

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)

Gordon Knowles

Your Organization (optional)

UH - HCC

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

Knowlesg@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

Aloha! I strongly suggest that any candidate must have worked at an higher educational institution that has unionized faculty with tenure. For example, not anyone from Hawaii Pacific University who undermined unionization and opposed tenure. Mahalo, Gordon Knowles
Lecturer, Administration of Justice
Honolulu Community College

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

No file attached

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Your Name (required)

Quinn Goo

Your Organization (optional)

Associated Students at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

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

qgoo@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)

Testimony.docx (7.7 kB)

DATE January 1, 2024
TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
FROM: Quinn Goo

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

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Quinn Goo and I am currently a senior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have been involved in the Associated Students at the University of Hawai'i as a Senator for nearly three years now. I am deeply passionate about the well-being and prosperity of this University.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process created by finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents meeting. My overall concern with the process is that it fails to effectively and meaningfully incorporate input from students, faculty, staff and community members.

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.

Furthermore, This 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. I am in opposition of the concept that members of the Advisory Group will be selected by the Board of Regents. The university already has two student organizations: ASUH and the Graduate Student Organization which are representatives of the student body. These organizations and similar ones for faculty could be utilized to support the Board of Regents in their nomination process and 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 search 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.

The future of this University hinges on our ability to incorporate the voices of stakeholders. I urge you to allow us to have a seat at this table and provide us with a vote. 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 improving the UH system.

Mahalo nui loa,
Quinn Goo

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Your Name (required)

Ashley Maynard and Marguerite Butler

Your Organization (optional)

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

amaynard@hawaii.edu, mbutler@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

The next UH president should be an academic leader.

While much has been said about the process for the search for the next president of the University of Hawai'i system, what has been missing is a thorough discussion of the qualities we should expect in the leader of our statewide institution. We shall see how well the Board of Regents considers the recent impassioned testimony advocating for a fair and open process free from legislative interference, and for the national best-practice of including faculty (chosen by the faculty), students, and community members in the search committee. Indeed, we must have a pono search process, and that includes the qualifications that would make the best president of our UH system.

It is not as simple a question as you might think. The UH System has 10 campuses, but only one R1 "research intensive" doctoral-granting campus, Mānoa. Other states typically have separate systems for their universities and their community colleges, so that each system serves only one mission. Our system is unusual, but it wasn't always this way. Dobelle oversaw a reorganization that put Mānoa, the 4-year universities, and seven community colleges into a single system with chancellors for each campus. Each serves important but different missions to the State of Hawai'i, yet it has never been clear how the priorities, resources, and needs of these different types of campuses are balanced and managed.

Because we are one system, it is imperative that the president must also be qualified to be the chancellor of the flagship campus. The president must have an academic background as a tenured faculty member – and not be merely a political selection. The president must lead faculty, staff, and students in teaching and research – the main purposes of the university – which improve our lives and uplift society. The president must also work collaboratively with the leader of the Mānoa campus and hold their own among the regents, legislators, and other powerful members of the community.

We have never had an academic leader of UH that truly maximized our strengths. Hawai'i is the "gateway to the Pacific" – in geography, earth history, culture, biological resources, evolution, climate, and so many fields of human endeavor. It is the reason why we serve as strategic bases for military installations, federal agencies, agricultural experimental stations, and the cross-cultural, federally funded East-West Center. We are the only R1 university for thousands of miles, yet too often it is outside research groups that spearhead the study of Hawai'i's resources. An informed academic leader could retain and motivate UH faculty to lead these enterprises, create opportunities to benefit from the university at every educational level – making the university's resources available to all – and drive innovation from our local communities to the world.

Each of the 10 campuses does important work. It is not easy nor cheap to provide access to higher education across our islands. But too often the battles for funding and control of governance look like turf battles with legislators and even regents fighting for local campuses at the expense of the flagship campus. This should not be. Mānoa produces the greatest numbers of teachers, engineers, healthcare workers, and community college professors, among other professions, as well as two thirds of the state's research funding. We must remember that the campuses are interconnected, and hurting Mānoa hurts all of Hawai'i. University education produces citizens who have benefited from civic learning, respect for different points of view, and the ability to think critically about issues facing our democracy. It is imperative that the president of UH understands the entire higher-ed ecosystem, including the cutting edge of research to bring out the best in our students and grow our state's educational enterprise, not just for jobs but for Hawai'i's future.

Our institution is currently so far out of alignment that we risk veering off the proverbial road, losing sight of our academic mission. While we agree that administrative concerns and an eye on the budget are important, without academic leadership the university, particularly the Mānoa campus, has suffered. For example, discussions of curriculum at the highest levels have centered on mechanics and convenience of integration rather than what's best for student learning. As another example, the creation of a "campus town" where our College of Education now stands will have serious repercussions for educational quality in both the K-12 and the university systems. An academic leader can help bring all conversations about the institution, its resources, and its future back into balance.

Research, teaching, and innovation are central to the mission of the university, and the university is central to the mission of the state. The best person to lead the institution will have the skills and experience not only to understand what the university does, but also to explain and defend it to others, positioning the institution to

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Your Name (required)

Mahina Kaomea

Your Organization (optional)

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

mahina.kaomea@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

Aloha pumehana kākou,

‘O wau nō ‘o Mahina Kaomea. I am a community member who attended the University of Hawai‘i concurrent with high school enrollment and has been deeply inspired by the faculty and scholarship coming out of the university. I am currently completing my Bachelor's degree at Stanford University and plan to apply for UH Mānoa PhD programs in the fall of 2025.

I am writing 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, therefore including non-board members in the process. Rather than select members to represent key stakeholders, the BoR 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 who can speak on behalf of student, faculty, and community needs.

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.

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Your Name (required)

Rosanna Rombawa

Your Organization (optional)

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

Rosana8@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

My name is Rosanna Rombawa. I am an alumni of UH and a taxpayer. I oppose an authoritarian power structure and selection process in regards to the President selection process. A process that does not include diverse stakeholders is the antithesis of being a "Hawaiian place of learning." We cannot concentrate power in an insulated echo chamber and expect to lead innovation, creative solutions to Hawaii's challenges, or increase our educational competitiveness on a global scale. We must allow students, staff, faculty, and community voting power/input. I oppose any process selection process for a student/community advisory group without voting power and that only selects members from the Board's own network. If you need help creating an equitable selection process, don't be ashamed to ask or feel the need to be the only experts in the room. Students, staff, faculty, and the community care enough about this institution's impact to help facilitate a Pono selection process and about the leaders who are positioned to do so. Mahalo



written statement for January 4 meeting

1 message

Rachael Downham <rdownham@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Sat, Dec 30, 2023 at 10:57 AM

Aloha, please see my attached statement for the upcoming BOR meeting.

Mahalo,

Rachael L. Downham
Dept. of Cellular & Molecular Biology
John A. Burns School of Medicine
rdownham@hawaii.edu
+1 (317)-607-4580



Statement_ BOR_Downham.pdf
359K

Rachael Downham
PhD Student
Dpt. of Cellular and Molecular Biology
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i Mānoa

12/29/2023
University of Hawai'i
Board of Regents

To Whom It May Concern

As the University of Hawai'i enters the beginning stages of its search for a new president, I feel it is imperative that the Board of Regents entertain the opinions and ideas of its current students. As higher education continues to evolve across the globe, the turning over of the university presidential position is crucial as UH moves into the next era. Many universities across the nation enlist the help of their own students, both undergraduate and graduate level, to ensure their voices are being heard during the presidential selection process. The position of UH President is, of course, vital to our success at this institution. I think the board of regents should allow for a small selective group of students to participate in evaluating the caliber of presidential candidates. Students create a more curated hiring process when participating in the search and interviews. It allows actual representation for the very same people the Board of Regents makes decisions for – the students. As someone who has the role of Teaching Assistant in addition to being a PhD student, I can see firsthand from the perspective of a student *and* an educator. UH needs some warranted change going into the next generation of leadership. UH must increase innovation if we are to become a cutting-edge leader in higher education. It is my belief that the next president of UH should be someone dedicated to innovative change who has experience and knowledge about other institutions who continue to thrive. There is plenty of excellent world-class talent that lies (dare I say) outside of the talent pool this state has to offer. While choosing someone who is engrained with Hawai'i and our treasured culture is ideal, it often creates an environment where everyone tends to think similarly and inside the box. Small communities like ours breed nepotism instead of meritocracy. We tend to cast out the ideas of people who are not kānaka maoli or kama'āina simply out of arrogance. I believe this will be a limiting downfall to the university in the coming decades if not addressed. Someone from beyond our state borders can have pono, kuleana, and hō'ihi while simultaneously rearing change. A qualified individual should desire to stay in the position for a decade to make quantifiable change. They should not look at the job as a means of capping off retirement with a pension, or hands-off endeavor. They should have a doctorate degree with ample leadership in education.

It is in the Board of Regents' best interest to pass on a brighter future for the University of Hawai'i and its students, not simply because they get paid to do so, but because they have the *passion* to do so. Students should have the opportunity to ask the right questions to those who have candidacy. E mālama i kō kākou na'auao, e mālama i kō kākou mua aku.

Sincerely,



Rachael Downham



Pūko'a Council Testimony to BOR - January 4, 2024 Meeting

1 message

Lawrence Gora <lgora@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Sun, Dec 31, 2023 at 7:09 AM

Aloha e BOR,

Please see attached BOR testimony on behalf of the Pūko'a Council for your information, review and consideration.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Mahalo nui, a Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!
Keali'i Gora
Pūko'a Council Administrator



Pūko'a Council Testimony to BOR - Jan 4 2024.pdf
91K

January 4, 2024

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

Re: Native Hawaiian Representation in UH President Search Process

Aloha e Chair Nahale-a and UH Board of Regents,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of Pūko'a Council, one of UH's shared governance bodies representing the 10 Native Hawaiian Councils. The purpose of Pūko'a Council is to provide a formal, independent voice and organization through which Native Hawaiian faculty, administrators, and students of the University of Hawai'i system can participate in the development and interpretation of system-wide policy and practice.

Referencing recommendation **K** of the **Final Report of the Presidential Selection Process Permitted Interaction Group**, dated November 9, 2023:

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.

We expect the BOR to include representatives from Pūko'a Council on this separate advisory group as a means of ensuring diverse perspectives, experiences, and values. As stated in Board of Regents Policy 4.201, section III.C.3:

As the only provider of public higher education in Hawai'i, the university embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai'i and to Hawai'i's indigenous language and culture. To fulfill this responsibility, the university ensures active support for the participation of Native Hawaiians at the university and support vigorous programs of study and support for the Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

Moreover, it is imperative that the University continues to fulfill its kuleana to Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i as stated in the UH Strategic Plan 2023-2029. An Indigenous-serving and Indigenous-centered institution means ensuring the hiring

process for the next President allows active Native Hawaiian participation. After all, Pūko'a and its Native Hawaiian Councils works with the President and Chancellors, respectively, to ensure kuleana, a major value that the Pūko'a Council is ready to advocate for on the UH presidential search advisory group.

Involving the Pūko'a Council in the search process means the involvement of Native Hawaiian faculty, staff, students, and administration. As an extension of this fact, Pūko'a representation also implies the representation of the Native Hawaiian communities that the University of Hawai'i serves. Pūko'a Council will ensure standards of trust and accountability are upheld not only in the search process, but in the next UH President.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keali'i Gora".

Keali'i Gora, Administrator

Pūko'a Council



Testimony- January 4- Agenda Item A

1 message

Kelsie Aguilera <kelsieag@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Sun, Dec 31, 2023 at 1:59 PM

December 31, 2023

Board of Regents,

Thank you for allowing me to address Agenda Item A regarding further deliberation and Decision Making regarding the Final Report from the Presidential Search Process Permitted Interaction Group.

Despite the considerable amount of oral and written testimony advocating for an inclusive presidential search committee, on December 7, 2023, the Board of Regents made the unusual decision to create a presidential search committee composed only of board members. The decision is “unusual” because such an approach goes against what is expected of UH presidential searches—the past two presidential searches were overseen by diverse search committees inclusive of faculty, staff, students, and community members. The decision is also unusual because such an approach goes against national best practices in presidential searches—the very references included in the Final Report from the Presidential Search Process Permitted Interaction Group would not support forming a search committee composed of only board members. And lastly, the decision is unusual because such an approach goes against the principles and policies (RP 1.210 and UHPA Contract Reference Section 20) of shared governance.

As of now, this UH presidential search is on track to be the least inclusive in recent history.

Undoubtedly the incoming UH President will face many challenges from power struggles with the legislature to finding its place within a new state economy, so I am not sure why the Board of Regents would want to disadvantage the incoming President from the start. The incoming UH President should start their tenure by being selected from a process that is inclusive and transparent; the incoming UH President should start their tenure with broad support from the UH community.

In addition to other responsibilities, the presidential selection committee is typically charged with developing the candidate profile, evaluating candidates, and recommending finalists to the board. The presidential selection committee should include faculty, staff, students, and community members. Please course correct to a process that is expected, inclusive, and aligned with national best practices in presidential searches as well as the principles and policies of shared governance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelsie Aguilera
Leeward CC Faculty Senate Chair



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

1 message

Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
Cc: Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 1:49 PM

My name is Dr. Joel Fischer. I served UH for 40 years as a professor at Manoa. As a professor, I published 33 books and some 150 articles and papers. I am telling you these things to enforce for you the importance I placed in my role at UH, and how much I truly loved my 40 years at UH. I just want to preserve the legacy of the past in research, teaching and community service.

In order to do that, we need a president that will follow in the legacy of President Lassner, especially his rapport with Hawaiian Studies, a very high priority at UH.

So, here are a few areas I hope will be emphasized in the years ahead, as emphasized by a new President:

1. We have had a terrible string of Presidents at UH over the past two decades. The reason for that is extraordinarily poor evaluations of candidates by the BOR. Need I remind you of Evan Dobbelle?

Therefore, my first request to the BOR is to develop a very rigorous set of criteria to evaluate candidates for the Presidency. The BOR may not have the expertise to accomplish this, so I urge the Board to use the many resources available, in particular, faculty, UHPA, and the best of the "head hunters" that money can buy. And, THEN, make sure the criteria are implemented with care for all candidates.

2. I firmly believe that President Lassner was a breath of fresh air for UH. I urge the BOR to honor his service over the past several years, and treat him in his final year with all the respect he deserves.

3. Every candidate absolutely MUST be equipped and willing to honor UH policy, and work to support and enhance the program of HAWAIIAN STUDIES. This, arguably, is the most important program at UH. I hope you realize I am saying this as a haole settler who was not a member of the Hawaiian Studies faculty.

4. Please do not consider any candidates that has little or no expertise about UH and our communities. By this, I do not mean to consider only people already living in Hawai'i; but I DO mean that candidates who have not put in the time to study in advance what we are all about here is not worth considering.

5. Please protect UH and our candidates from political interference. Make sure every candidate accepted for review had the experience and fortitude to fight for UH independence.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

Dr. Joel Fischer



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

1 message

Mae Ha <had4@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 8:22 PM

Aloha kākou,

My name is Mae Ha and I am currently a student that attends KCC.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process created by 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 this decision will also affect community college attenders like myself. It is important that UH will keep funding CCs so I can continue getting an education.

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,

Mae Ha



Testimony for January 4th BOR Meeting

1 message

Hema Watson <hemakw@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 11:14 PM

DATE: 1/1/2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Hema Kealohanuikaia Watson

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

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Hema Watson and I am currently a student at UH Mānoa as well as the president of the RIO "WELL READ" at UH Mānoa.

I write to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process created during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. That proposed process fails entirely at truly and meaningfully including students, faculty, staff and community members in selecting the next UH President.

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

Although the Student Regent is designed to represent current student concerns, her term will expire in May, during the process. Therefore the BoR needs to expand student representation to ensure there are 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 should utilize the already elected bodies to nominate members to these positions rather than selecting members themselves to represent key stakeholders. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which is composed of the 11 student governments. These organizations and similar ones for faculty can be utilized to support the Board of Regents to ensure that the individuals selected can speak on behalf of a large group of people.

I vehemently 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 of utmost importance 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, Hema



Written Testimony on behalf of ASUH and the Office of the President

Bronson Azama <bazama@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 10:20 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha mai kākou,

Below is the testimony from myself as the ASUH President, and Senate Resolution 05-24 which is the official testimony and position of ASUH.

Mahalo,
Bronson

2 attachments



Azama_BoR Testimony.pdf

326K



CODIFIED SR 05-24.pdf

113K



Tuesday, January 2, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Office of the President of ASUH

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

‘Ano‘ai ke aloha Kākou,

My name is Bronson Azama, I am the current ASUH President, and Chair of the UH Student Caucus consisting of the 11 student governments across the 10 campuses. I write to you today from the perspective of the Office of the President, and as Chair. It is extremely concerning that the UH Board of Regents (BoR) are continuing down a path that values expediency over inclusion and transparency. Although a discussion can reflect hearing what is said, the decision reflects not being listened to. The lack of meaningful inclusion to ensure a robust process will impact the quality of the decision in selecting the next UH President.

The Selection of a President for a Public University should be an inclusive and transparent process that values quality over expediency. A process that should be co-developed and a decision that should be made demonstrating shared governance.

With the current process I am further concerned with the piecemealing of decisions, none of the recommendations involved with the Presidential Selection Process included members beyond the Board of Regents. Yet that's been utilized as the baseline of the process development. We are also now determining roles, responsibilities, and duties for an advisory group before we have gotten a full picture of what needs advising. How do we know whether the voices to be included will not be further isolated as processes evolve?

As I see it, the issue is inclusion, power inequity, and transparency over what will be a historical decision for the future of a Public University, these islands, and the broader Pacific.

The BoR should consider the following:

1. Allowing finalists to be recommended to the BoR by a decision-making body that consists of students, faculty, staff, and community members, including cultural practitioners;

- a. The above-mentioned decision-making body be included in interviews of applicants organized by the Hiring Firm and/or BoR and be allowed to ask engage and ask questions of the applicants and make recommendations to BoR based on those interviews; and
 - b. The UH Student Caucus be allowed to nominate student candidates to be on the decision-making body.
 - i. The body should further consist of at least one O‘ahu at-large seat, and a Neighbor Island At-Large seat to meet the needs of diversified student representation. GSO because of their unique niche of serving Graduate students should have their own representation.
2. Expanding the Selection Committee to include student representatives (following the previous recommendation) to be nominated by the UH Student Caucus that will be committed through the process since Student Regent’s term ends this May; and
 3. Having a discussion on the relationship the Hiring Firm will have with the BoR and other stakeholders such as ASUH in its RFP.

The BoR, although having authority to make the decision on the next UH President, doesn’t necessarily mean that the BoR cannot defer tasks such as selecting finalists to another body, which it has done in previous selection processes, as conducted in the 2013 Presidential Selection. Therefore, I encourage the BoR to return to a path of shared governance and share the workload with groups directly impacted.

In my capacity as Chair of the UH Student Caucus, which consists of representatives from the 11 student governments organizations, I would offer that Student Caucus has the capacity to set-up a process similar to the student government elections. A process where students can be nominated and upon acceptance have an election to determine the best nominees. The nomination period usually lasts two weeks, and the election itself for a week. Given Regent Mawae will be concluding her term in May, it only makes sense to include students that can commit to the process and engage with students as the process continues.

As Regent Wilson shared, it is the planning that must be the lengthier process to ensure the implementation is effective and quick. Therefore, meaningful inclusion and demonstrating shared governance would make the transition of the next President less painful.

The inclusion of students, faculty, staff, and key community stakeholders are crucial to ensure robust vetting in selecting both the finalists for the BoR to consider and the next UH President. It would be wise that inclusion of these groups allow transparent access to the information of applicants and to be a part of any interviews and deliberations of the BoR in their selection, members should also be allowed to engage with the BoR.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 05-24
DEMANDING STUDENT, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION ON THE
PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION COMMITTEE**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

- WHEREAS*, the Associated Students of the University (ASUH) of Hawai'i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 12,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,
- WHEREAS*, ASUH is committed to advocating for students to have meaningful inclusion to ensure a diverse, and robust process in selecting the next President; and,
- WHEREAS* the Board of Regents (BOR) is charged with appointing the President of the University in Article X Section 6 of the State Constitution¹
- WHEREAS* although the BOR retains the power to appoint the President, its demonstrated shared governance through the Presidential Selection Committee in previous processes; and
- WHEREAS*, in October 2008, the BOR established a twelve member Presidential Selection Committee that included a student vote that was tasked with selecting 2-4 unranked finalists for the Board to consider;² and
- WHEREAS*, on July 2, 2013, ASUH Mānoa testified on resolution 01-14 which it submitted as written testimony to the BOR, the resolution requested student inclusion on the search process and ideal candidate qualification;³ and

¹ State Constitution, Legislative Reference Bureau, accessed December 14 2023, <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/constitution/#articlex>

² University of Hawai'i System Legislative Testimony, 16 January 2009, 2009 Information Briefings, accessed December 13, 2023, https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/eaar/govrel/briefings/2009/presidential-search_al-landon_01-16-09_hre-hed.pdf.

³ Board of Regents' Committee on Presidential Selection Meeting Minutes, 2 July 2013, 2013 BOR Minutes.

APPROVED BY THE 111TH SENATE ON THE 14th OF DECEMBER 2023

WHEREAS, Following testimony, the BOR established a twelve member Presidential Selection Committee that comprised of Seven Regents, a member of the Student Caucus, a member of the All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), a member of the Administrative, Professional, and Technical (APT) staff, and non-voting members from the UH Foundations, and two ex-officio Regents; and

WHEREAS, On October 19, 2023, the BOR appointed a five member PIG for the purpose of investigating and recommending a well-articulated presidential selection process to the full board as noted in the September 29, 2023, memorandum from Chair Nahale-a⁴ to the Governance Committee⁵; and

WHEREAS, On December 7, 2023, ASUH Mānoa, the Faculty Senate, and other groups representing stakeholders at the University requested inclusion and representation on the Presidential Selection Committee; and

WHEREAS, The BOR established a Committee of the Whole as the Presidential Selection Committee, therefore making its' first decision in recent decades where BOR members solely serve on the Presidential Selection Committee; and

WHEREAS, The BOR Student Regent's term will end in May 2024; and

WHEREAS, The current timeline process does not expect a final decision before the end of the Student Regent's term; and

WHEREAS, Diverse inclusion on decision-making bodies has demonstrated significant improvement to process efficiency and outcomes of decisions⁶; and

WHEREAS The lack of inclusion of faculty, students, staff and other stakeholders goes against best principles of shared

⁴ Board of Regents' Committee on Governance, 5 October 2023, 2023 BOR Materials, accessed December 14, 2023, https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/governance/materials/202310051045/Committee_on_Governance_10_05_2023_Materials.pdf.

⁵ Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes, 19 October 2023, 2023, accessed December 14, 2023, <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/regular/minute/202310191000.regular.pdf>.

⁶ Erik Larson, "New Research: Diversity + Inclusion = Better Decision Making at Work," Forbes, September 21, 2017, accessed December 13, 2023 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/eriklarson/2017/09/21/new-research-diversity-inclusion-better-decision-making-at-work/?sh=43c57d5a4cbf>.

governance⁷, including as outlined by the American Association of University Professors; and now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

that ASUH opposes the composition of the Presidential Selection Committee as decided on the December 7, 2023 meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that ASUH repudiates the BOR decision to have student inclusion limited to only the Advisory Group, and Student Regent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that ASUH urges the Board of Regents to consider a Presidential Selection Committee whose membership does not have a majority of BOR members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that ASUH is not confident and does not believe that the Student Regent can provide adequate student inclusion and representation since the Regent's term will expire within the current anticipated timeline discussed at the December 7, 2023 meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that ASUH opposes the use of a search firm to vet and screen applicants, and believes the duty of the Search Committee be limited and put up for further discussion for Student, Faculty, and community input; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that ASUH demands that (1) the BOR form a Presidential Selection Committee that includes UH stakeholders such as students, faculty, staff, Pūko'a council, and consider broader community representation such as, a cultural practitioners; and (2) the demanded Presidential Selection Committee be tasked with recommending 2-4 unranked finalists to the BOR to consider; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the University of Hawai'i Student Caucus (UHSC), Board of Regents, the UH President, the office of the Provost, the Governor of Hawai'i, and as testimony on behalf of ASUH Mānoa at the January 4, 2023 BOR Committee of The Whole meeting, and/or future meetings where the ASUH President and the ASUH body deems the resolution necessary.

⁷ Larry Geber, "Reaffirming the Value of Shared Governance, American Association of University Professors", Academe, September 1997, <https://www.aaup.org/sites/default/files/files/SharedGovernance1997.pdf>.

INTRODUCED BY: Mariko Quinn, Senator of the College of Arts & Sciences
Kyson James-Foree, Senator of the College of Arts & Sciences

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE SENATE RESOLUTION 05-24

Aye(s): Secretary Cable-Treadwell, Treasurer Reed, SAL Hermoso, SAL Tabangay-Hata, Senator Roysdon, Senator Goo Senator Li, Senator Stanford, Senator James-Foree, Senator Pintor, Senator Quinn **[11]**

Naye(s): [0]

Abstention(s):

APPROVED BY THE 111TH SENATE ON THE 14th OF DECEMBER 2023



Written Testimony - Maximus Paschoal

1 message

Mananakealoha Paschoal <mg32@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 11:56 PM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha mai,

Here attached is a pdf of my testimony regarding the 2024 UH presidential election that excludes everybody's vote except that of the board of regents.

Sincerely,
Maximus Paschoal



UH Presidential Search Process Testimony_Paschoal, Maximus .pdf

62K

1/1/2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Maximus Paschoal

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

Eō e nā po‘o o ke kula nui,

Pehea kā ‘oukou ho‘oki‘eki‘e ‘ana iā mākou ‘ā? Ua ho‘olono ‘ia ka hauna a kā ‘oukou loko ‘ino ia‘u. No laila, pono wau e kani a‘e i kēia leo kū‘ē.

‘O wau nō ‘o Mananakealoha. No Paeahu, Maui mai au. A no Kīpahulu, Maui mai a me Puna, Hawai‘i mai ko‘u mau kūpuna. Aloha mai.

As much as it sickens me to accept the reality of your positions of power, I want you all to think of yourselves as the current chiefs of the Hawaiian nation that rules this sector of the Pacific. Now ask yourself how did I get here? How did my family get to these islands? Am I a lineal descendant of the original inhabitants of these islands? How have we come to the situation that is the fake State of Hawai'i? Am I even qualified to rule if I know nothing of these islands' 2,000 year history? After a 2,000-year era of food abundance and prosperous rule under our old chiefs we are now left with probably some of the most undertrained leaders this nation has ever seen in its entire history. Let that sink in. Let it sink in how fortunate you all are to have not already met the same fate of a chief who has failed their people. This fate is the removal of the chief by the people. And the redistribution of their life essence that they have hoarded for themselves as they failed the very people they were trained to nurture.

Now think of how horrific it is that these same leaders who are so tragically inept in their familiarity with the historical knowledge of Hawai'i... think of how horrific it is that you same leaders are trusted to select our next president, and it will be this same elective process in perpetuity. I am genuinely terrified for what the future has to bring in this era of ignorance.

How comedically grim that we must heed to this election process that is clearly designed to cultivate a certain type of refined ignorance, a.k.a. the most profitable haole leader

Haoles like David Lassner and his followers who indirectly kill Hawaiian souls by sabotaging the progress Hawaiian rights have made since the start of The Hawaiian Kingdom's illegal occupation by the United States

Do you really expect anyone to believe that you all hold enough wisdom to select our leader? Is the wisdom of the collective public that obsolete to you all? To justify the removal of the sovereign power of the public body's right to elect is equivalent to believing you are a god that lives outside of this ecosystem. Do you think you will survive the plunge into shark-infested waters with blood streaming from your blinded eyes and deafened ears?

I warn you all to listen to this Hawaiian soul. The vitality of Hawai'i is dependent on the vitality of Hawaiians, and the vitality of Hawaiians is dependent on the vitality of Hawai'i.

End the desecration and elect as president a Kanaka maoli who has remained loyal to the Hawaiian Kingdom if you ever wish to experience what true prosperity is for the first time in over a 130+ years. Less Hawai'i erode into a toxic mound of concrete, an altar of Humanity's failure to the gods, failure to our primordial earth mother that has sustained us since our emergence from the womb of Pō, failure to Kāne the god of life who gave breath and animus to Ki'i, the human made of clay, sculpted in the likeness of Kāne. We come from the dirt don't you know this? Talk to Hawaiians who disagree with American exceptionalism and hear them out! Close your mouth because I know you haoles like to act like you know everything yeah? Trust me, you Haoles know nothing of this place and the first step is acceptance of that. We will take care of everyone who lets us do so. Step down and make way for Kanaka maoli leaders to return balance to this mess.

Mahalo,

Mananakealoha Paschoal



[Mānoa Faculty Senate] Resolution Endorsing the SEC Testimony to the BOR at its December 7th Special Meeting

1 message

UHM Faculty Senate <uhmfs@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 8:47 PM

To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Cc: Erin Centeio <ecenteio@hawaii.edu>

Aloha,

The Mānoa Faculty Senate unanimously approved the *Resolution Endorsing the SEC Testimony to the BOR at its December 7th Special Meeting* at the December 13, 2023 Senate meeting with 44 votes in support and 0 votes opposed.

The transmittal letter, resolution and the SEC testimony are attached BOR testimony. Please feel free to contact ecenteio@hawaii.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.

Mahalo nui loa,

John Kinder for Erin Centeio, SEC Chair
Administrative Officer

Mānoa Faculty Senate Office | [2500 Campus Road](#) | Hawai'i Hall 208 | Honolulu, HI 96822 | Ph: (808) 956-7725 | uhmfs@hawaii.edu | Senate Website: www.hawaii.edu/uhmfs

3 attachments



20231213 Transmittal MFS Resolution Endorsing the SEC Testimony to the BOR at its December 7 Special meeting.pdf
236K



20231213 MFS Resolution Endorsing the SEC Testimony to the BOR at its December 7 Special meeting.pdf
142K



[Manoa Faculty Senate] SEC Testimony to the BOR December 2023*.pdf
166K



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MĀNOA FACULTY SENATE

December 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL

TO: Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair
Board of Regents

David Lassner, President & CEO
University of Hawai'i

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Sandy French, Chief Business Officer
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

FROM: Erin E. Centeio, Chair
Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

RE: **Resolution Endorsing the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Testimony submitted to the Board of Regents for its December 7, 2023 Special Meeting and Requests Again that the Presidential Search Committee include faculty representation**

The Mānoa Faculty Senate unanimously approved the **Resolution Endorsing the Senate Executive Committee Testimony submitted to the Board of Regents for its December 7, 2023 special meeting** at the December 13, 2023 Senate meeting with 44 votes in support; and 0 votes opposed. The resolution and Senate Executive Committee testimony are attached.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin E. Centeio'.

Erin E. Centeio, Ph.D.
Mānoa Faculty Senate Chair

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MĀNOA FACULTY SENATE

December 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL

TO: Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair
Board of Regents

David Lassner, President & CEO
University of Hawai'i

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Sandy French, Chief Business Officer
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

FROM: Erin E. Centeio, Chair
Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Erin E. Centeio'.

Erin E. Centeio, Ph.D.
Mānoa Faculty Senate Chair

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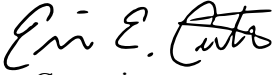
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MĀNOA FACULTY SENATE

December 5, 2023

TO: Alapaki Nahale-a, Chair
UH Board of Regents

CC: Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawaii at Mānoa

FROM: Erin E. Centeio, Chair 
2023-24 Senate Executive Committee

RE: 2023-2024 Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee Testimony

Aloha, Chair Nahale-a and regents;

First, thank you all for the work that you continue to do on behalf of the University of Hawai'i (UH). I'd also like to thank the Presidential Selection Process Interaction Group (PIG) for their work related to the proposed search process outlined in PIG's final report dated November 9, 2023.

I'm here today as Chair of the University of Hawai'i Mānoa Faculty Senate Executive Committee to share the committee's perspective on the final report of the presidential selection process Permitted Interaction Group (PIG). I recognize that according to [Article X, Section 6 of the Hawaii State Constitution](#), the Board of Regents has the authority to appoint the UH president. However, the primary point I need to convey is that we are dismayed at the absence of a search committee for the new University of Hawaii President that includes faculty, staff, students, and community members.

Upon researching past presidential searches led by the UH Board of Regents (2008-2009; 2013-2014), it was concluded that various UH stakeholders were included on the search committee. Although the PIG has recommended including an advisory board that includes some of the aforementioned stakeholders, this is unacceptable. An advisory group that advises the PIG2 "as requested" can not be a replacement for a search committee where each member has an equal vote. Additionally, this suggested search process does not align with the principles of shared faculty governance, which is essential to a functioning and thriving University system.

It is our recommendation that there should not be a PIG2. Instead, there should be a process that is transparent and widely inclusive, similar to previous presidential search committees. The search committee should consist

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not only of members of the Board of Regents but also include key members of UH constituencies such as faculty, staff, students, and community members. Additional input could be provided to the search committee by a widely representative advisory committee. This is consistent with suggestions from [Inside Higher Education](#) and trends presented by [The American Association of University Professors](#), stating the importance of various stakeholders participating in the search committee and process. Additionally, creating a closed-door selection of a University president goes [against shared governance best practices](#).

As a faculty senate, we encourage thoughtful discussion on “recommending the BOR separate the current position of the system President and Chancellor and hire for system President only at this time.” This is a matter that will take time and in which the faculty senate should be an active participant.

We appreciate and welcome the Board of Regents interaction with the University of Hawai'i Mānoa Faculty Senate on the Presidential Search.



Written Testimony

1 message

RJ Kaleohano Nadal <rodolfoj@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 3:42 AM

January 2nd, 2024

Aloha Board of Regents,

My name is RJ Kaleohano Nadal and I am a proud alum of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and hold real estate interests in Hawaii county. I would like to offer comments in regards to the development of the Presidential search committee process. Although I am very excited to see that a Kanaka Maoli is the sitting chair of the Board of Regents, I think some issues must be considered.

The President of the University of Hawaii system holds considerable power and influence over not only the Hawai'i's largest body of higher education, but significant latitude over natural resources, community development and strategic planning for Hawai'i's future. As it is being reported, the Board of Regents are in conflict of interest given that the Board is responsible for the appointment of members to the ceremonial Presidential advisory committee, with powers and kuleana determined at the discretion of the Regents. This presents a concern that there will be no student, faculty, staff or community representation in the selection committee of the next president of the University of Hawai'i.

Hewa. Do better. Because someone can write one book about UH the way someone wrote Broken Trust about Bishop Estate, and it will be your individual reputations that will be dragged through the mud. Ask yourself if that's how you want your service the Hawai'i to be referenced.

The reality of the situation is that the University System has disproportionately shifted power away from Hawai'i community stakeholders and has often allowed people from the continental United States to come in with their own views and perspectives of what they believe Hawaii should be, and not how it is. I do not support this, and am asking the board to allow for the collective of student governments, faculty congresses and staff unions as well as vested community members to solicit, nominate and have final approval on who will representing each constituency to the advisory and selection committee. To leave all the power with the Board of Regents is dangerous. This is setting the University up for scrutiny and unfavorable attention because people get receipts. And people aren't afraid to speak up anymore.

Anyway, think about it, and do better. Mahalo for your service, and please keep in mind that the thirty meter telescope is probably outdated and obsolete by now, so no need to build it, and the University needs to stand with occupied Palestine.

Mahalo a me Aloha Pumehana,

RJ Kaleohano Nadal.

--

With Aloha,

RJ Kaleohano Nadal



Testimony for Advisory Group to the Presidential Selection Committee

1 message

April Bautista <akbbautista@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 4:42 AM

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

Dear Board of Regents:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this important task.

I am a 2010 graduate of UH at Mānoa in Political Science, a working mom, and a Kalihi resident. Also a proud, Ilocano daughter of Farrington HS grad — this is important for me to mention. The reason being that access to higher Education continues to be barrier after 30 years for immigrants families, and the people on the Committee as well as the chosen President should have this along with respect to Native Hawaiian as a core/motivation to be President of a University as respected and accessible as UH.

As an alum and member of our community, attending UH has provided me with opportunities, friendships, and a network to continue to live on O'ahu — something that many of my friends and professional colleagues are unable to do as they've been forced to choose better economic opportunities for their families on the mainland. This is something that has been discussed for since I was a students at UH — the brain drain.

Anyways, I hope you take in consideration what I have shared because the Committee should be reflective of the local people who have the cultural understanding of Hawaii and immigrants and views UH as a pathway to generational wealth by building a Committee representative of the people of the past, current, and future.

UH deserve this and much more — we all know it.

In conclusion, here is what I propose:

1. Students, faculty, staff, and community should have voting power in the selection Committee;
2. The Selection Committee should be x-Anede to include the students, faculty, staff, and the public; and
3. The BoR should prioritize quality over expediency.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on such an important endeavor.

Respectfully,
April

April Kamilah Bagasao Bautista
Honolulu, HI
96819
Akbbautista@gmail.com



Written Testimony Board of Regents Meeting 01/04

1 message

Sonja Giardina <sonjagia@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 5:00 AM

Aloha,

Attached is my testimony regarding the upcoming BOR meeting on Jan. 4. I would also like to testify in person at this meeting.

Mahalo,
Sonja Giardina



Giardina BOR Testimony 01_04_2023.pdf

115K

01/01/2024

TO: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

FROM: Sonja Giardina

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

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Sonja Giardina and I am currently a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST).

I am writing to you all to express my concerns regarding the Presidential Selection Process finalized during the December 7th Board of Regents (BoR) meeting. Generally, my concerns are regarding the failure of this search process in representing and incorporating students, faculty, staff and community members in the selection of the next UH President.

My primary concern is about the lack of inclusion of these various stakeholder groups in the Presidential Selection Committee, which is composed only of Board of Regents members. In past UH Mānoa Presidential Selection processes, such as those in 2009 and 2013, there were student, faculty, staff, community, and alumni representatives sitting on the Presidential Selection Committee with voting power. A “committee of the whole” composed solely of BoR members does not give voting representation to any external stakeholders and goes directly against the principles of shared governance.

The proposed Advisory Group is meant to represent community members, faculty, staff, students and other administrators as to include non-board members in the selection process. Instead of giving the BoR full appointing authority for this Advisory Group, existing elected bodies at UH should be used to nominate representatives of both undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty. The UH System already has elected student representation through the Student Caucus, which comprises the 11 student governments. There are parallel organizations for faculty that could be used to support the Board of Regents in selecting individuals that are representative of important University stakeholders and have already gone through an election process.

In addition, considering the critical influence of the role of UH President, I emphasize the importance of quality and careful deliberation over expediency in this selection process.

Overall, I advocate for students, faculty, staff and community members to be incorporated into the selection committee and given voting power, as opposed to just an Advisory Group that can only provide advice at the request of BoR committee members. Considering the reach of this

role, it is imperative that those who will be most heavily impacted by this decision are meaningfully integrated into the selection process at every step.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I look forward to seeing action towards a more inclusive search process that brings all stakeholders to the table as we work together on making this decision for UH and Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sonja Giardina". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Sonja" being more prominent than the last name "Giardina".

Sonja Giardina



Statement from the ACCFSC in Regards to the UH Presidential Search Process

1 message

Erin Centeio <ecenteio@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:19 AM

To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Cc: Debasis Bhattacharya <debasisb@hawaii.edu>, David Lassner <david@hawaii.edu>, "Ernest Wilson, Jr" <wilsoner@hawaii.edu>, Neil Abercrombie <neila@hawaii.edu>

Aloha,

The All Campus Council for Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC) unanimously approved a *Statement Regarding the Proposed Presidential Search Process at The University of Hawai'i* in a special meeting on December 14, 2024, with a vote finalized on December 18, 2023 (17 for, 0 against).

The statement is attached. Please contact me (ecenteio@hawaii.edu) or Debasis Bhattacharya (debasisb@hawaii.edu) (Co-Chairs of ACCFSC) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Mahalo nui loa,
Erin

Erin E. Centeio, Ph.D
Associate Professor
Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science
The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Office: (808) 956-3882 | Cell: 808-341-7506 | ecenteio@hawaii.edu
<https://coe.hawaii.edu/krs/>



ACCFSC Statement 12-27-2023.pdf

405K



All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC)

Statement Regarding the Proposed Presidential Search Process at The University of Hawai'i

December 29, 2023

The All Campus Council of Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC) of the University of Hawai'i submits this statement in opposition to the Board of Regents (BOR) Permitted Interaction Group Report on the Presidential Search Process and the BOR vote at the December 7, 2023 BOR meeting to form a selection committee composed only of the University of Hawai'i BOR.

The ACCFSC appreciates the work of the BOR, however the ACCFSC is of the opinion that the proposed University of Hawai'i presidential selection process goes against the best practice and policies (Board of Regents Policy RP 1.210 and UHPA Contract Reference Section 20) of shared governance and does not allow an official voice of the faculty to contribute to the recommendation of the next UH president.

As Faculty Senate Chairs across and within the 10 UH campuses, we are aware that the BOR received numerous testimonies against the composition of the selection committee. The ACCFSC opposes the composition of the presidential selection committee as decided at the December 7th, 2023 BOR meeting and requests the following:

1. an inclusive presidential selection committee that goes beyond a BOR Committee of the Whole and includes UH stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students and UH Community members; and
2. an inclusive presidential selection committee that is charged with creating the position profile, recruiting candidates, evaluating candidates, and recommending finalists; and
3. an additional advisory committee that includes additional stakeholders; and (iv) a transparent and widely inclusive process, similar to previous presidential search committees.

Approved unanimously (17 for, 0 against) by the ACCFSC on December 18, 2023.



Student Concerns

1 message

Ke'ala'iliah Ford <kford9@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:28 AM

DATE: 01/02/2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Ke'ala'iliah Ford

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

Aloha kākou,

My name is Ke'ala'iliah Ford and I am a recent graduate from UH West O'ahu.

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,

Ke‘ala‘iliahi Ford



Written Testimony Board of Regents Meeting Jan 4

1 message

Mariko Quinn <marikooq@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:29 AM

Aloha kākou,

My name is Mariko Quinn and attached below is my testimony for the upcoming board of regents meeting on January 4th. I also plan on giving in person testimony.

Mahalo,
Mariko



Mariko Quinn Presidential Search Process Testimony Jan 4.pdf
330K



January 2 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Mariko Quinn, Senator of School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology

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

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Mariko Quinn and I am the current Senator for the School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology (SOEST) of the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (ASUH). I am also the Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs committee under ASUH.

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

The implementation of a committee of the whole as the selection committee, which includes all members of the Board of Regents but does not give voting power to any external stakeholders is a decision that goes directly against the principles of shared governance. Failing to engage faculty, staff, students and community members by not giving them a voting representative, fractures trust between the potential candidates and their future constituents before they even begin the job. This decision also abandons the precedent of the most recent presidential search process conducted in 2013- during which there was a voting member representing student caucus, one representing the all campus council of faculty senate chairs and one representing staff. While I recognize that the meeting on the 4th is meant to focus on the role of the advisory group alone, I think that it is imperative that the decision be revisited and reconsidered in order to ensure the best possible outcome and transition for the university.

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.

At the December 7th meeting, several regents expressed concerns that bringing in representatives of different stakeholder groups would extend the duration of the search process. I would argue

that diminishing stakeholder engagement to a small advisory group and a survey would function to further delay the acceptance of a new president, and also cause long term problems in the relationship between the president and their constituents. The Board of Regents needs to consider the long term problems that the future president will need to address, and how a positive relationship with staff, faculty and students would support their job much more effectively. Taking more time now to execute this search process in an inclusive way will ultimately save time in the future.

Another potential solution to address this would be to expand the role of the advisory group. The advisory group should be expanded in size to include more representation for various stakeholders. 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 should utilize elected bodies to nominate members of the advisory committee rather than nominating members themselves. Furthermore, the Student Caucus, which is composed of representatives from all 10 UH campuses, has the capacity to develop a brief elections process to allow student representatives for the advisory committee to be nominated and voted on by their peers.

As is the case in other search processes, such as the SOEST dean search, the advisory group could then be allowed to recommend candidates to the Board of Regents. This decision would empower the advisory group to be privy to interviews of candidates, ask or recommend questions to be asked to specific candidates, and make specific recommendations to the BoR. While voting representation on the selection committee itself is still the most important need, expanding the role of the advisory group to have significant and meaningful influence at all stages of the process is also a critical opportunity of incorporation.

Overall, I urge the Board of Regents to carefully consider what it might mean to fail to meaningfully include stakeholders at all steps of the process. The university system is run by thousands of people who all hope to make the university better for Hawai'i and the people it serves. To deny these people the opportunity to have a powerful voice and vote in how the University of Hawai'i will be run in the future will prohibit UH from reaching its full potential. Stakeholders deserve to have voting seats on the selection committee, and the advisory group must be expanded to best incorporate a variety of voices throughout the process.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this testimony. I truly hope that the board is able to consider all of the opinions submitted for this meeting and are able to create a final search process that seeks to incorporate the voices of many.

Mahalo nui,

Mariko Quinn



BOR TESTIMONY

1 message

Kawaiolaakealii Kapuni <kapunikk@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:58 AM

Aloha,

Please find the attached testimony below.

Mahalo,
Kawaiola Kapuni



ASUH TESTIMONY

Kawaiola‘akeali‘i Kili Kapuni | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
B.A. Candidate in Political Science, Concentration in Indigenous Politics
B.A. Candidate in Native Hawaiian Studies, Kūkulu Aupuni
B.A. Candidate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i
B.A. Candidate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

January 2nd, 2024

TO: University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

FROM: Kawaiola Kapuni

Concerns Related To —

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

‘Ano‘ai kākou,

My name is Kawaiola and I am currently a junior at UH Mānoa engaged in fields of Political Science, Native Hawaiian Studies, ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; all of which work hand in hand to (re)build and (re)turn to structures and institutions reflective of our kūpuna and the ingenuity they crafted over a millennia. As you *should* know, our nation, governance, and institutions in Hawai’i have been pervasively poisoned by Western forces, and to this today, ka lāhui o Hawai’i continues to heal and revive such spaces to ensure the generational thriving of ‘Ōiwi. We, ka lāhui, stand before you today to heal, and above all protect the essential bridge between leaders and community at the UH Mānoa institution.

Thus, 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,
Kawaiola Kapuni