



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
April 19, 2006

By  
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HCR 137 - URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A SYSTEMWIDE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HCR 137. The University appreciates the counsel and advice of our legislators, and particularly so when the matter involves our students, who after all are the reason we exist. At the same time, we note that this resolution involves an expression of legislative intent that the University fill a particular position. Under Article X, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Board of Regents is given "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management and operations of the university."

Last December, upon the impending retirement of Vice President for Student Affairs Doris Ching, I announced that Clyde Sakamoto, Chancellor of Maui Community College, would lead the search for her replacement. Over the next few months, a search advisory committee was put in place, and at the February Board of Regents meeting the revised class specifications for that position were presented to the Board for its approval. The revisions, in accordance with recent practice, reflect the separation of the Mānoa campus from the System office.

At that same meeting, I announced the Devolution Initiative, in which the System will work with the campuses to site more resources at the campuses, closer to the students we serve. As part of that initiative, all System level positions and functions are being reviewed, from vice-presidents on down, to assess which functions should be conducted at the system level, and which at the campus level. That review should be concluded in about a month's time.

Pending the conclusion of that review, we have continued to prepare for a search, working on completing the population of the search advisory committee, starting the process for retaining a search firm, and developing a draft position description based on the new class specifications.

In the interim, the Board of Regents has given Karen Lee, Executive Assistant to the President, additional duties as Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Ms. Lee, who reports directly to me, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University, and has 11 years experience in student affairs at Columbia, Colgate, and the UH Mānoa College of Business.

Thank you for this opportunity to update the Committees on this matter.