shared governance, and not just Board of Regents Appointees.

Mānoa Staff Senate voices:

- *"UH Mānoa Staff is a diverse organization of dedicated people with a wide range of skills that we use to improve the UH Mānoa Campus Educational experience. Without UHM Staff involvement, multiple important programs would languish, and Staff input to decide who the next President of the University of Hawai'i is critical."*
- **Senator Andrew Sensano, Information Technology Specialist**
- *"Staff are the foundation of the university. The faculties may be the building, and the students may be the occupants, but without the foundation, no structure/university can exist. Staff should have all the rights and privileges that the others have. Therefore, we should be included in the Presidential search process."*
- **Senator Richard Okubo, Fiscal Specialist**
- *"Facilities serve as a critical organ in a complex body - staff open doors, wipe floors, collect and dispose of waste throughout campus - indoors and outdoors; maintain running water, hand soap, toilet paper, and hand towels in lavatories; plant, water, and groom lawns and botanical beds; maintain firm foundations beneath physical buildings"*

and sound rooftops; maintain a unique collection of over 4,000 trees across 320 acres featuring trees that have stood tall for over a century.”

- Senator Nōweo Kai, Curator

- *“President David Lassner approved the Mānoa Staff Senate on July 26, 2019, and has advocated for the staff during his tenure as President of the University of Hawai‘i. The Mānoa Staff Senate represents 1,315 APTs and 579 Civil Service employees, and through our diverse roles on the Mānoa campus, we function as the backbone of the university. From an administrative perspective, without staff, students cannot be enrolled in courses or programs, grades cannot be entered, classrooms cannot be reserved or prepared, and grant funds cannot be administered. To continue President Lassner’s legacy of recognizing the importance of staff, we ask that UH staff be represented in the search process for the next University of Hawai‘i President. The MSS speaks on behalf of all constituents and requires a president who is not afraid to communicate directly with those they lead.”*

– Senator Carol Oshiro, Administrative and Recruitment Specialist

- *“Staff are just important as faculty to our university as we all contribute to creating innovations that help our university continue to grow and prosper. A Staff Representative is important to have on the search committee as staff jobs and support for us can be greatly influenced by the President.”*

- Senator Reynold Kajiware, Student Advisor

- *“As the search and selection process for the next UH Mānoa President begins, I believe that is crucial to include the voice of the hardworking and dedicated UH Mānoa Staff. The involvement of staff in the selection process recognizes our contributions to the university’s success, but it is also valuable given the diverse representation of the staff. Allowing staff representation in the process will help to foster a greater sense of community and ownership. It will create a shared vision for the success of the University going forward. It will send a powerful message that our voices matter and that the University is committed to creating a more inclusive culture. I urge that our testimony be considered as a way to harness the collective experience and diverse perspectives within the UH Mānoa community.”*

- Senator Raedelle Van Fossen, Educational Specialist

- *“A primary mission of the Mānoa Staff Senate (MSS) is to participate in the Shared Governance of the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, i.e. to have a seat at the table. President Lassner was a key supporter of the formation of the MSS and the newly created system-wide University of Hawai‘i Staff Council (UHSC), because he recognized the importance of staff to the University as a whole. The MSS and staff now serve on various campus wide committees and Search Advisory hiring Committees (SAC’s). It is vital staff be able to participate in the search for the new UH President. Those candidates need to hear from and about the perspective of staff as they go through the hiring process. Any new UH President would be underserved if they are not afforded the opportunity to learn about Staff and their valuable contributions to the University of Hawai‘i.”*

- Senator Carl Dionne, Information Technology Specialist

Listed below are the MSS Senators that represent a wide spectrum of the roles that staff provide for our campus.

Alapaki Nahale-a

January 3, 2024

Page 3

Christie Nitta - Human Resources Manager, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Nōweo Kai - Curator, Campus Arboretum
Carol Oshiro - Fiscal and Recruitment Specialist, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
Jennel Sesoko - Director of Branding & Marketing, Provost's Office
Raedelle Van Fossen - Education Manager, Lyon Arboretum
Carl Dionne - Information Technology Specialist, College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
Bernadette Baraquio - Creative Director, College of Social Sciences
Aeza Hafalia - Program Coordinator, Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
Reynold Kajiwaru - Academic Advisor, College of Natural Sciences, Student Academic Success Center
Andrew Sensano - IT Specialist, Outreach College
Michele Inouchi - Senior Fiscal Specialist, DSS – Administrative Services
Jacob Choe - Professional Standards Manager, UH Mānoa Department of Public Safety
Richard Kubo - Fiscal Administrator, Student Diversity and Inclusion
Devon Gordon - Micropropagation Laboratory Manager, Lyon Arboretum
Elmer Ka'ai - Director, Government Relations and Community Affairs, Provost's Office
Jaret KC Leong - Director of Mānoa Academy and Academic Pathways, College of Social Sciences
Nathaniel Kinglsey - Seed Conservation Lab Manager of the Hawaiian Rare Plant Program, Lyon Arboretum
Sarah Simmons - Operations Coordinator, Outreach College

If you would like to learn more about the MSS, please feel free to take a look at our website at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/staffsenate/>. The MSS would always welcome any comments or questions that any of the regents have regarding any issue.

Thank you for your time, consideration and dedication to our University.

Mahalo Nui,

Christie Ann Nitta

Chair

Nōweo Kai

Vice, Co-Chair

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Your Name (required)

Kyla-Marie Turner

Your Organization (optional)

Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you)

turner20@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required)

III.A.1. Section II.K.1.: Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Your Position (required)

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

01.04.23 Turner BOR Testimony.pdf (54.0 kB)

Kyla-Marie Turner

UH Hilo Student

turner20@hawaii.edu

Offering Written Testimony Opposing III.A.1. Section II.K.1. Roles, Responsibilities, Function, Makeup, and Membership Selection Process of the Advisory Group

Aloha e Board of Regents,

My name is Kyla-Marie Turner, and I am a UH Hilo Alumni, as well as UH Hilo Graduate Student. I recently graduated in Spring 2023 with my B.A. in English and Anthropology, making me an alumni, and I got accepted into the Cultural Heritage Management Graduate program, proudly becoming a graduate student this past fall semester. I preference my testimony with this, because I want the Board of Regents to understand where I am coming from. As both a proud 1st generation Hawaiian college graduate and a graduate student at UH Hilo, I have been fortunate and blessed to receive higher education at home. I have been able to see how the University of Hawai‘i across the state has allowed for ‘ōpio like me, especially post-pandemic, to stay close to home and begin our higher education goals and journeys while being supported by our local communities. And that is exactly why as a recipient of such opportunities and blessings that I oppose parts of III.A.1. Section II.K.1.

There are three parts specifically of III.A.1 Section II.K.1 that I oppose. The first two parts would be under Section II “Findings and Recommendations” of the Final Report (page two) Item B, in which the Final Report details the recommendation of the BOR to hire a search firm “with Hawai‘i expertise and/or a Hawai‘i focus to conduct a national search”. The bulk of my

opposition lies in this sentence right here. Firstly, the wording “Hawai‘i expertise and/or a Hawai‘i focus” is very vague and broad. With this wording, any search firm who has worked even just one commission/job with Hawai‘i-affiliated companies or on Hawai‘i-affiliated projects can claim to have “Hawai‘i expertise” or to have a “Hawai‘i focus”, and this is dangerous. It is dangerous for the same reason I believe the second part of the sentence “national search” is also dangerous. None of it translates necessarily to being Hawai‘i-based. I oppose 1) allowing for such vague language to be used in regards to the search firm that the BOR will hire, and 2) for the search firm to search nationally to provide all the services listed under Section II Item B.

As I am able to find higher education at home, the BOR should be able to find a Hawai‘i-based search firm and/or create a search committee that can provide locally the same services that would be required of an out-of-state search firm. I am recommending the change in that language under Section II Item B, because it is time we start turning to our own firms and our own people to help provide us with what we need. Of course it is nice to consult those from around the country in such inquiries. However, the UH and BOR should be looking within the state for services that can provide Hawai‘i-based expertise from a company that is Hawai‘i focused, who can provide the needed services that includes “managing nominations and applications”, and “guiding the board and the institution in the transition to the new president”.

The last thing I oppose can again be found under Section II “Findings and Recommendations” of the Final Report (page three) Item H, which is the recommendation to the BOR to concurrently provide opportunities for stakeholders and constituents of the UH to participate in the survey. I am opposing the concurrent status of the survey as these questions, which should also be broadcasted and advertised more broadly than what I’ve personally seen currently, should preceed any hiring of a search firm. From an anthropological and social

standpoint, the questions asked are vital feedback to the BOR, UH, and the future hired search firm on what kind of person the constituents and stakeholders are looking for in the next UH president. With the many issues going on across the nation in terms of academic censorship, the jeopardizing of affirmative action, and campus safety (to name a few), the survey questions can be used as standards and values in which all president nominees and applicants can be held to from the very beginning of the application process.

It is a way for a more transparent selection of the next UH President, something that I think has been lacking from this entire process so far. My recommendation is to have the survey precede any final choosing of the search firm, and to make the survey data a standard in terms of the applications and nominations of UH president candidates. Also, make the surveys more apparent across the UH System to constituents and stakeholders, especially because it opened just as winter break started, which is when many students and faculty return home and log off for the holidays.

After being a part of the UH 'Ohana since 2020, transparency of the process and looking locally are my two biggest asks of the Board of Regents right now. The UH System caters to many across the nation and even internationally in terms of research, academics, sports, and higher education, yes, and I love that about the UH. However, the UH also has such a huge responsibility to the place where it is, which is Hawai'i. That is why I ask the BOR to look locally for a Hawai'i-based search firm who can possibly consult nationally, but look locally to provide most, if not all, of the asked services under Section II Item B. I also implore the BOR to be more transparent with constituents and stakeholders about the process, which includes making the survey precede the hiring of the search firm, in order to collect true, useful feedback from the people they serve. I hope the Board can support my position. Mahalo!