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## Three Questions For UH President Applicants

1 message

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

Sun, Mar 3, 2024 at 1:46 PM

Please find below and attached written testimony for BOR March 7, 2024 AGENDA ITEM D:

Discussion and Potential Action on Assignment of Tasks To The Presidential Search Advisory Committee

### TESTIMONY BY JIM SHON

RE: BOR March 7, 2024

AGENDA ITEM FROM SPECIAL BOR CONTINUANCE February 16, 2024

Item D:

Discussion and Potential Action on Assignment of Tasks to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

### Three Key Questions For Initial Candidates for President of the University of Hawaii

I have worked at the UH, studied history and political science, taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and received a PhD From UH. As a State Legislator for 12 years, often serving on the education committees, and much later as Director of the UH Hawaii Educational Policy Center, I urge the following key questions be FIRST posed to applicants for the position of President of the University of Hawaii.

These initial questions were formulated to reveal the knowledge, experience, analysis, and views of prospective candidates BEFORE interviews and other reviews take place. They are also designed to illuminate to the wider UH community ,and general public, key attributes of a prospective candidate.

### TO THE APPLICANT FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERISYT OF HAWAII

Please provide a thoughtful, clear one-page response to each of the following important questions:

- 1. To your knowledge, what are the most important mega and micro trends in higher education today.** Please cite sources you find useful, and examples of other institutions that appear to be successfully responding to these trends.
- 2. Beyond the education of students in the various schools, disciplines, areas of interests, and departments, a public university system may at times seek to contribute to policy making and problem solving for a range of issues. Our State is confronted with challenges in education, civic education, climate change, aging, carrying capacity, food security, housing and many more. Please discuss your view of how a university system, though various policy centers, research, funding, partnerships and other forms of leadership might contribute to addressing these.**
- 3. Our State University System has constitutional, legislative, community, and outside funding relationships. How in your view a University System is different from any other state department, its level of appropriate autonomy, and how accountability may be best balanced with the special nature of higher education.**

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Jim Shon

(808) 282-1509 [jshon@hawaii.edu](mailto:jshon@hawaii.edu)



**BOR TESTIMONY BY JIM SHON MARCH 7, 2024.docx**

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## TESTIMONY BY JIM SHON

RE: BOR March 7, 2024

AGENDA ITEM FROM SPECIAL BOR CONTINUANCE February 16, 2024

Item D:

Discussion and Potential Action on Assignment of Tasks to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

### **Three Key Questions For Initial Candidates for President of the University of Hawaii**

I have worked at the UH, studied history and political science, taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and received a PhD From UH. As a State Legislator for 12 years, often serving on the education committees, and much later as Director of the UH Hawaii Educational Policy Center, I urge the following key questions be FIRST posed to applicants for the position of President of the University of Hawaii.

These initial questions were formulated to reveal the knowledge, experience, analysis, and views of prospective candidates BEFORE interviews and other reviews take place. They are also designed to illuminate to the wider UH community ,and general public, key attributes of a prospective candidate.

### **TO THE APPLICANT FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Please provide a thoughtful, clear one-page written response to each of the following important questions:

- 1. To your knowledge, what are the most important mega and micro trends in higher education today.** Please cite sources you find useful, and examples of other institutions that appear to be successfully responding to these trends.
- 2. Beyond the education of students in the various schools, disciplines, areas of interests, and departments, a public university system may at times seek to contribute to policy making and problem solving for a range of issues. Our State is confronted with challenges in education, civic education, climate change, aging, carrying capacity, food security, housing and many more. Please discuss your view of how a university system, though various policy centers, research, funding, partnerships and other forms of leadership might contribute to addressing these.**
- 3. Our State University System has constitutional, legislative, community, and outside funding relationships. How in your view a University System is different from any other state department, its level of appropriate autonomy, and how accountability may be best balanced with the special nature of higher education.**

## 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) \*

Erin Centeio

Your Organization (optional)

Presidential Search Advisory Group (PSAG)

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

ecenteio@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

Special BOR - IV.B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory Group Members

Your Position (required) \*

Support

Your Testimony/Comments

Please see below for testimony submitted on behalf of the four initial members of the PSAG.

Your Testimony (pdf or word)

**PSAG Testimony IVB.pdf** (29.1 kB)

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: Erin E. Centeio (ACCFSC), Jaret KC Leong (UH Staff Council),  
Kamakanaokealoha Aquino (Pūko‘a Council), Lindsey Millerd (Student  
Caucus)

Regarding **Agenda Item IV. B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory  
Group Members**

Aloha Chair Nahale-a and Regents,

**\*\* NOTE - We are submitting this testimony as a written account of what was  
spoken as part of the Presidential Search Advisory Group (PSAG) presentation at  
the February 16th Special BOR meeting.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the individuals who represent each of the four  
codified groups serving on the PSAG: Jaret KC Leong as chair of the UH Staff Council,  
Erin Centeio, co-chair of the ACCFSC, Kamakana Aquino, Pūko‘a Council  
representative, and Lindsey Millerd, representative for the student caucus. Our first task  
assigned to the four of us was to work with Vice Chairs Lee and Wilson to recommend  
to the BOR up to eight additional members to the PSAG.

We prepared a formal report that is available in the February 16, 2024 meeting  
materials. This testimony is supplemental to that formal report and was presented in  
person during the February 16th meeting. We want to remind the BOR that the four of  
us, and our constituents, would rather there be space for faculty, staff, and students on  
the presidential selection committee in addition to the BOR committee of a-whole.  
However, we understand that this is the direction that the Regents have voted to move,  
and we have moved forward in good faith to create a diverse group of individuals to  
serve on the PSAG. With that in mind, it is essential for the advisory group to provide  
significant input from faculty, staff, students, and community during the entire  
Presidential Search Process. We have been assured by many of you that the advisory  
group is not for cosmetic or public relations purposes.

Presented before you today is the full list of the 12 people we recommend to serve on  
the PSAG. The first four are the representatives from the four codified groups requested  
to provide an individual. Each group came about their representative differently, but  
most voted in some capacity for their representative. We have provided bios for the four  
of us at the beginning of the PSAG report because we thought it was important that you  
knew our backgrounds and how we contribute to the overall PSAG. Although we might

be “labeled” as one thing in the memos and announcements that went out to the larger UH community, we wear many hats and have our own eclectic experiences.

In preparation for the PSAG’s first meeting, an email with a link to a google survey was sent to the All Campus Council for Faculty Senate Chair (ACCFSC) members asking for feedback on what groups or entities should be represented on the search advisory group. It also asked for suggestions of names of individuals who might be a good fit for those specific groups/entities. The members of the ACCFSC were asked to send the survey out to their governance groups and the survey was also sent to the Mānoa Faculty Congress. Similarly, both the UH staff council and the Pūkoa Council sent out emails soliciting similar information from their respective groups. The student caucus discussed additional members during one of their caucus meetings. Once we sat down as a group of six (the four of us plus Regent Lee and Regent Wilson), we started discussing the types of groups and entities that need to be represented on the PSAG. Using data that was submitted from all constituents, we identified a total of 32 prioritized categories that we wanted to try to make sure were represented. The original group of four filled six of those categories.

During the first meeting, the four core members discussed and voted that each codified group wanted a second representative seat on the PSAG. Although all groups expressed interest and desire to receive more than two from their group, it was ultimately decided that with a limit of 12 individuals on the PSAG, we also needed space for other stakeholders. Having voted for a 2nd seat for each codified group, the groups had a VERY short time to figure out a second representative. This occurred in a matter of five days, including the weekend. The core members of the PSAG allowed each codified group to put forth their nomination for the second seat. Names were discussed, and the names presented to the BOR on February 16, 2024, had no serious concerns at the time of deliberation. The individuals on the proposed PSAG that fill these spots include Dirk Soma for the faculty, Brandon Marc Higa representing the staff, Dominique Bonifacio for the student caucus, and Noe Noe Wong-Wilson for the Pūko’a council.

After that selection process, the group worked together to see what categories each of these additional four members filled. They filled an additional 9 of the 32 (totaling 15) prioritized categories. With that completed, we went to work as a group to review additional names submitted by the Regents, Faculty, Staff, and students. We had categories that we were looking to fill and came up with a short list of names for the remaining spots. Looking at the total make-up of the PSAG, we aimed to create a diverse group, focusing on areas of concern like gender, neighbor island representation, different institutions, 4-year vs 2-year and community college representation. Using the final prioritized categories along with these other considerations, we arrived at 4

additional individuals. These individuals covered an additional 13 of the prioritized categories, totaling 28. The individuals who were added to the proposed PSAG at this point in the process were Duane Kurisu, Jerris Hedges, Jack Wong, and Tammi Oyadomari-Chun. Four of the 12 total individuals on the PSAG were suggested by a member of the Board of Regents.

This process has led us to the 12 names we present to the board today. It is important to note that this was an extremely difficult task to complete in a very short timeline. From our initial meeting as a group of six, until we were required to turn in a final vetted list of names, it was 8 days (including the weekend). It is also important for the regents to understand that some of our core PSAG group members still believe that the PSAG could benefit from having more than 12 members. Some of the concerns brought before you as testimony are simply because there was not enough room to represent all entities and the group could benefit from additional seats.

We hope that you will appreciate the due diligence that this team went through in a short period of time, to create the best representative group, including faculty, staff, students, and community members. Although the group will not satisfy everyone, this is a well-balanced group that will work with the broader community to represent the needs and desires of the UH system in the next presidential candidate. We hope that you will recognize the thought and hard work that went into this list. We have done our due diligence to recommend this group in the requested timeline and seek your approval for the whole group, so that we can move forward with this process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Erin E. Centeio, ACCFSC  
Jaret KC Leong, UH Staff Council  
Kamakanaokealoha Aquino, Pūkoʻa Council  
Lindsey Millerd, UH Student Caucus

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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) \*

Ashley Elisabeth Maynard

Your Organization (optional)

University of Hawaii

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

amaynard@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \*

Special BOR - IV.B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory Group Members

Your Position (required) \*

Oppose

Your Testimony/Comments

TO: The Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i

FROM: Dr. Ashley Maynard, Professor, Psychology, UH Mānoa

DATE: March 5, 2024

RE: Recommendations from MFS Committees for the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and Process

Dear Chair Nahale-a, Regents and President Lassner,

Thank you for welcoming testimony regarding the Presidential Search Advisory Group. My name is Ashley Maynard. I am a professor of Psychology, and I chair the Mānoa Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, which has signed on to a faculty senate resolution regarding the presidential search along with the Committees on Faculty Service and Administration and Budget. I am testifying in support of that resolution, submitted by Dr. Marguerite Butler.



I wanted to elaborate on our point about including a researcher and a scholar in the search committee, and if not that, in the advisory group. You may wonder why we make a distinction between research and scholarship. Isn't it the case that all faculty do teaching, research, and service? Yes, we all do it all, but we don't do it all the same way, and our daily routines vary. Research and scholarship are of course related. However, the routines of researchers to maintain big grant dollars differ from the routines of scholars, who tend to teach more. It's not that researchers aren't scholars and scholars aren't researchers; it's that we have slightly different experiences of the academy and the ways in which UH functions and doesn't function, and all the views are important. This also relates to our point that someone who has been a tenured faculty member at a research university will be in the best position to understand, explain, and defend the research university to others. At the least, the scholars and the researchers could explain how their routines compare and encourage others to include all views in conversations about how to run the university, which isn't happening effectively now. Faculty meet the mission in the aggregate, which is another important point; we can't all do everything the same way, but together, we keep the entire enterprise going. The main point of our submission is that there ought to be more Mānoa voices directly involved in the selection process, and we hope you will consider and support that view.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Ashley Maynard  
Professor of Psychology  
Chair of CAPP

[Your Testimony \(pdf or word\)](#)

No file attached

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## Testimony in support of staff appointees to UHPSAG

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S Pope <spope@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:16 AM

Letter of support for Brandon Marc T. Higa as a UH Presidential Search Advisory Group candidate

As a member of the Administrative Professional and Technical (APT) staff at Kapi'olani Community College I have had the opportunity to work with Brandon Marc T. Higa in recent years. We have been justifiably proud that one of our KapCC staff was selected as a student Regent for the University of Hawai'i.

Brandon has been particularly intentional in making sure that all staff, including the clerical employees and janitorial staff have a voice in campus governance matters, including executive managerial recruitments. Brandon has continued to serve in an advisory capacity as a past Chair of our KapCC Staff Council. He empowers his fellow staff to serve, and reassures them that he will support them in navigating the "work" that governance entails. Our staff must continue to fulfill their individual campus work responsibilities while also maintaining an active presence in staff governance. Our newest Staff Council Chairperson has benefited greatly from Brandon's knowledge of campus staff council history.

Our campus strategic plan emphasizes that "our faculty and staff are adapting to create a positive impact on the future of education and workforce development". Our campus mission includes commitment to "teaching, learning, and practicing Hawaiian values and culture."

Our campus philosophy indicates that we are aligned with the Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao mission " . . . developing, implementing and assessing strategic actions to make the University of Hawaii a leader in indigenous education . . . "

Our five campus values (nā lawena waiwai) are kūpono, kuleana, mālama, kūloa'a, and kūlia. Brandon contributes in each of the values areas.

**Kūpono: Practicing honesty and integrity with clarity in all relationships.** Brandon is trusted by his peers, which is reflected in the positions he's held with the Staff Council, student government groups, the Board of Regents, and other community organizations

**Kuleana: Sharing a common responsibility to support the future of our students, college, community, land, and sea.** Brandon empowers leadership in these areas by securing extramural resources to expand our capacity to grow in these new areas without sacrificing existing scarce resources to pursue them.

**Mālama: Protecting and perpetuating ancestral knowledge.** Brandon is now the head representative of his family. He lost his father to cancer last year. He bears family responsibility as a caretaker, son, and brother. He has shared his personal journey in sharing ancestral knowledge from his family through the Japanese American Storytelling Program to various universities in Japan.

**Kūloa'a: Ensuring that the needs are met with support and service.** Brandon's support of students is evident in his continuous support of our Student Congress leaders. When he was the Student Regent, he met regularly with our Student Congress to listen to their concerns and empower them to take action to represent their constituents on matters, including a proposed increase in the athletic fee.

**Kūlia: Creating meaningful curricula and learning experiences that serve as a foundation for all to stand and move forward.** Brandon is currently a lecturer at the UH Law School. He has secured grants to support curriculum redesign. He contributes his expertise in international education to our

Diamond Head campus to provide access for our students to study abroad programs in order to expand their horizons beyond Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan C. Pope  
Educational Specialist  
Kapi'olani Community College



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## Testimony in support of staff appointees to UHPSAG

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**Cheryl Miyahara** <cherylmi@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 8:57 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha Chair Nahale-a, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Wilson, and the Regents,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to reiterate my support of the recommended staff nominees to the UH Presidential Search Advisory Group (UHPSAG). We ask that you vote in support of the UHPSAG proposal, which includes representation from staff and other authorized governance organizations at UH.

Respectfully,  
Cheryl Miyahara

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Cheryl Miyahara  
Kapi'olani Community College  
Arts and Humanities Department Secretary  
[4303 Diamond Head Road](#)  
[Honolulu, HI, 96816](#)  
Office: Kalia 101  
Phone: [\(808\) 734-9365](#)  
Fax: [\(808\) 734-9151](#)

"The battle between two wolves is within all of us. One is evil - it is anger, jealousy, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good - it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

"Who wins?"

"The one you feed." - Cherokee



**Testimony\_StaffCouncil\_3-5-2024.pdf**

52K



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BOR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.EDU

March 5, 2024

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

Testimony to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
from the Kapi'olani Community College Staff Council  
re: Staff Participation in the UH Presidential Search Advisory Committee

Special Meeting: Agenda Items IV.B., IV.C., and IV.D.  
Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory Group Members  
Regent Liaisons to the Presidential Search Advisory Group  
Assignment of Tasks to the Presidential Search Advisory Group

Dear Chair Nahale-a, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Wilson, and Board of Regents Members,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members and the Presidential Selection Process Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) for considering our request to include staff in the formal process of recruiting and vetting potential candidates to serve as the next University of Hawai'i President. We are reassured by the Regents' commitment to the University's shared governance principles by providing the opportunity for the four systemwide shared governance leaders to propose a group of individuals committed to future success of the University in this capacity.

We encourage the Regents to approve Agenda Item IV.B. pertaining to the Search Advisory Group Members, as its proposed membership includes people with strong ties to the University whose diverse expertise represent our institutional mission and values. In particular, we are pleased to see strong staff representation from **Mr. Jaret Leong**, who is co-chairing this advisory committee in his role as the leader and founder of the systemwide University of Hawai'i Staff Council.

We also support **Mr. Brandon Marc T. Higa's** nomination as an advisory committee member, as someone whose leadership in extramural fundraising and international education provides an important perspective from the community colleges, which comprise seven of the ten UH campuses serving over 24,000 (more than half) students enrolled statewide. We affirm Mr. Higa's consistent advocacy for the recognition of shared governance at the campus and university, particularly in support of the Student Congress, by volunteering his time to speak with student leaders at the UH Community Colleges and has continued to serve as a resource to past student government leaders. As a former

4303 Diamond Head Road, Kalia 101  
Honolulu Hawai'i 96816-4221  
Telephone: (808) 734-9365  
Email: askstaff@hawaii.edu

Regent who has remained active in University leadership and governance, we are confident in Brandon Marc's capacity to serve in this critical role in supporting the Regents in their search for the next leader of our University. His knowledge of the University, its stakeholders, and the guidelines in which Regents are able to act will ensure the UHPSAG will act effectively within the parameters decided upon collectively by the Board of Regents.

We also encourage you to support the continued engagement of Vice Chairs Gabriel Lee and Ernest Wilson as liaisons from the Board to this Presidential Search Advisory Group. We understand the ultimate decision lies with the power and authority vested in the Board of Regents as a collective, and for this reason, feel the presence of Board liaisons will ensure the contributions of the advisory group align with the vision the Regents have for their involvement. This relationship is one built on trust, which in turn will only be stronger with close engagement between the Board and the advisory group.



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## Testimony for Special Meeting on the Presidential Search

1 message

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**Marguerite Butler** <mbutler808@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:04 AM

To: Zoom on behalf of Board of Regents <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>, Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Aloha BOR,  
I am submitting testimony for item  
B. Board Approval of Presidential Search Advisory Group Members

Thank you,  
Marguerite Butler

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Marguerite A. Butler  
Professor

School of Life Sciences  
[2538 McCarthy Mall](#), Edmondson Hall 216  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Office: 808-956-4713  
Dept: 808-956-8617  
Lab: 808-956-5867  
FAX: 808-956-4745  
<http://butlerlab.org>  
<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/biology/people/marguerite-butler>  
<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~mbutler>

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### 2 attachments



**MFS Committee input into the Presidential Search Cover Letter.pdf**

48K



**Resolution on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and Search Process.pdf**

116K

TO: The Board of Regents, University of Hawai'i  
FROM: Dr. Marguerite Butler, Professor, School of Life Sciences, UH Manoa  
On behalf of: Manoa Faculty Senate Committees on Faculty Service, Administration and Budget, and Academic Policy and Planning  
DATE: 03/05/24  
RE: Recommendations from MFS Committees for the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and Process

Dear Chair Nahale-a, Regents and President Lassner,

My name is Marguerite Butler. I am a Professor in the School of Life Sciences, and co-chair of the Manoa Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Service. Today I am testifying on behalf of the three committees, including also the Committees on Administration and Budget and Academic Policy and Planning. All three committees approved these recommendations unanimously.

It is clear that Manoa senators would like to have more organized senate input into the presidential search process. **In particular we are concerned the missions of the research university are not well represented on the proposed Presidential Search Advisory Committee.**

We have three primary asks:

- 1) We respectfully request that a seat be reserved to represent research.
- 2) A seat be reserved to represent world-class scholarship.
- 3) Faculty consultation be properly channeled through the recognized shared governance organizations—namely the 10 campus faculty senates

This resolution has been cosponsored by our three MFS committees, which represent a substantial portion of the senate. It will go before the full senate on March 13. We will provide the regents with an update after that vote. Like the BOR, the MFS has processes and bylaws, which we must follow. It would certainly expedite the consultative process if the issue were transmitted to the MFS and to each of the 10 Faculty Senates directly to avoid any confusion.

Sincerely,  
Marguerite Butler

Encl: Resolution on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and Search Process



***PASSED Unanimously BY the Committees on Faculty Service, Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, and The Committee on Administration and Budget***

*To be presented to the Mānoa Faculty Senate by the Committees on Faculty Service, Administration and Budget, and Academic Policy and Planning on March 13, 2024*

**Resolution on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and Presidential Search Process**

**WHEREAS** the presidential search advisory group (PSAG) is comprised of representatives from: the All Campus Council of the Faculty Senate Chairs (ACCFSC), the UH Staff Council, the ASUH, and the Pūko‘a Council, who along with two regent liaisons proposed 12 members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents on February 16, 2024<sup>1</sup>, in support of the regents’ goal of selecting the next President of the UH System before the start of classes in Fall 2024;

**WHEREAS** the Mānoa faculty were given one week to respond to an email survey<sup>2</sup> on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee which is not enough time for consultation with the Manoa Faculty Senate nor the 2200 faculty they represent;

**WHEREAS** the UH System includes Hawai‘i’s only research university, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, with the Mānoa faculty bringing in more than \$340 million in research dollars into the State of Hawai‘i in 2023<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS** the core missions of a university are academics, research, and service, and scholarship is at the heart of higher education;

**WHEREAS** the Mānoa Faculty Senate commends the goal of operating working through recognized shared governance organizations on consultation regarding the search for the new University of Hawai‘i President; however, it is imperative that the proper governance bodies are consulted;

**WHEREAS** the Regents Policy 1.210 (III.B.1) recognizes the shared governance organizations as the faculty senates of each campus, including the Mānoa Faculty Senate (MFS):

Quoted from RP 1.210 III.B.1 (emphasis added):

... the **faculties** of the **University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa**, the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu, and the Community Colleges **are authorized to develop faculty organizations by which regular and organized faculty involvement** may be exercised in carrying out their collective responsibilities with their administrative

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<sup>1</sup> UH Presidential Search Advisory Group Membership Proposal

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FiX1or7bu0yvde2XnPmt4pKsPUuZh6z/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>2</sup> Email regarding the Presidential Search Advisory Group Feedback Form

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IpuDa82I6Alpl2IpTUThdDvOIQ\\_39KyA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IpuDa82I6Alpl2IpTUThdDvOIQ_39KyA/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>3</sup> Report by Vice President of Research and Innovation Vassilis Syrmos

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=12689>

colleagues in matters of academic policy for the particular campus, major organizational unit headed by a chancellor, and the university...;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS** the MFS commends the inclusion of the voice of all stakeholders in the Presidential search, however, in matters of curriculum and academic leadership, the MFS reclaims the proper role of faculty in academic matters:

Quoted from RP 1.210 III.A.1 (emphasis added):

With unanimous agreement and understanding that the faculty of an educational institution contributes to its quality, spirit, aspiration, and effectiveness, the board issues this policy to provide for **organized faculty involvement** in the **development and maintenance of a collegial approach to academic decision-making and policy development**. The role of a university faculty governance organization is to advise the administration (primarily at the campus and unit level) on matters impacting and/or relating to the development and maintenance of academic policy and standards to the end that quality education is provided, preserved, and improved.;

**WHEREAS** the the presidential search process remains unclear on the roles and responsibilities of the search committee and the search advisory group;

**WHEREAS** the stated timeline is unrealistic for any academic search let alone that of a university president; has not allowed sufficient time for consultation of the MFS; and will decrease the likelihood of a successful search;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mānoa Faculty Senate finds that it is critical that the presidential search committee have the expert opinion of a researcher of national renown;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the presidential search committee have the expert opinion of a scholar who is a leader at the national level (regardless of grant dollars);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in recognition of the fact that the faculty share the responsibility of oversight with the regents and administration, ensure that faculty are involved in the review of candidates;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that tenured instructional faculty members be included on the selection committee, rather than solely on the advisory board;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MFS calls on the regents to consult directly with the MFS and the other recognized governance groups (namely, the other faculty senates) on

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<sup>4</sup> Regents' Policy on Faculty Involvement in Academic Decision-Making and Academic Policy Development  
<https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=1&policyNumber=210&menuView=closed>

matters related to the presidential search. Furthermore, we clarify that the regents cannot call on the ACCFSC, nor any other faculty senates, as a substitute for the MFS;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MFS urges the regents to develop a realistic timeline to allow for adequate consultation and to increase the likelihood of a positive search outcome in hiring of the next president of the University of Hawai'i system;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MFS calls on the regents to ensure that Mānoa (i.e., the flagship university) and its academic missions are adequately represented on the search advisory committee. Our list of nominees are:

**1) Nominations for a faculty member to represent research on the Presidential Search Committee:**

Velma Kameoka, Former Director of SSRI  
Patrick Kirch, Professor of Anthropology, and member of the National Academy of Sciences  
Steven Ward, Director of the Institute for Biogenesis Research  
Pete Mougini-Mark, former Director of HIGP

**2) Nominations for a faculty member to represent scholarship on the Presidential Search Committee:**

Sai Bhatawadekar, Professor of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures, former Director, Center for South Asian Studies  
Ashley Maynard, Professor and former chair of Psychology, former member of the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation  
Monique Chyba, Professor of Mathematics

**Supporting Documents:**

1. Presidential Search Advisory Group Feedback Form  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IpuDa82I6AlpI2IpTUThdDvOIQ\\_39KyA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IpuDa82I6AlpI2IpTUThdDvOIQ_39KyA/view?usp=sharing)
2. UH Presidential Search Advisory Group Membership Proposal  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FiX1or7bu0yvde2XnPmt4pKsPUuZhx6z/view?usp=sharing>
3. Regents' Policy on Faculty Involvement in Academic Decision-Making and Academic Policy Development  
<https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=1&policyNumber=210&menuView=closed>
4. CAPP testimony to the BOR 2/14/24 "Faculty Inclusion in the University of Hawai'i (UH) Presidential Search Process"  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gudLi9aitmNAMb6HGmB28PMKH3g4HwrB/view?usp=sharing>



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## 07MAR Testimony re: UH Presidential Search Advisory Group Nomination - Brandon Marc Higa

1 message

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**Kelli Acopan** <kacopan@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 10:56 AM

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

I stand by my testimony previously submitted to the originally convened meeting and am resubmitting it here for the continued special BOR meeting on 07MAR. Please find it attached.

=o) kel

Kelli Acopan

[kacopan@hawaii.edu](mailto:kacopan@hawaii.edu)

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Administrative Support Assistant, Title III  
Windward Community College  
Hale Akoakoa 212  
(808) 235-7420



**Testimony - BOR 07MAR.pdf**

55K

05 March 2024

Dear Chair Nahale-a, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Wilson, and Regents,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of fellow Student Regent Emeritus Brandon Marc Higa as a member of the University of Hawaii Presidential Search Advisory Group (UHPSAG). I have known Regent Emeritus Higa since 2016 when we met as the Board's liaison to the UH Student Caucus, when I was a student representative and officer from Windward Community College's Associated Students of the University of Hawaii student government.

As a fellow Student Regent, I can attest to the importance the student voice plays in key decisions at UH, and there are few more important decisions the Regents will face than selecting the UH President. With this regard, I understand the enthusiasm and interest of our student government leaders in ensuring they are represented in this process, not only through the perspective of the Student Regent, but also in the UHPSAG, which is charged with assisting the Regents in sharing the heavy responsibility of the search for President David Lassner's successor.

Regent Emeritus Higa has faithfully and consistently stood by the students before, during, and after his service on the Board. He provided sound counsel to the UH Student Caucus by giving up his weekends to attend all of the meetings and actively participate in discussions. Regent Emeritus Higa even met with campus leaders at all ten campuses on a regular basis to ensure that all students - even those not serving in systemwide groups - were able to share their perspectives, which reflected in his public comments.

The students' confidence in Regent Emeritus Higa was evident in how comfortable they were in testifying to the Board about matters that impacted their UH experience, including controversial proposals involving raising fees (athletics and parking) and the Thirty Meter Telescope project. Regent Emeritus Higa is candid and honest, while balancing his fiduciary responsibilities to the Board as a voting member, understanding that his actions ultimately impacts the future expectations of the Student Regents who serve before him. He was supportive of my leadership as a Student Regent for two terms and continues to support former UHSC student leaders in their pursuit of higher education at UH, including those who aspired to become future attorneys at the UH Law School.

I can also speak to Regent Emeritus Higa's valuable insight to UH's research enterprise, given his leadership as a grant expert within UH. Through my work at the TRiO program, I understand the value Regent Emeritus Higa's experience as a former federal program officer and federal project manager offers in recruiting talent for UH that supports our reputation as a leading research institution for indigenous language and culture, Asia-Pacific regional studies, and other disciplines we are proud of.

Thank you for considering Regent Emeritus Higa's nomination to serve on the UH Presidential Search Advisory Council. He is highly respectable and valuable to the UH community as a whole and I truly believe that he always has not only the best interest of the University in mind but has and will continue to inform his decisions via his own experiences as a student in the UH system and through the relationships he continues to build with students. You can rest assured that he will continue to stand by the Board, UH, and the students in this important and highly public process.

Kelli Acopan  
Student Regent Emeritus



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## Testimony in Relation to Nominations for the UH Presidential Search Advisory Committee

1 message

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**Brian Piotrowski** <brianpio@hawaii.edu>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 11:08 AM

To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Good morning,

Please find attached my testimony in **support** of Brandon Marc Higa's nomination to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Aloha,

Brian Piotrowski



**Brandon Marc Higa Support Testimony.pdf**

52K

To: UH Board of Regents  
From: Brian Piotrowski

March 5, 2024

Good morning,

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Brandon Marc Higa to the Presidential Search Advisory Group. I am a second-year evening part-time student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and I also have the pleasure of serving as Mr. Higa's teaching assistant for a persuasive legal writing course. Mr. Higa demonstrates his dedication to our students week in and week out and is a skilled communicator of abstract, difficult-to-grasp legal writing concepts. While many of our Richardson faculty are devoted to us as students, I am particularly impressed with Mr. Higa's ability to lead our class while also giving space for students to develop their own voices. He is without doubt a key member of the Richardson 'ohana who goes above and beyond to give back to our academic community.

Mr. Higa also demonstrated great perseverance in tirelessly advocating for me while I navigated the hiring process in becoming a TA. In doing so, he demonstrated his commitment to fairness and justice with respect to matters of employment. Furthermore, Mr. Higa's respect for UH staff was evident in the professionalism he employed in communicating to the various administrators necessary to complete the hiring process.

For these reasons, I have the utmost faith that Brandon Marc Higa will serve admirably as member of the Presidential Search Advisory Group and that he will represent the interests of the student body with zeal and wisdom.

Sincerely,

Brian Piotrowski