



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

BOARD OF REGENTS

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Judiciary
January 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

by
John Holzman
Chair, Board of Regents

HB 1072 – RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is John Holzman, and I am the chair of the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents (BOR) of the University of Hawai'i submits this testimony in opposition to HB 1072 because it will chill the willingness of excellent potential candidates to consider volunteering on state boards and commissions.

HB 1072 seeks to require the volunteer members of the BOR to make their financial disclosure statements filed with the Ethics Commission also available for public inspection. However, these statements are held confidential for the volunteer members of all other state boards and commissions, including the State Ethics Commission. Disclosure is required only for paid directors and deputies in the Executive Branch, political candidates, and elected officials of the Legislature, with the exception of the Board of Education. We note the financial statements of the members of the Board of Education were also subject to public inspection when it was an elected board, and this requirement has yet to be reconciled after the board became an appointed board years ago.

Volunteer public service is a moral sacrifice to serve one's community without compensation for the sake of making a difference. Such service is also vital to the operations of state government, and ultimately the success of Hawai'i and its people. There are adequate protections to guard against conflicts of interest and ensure the ethical conduct of volunteer members. Requiring public disclosure of financial statements adds nothing more to these safeguards, but instead imposes an unnecessary burden that is a barrier for many highly qualified candidates who would otherwise consider making the moral sacrifice and volunteer to serve their community on a state board or commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.