



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SB 906, Proposing an Amendment to Articles X and XVII
of the Hawai'i Constitution,
to Create a Separate Board of Regents for the
University of Hawai'i Community Colleges,
to Create Selection Commissions for Each Board, and
to Establish Ten-Year Terms for Members of Each Board

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

February 10, 2005

by

David McClain
Interim President
University of Hawai'i

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Chairs Hanabusa and Hee and Members of the Committees:

SB 906 proposes an amendment to Articles X, and XVII of the Hawai'i Constitution, to create a separate Board of Regents for the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, create selection commissions for each Board, and establish ten-year terms for members of each board. The University has concerns regarding the establishment of a separate Board of Regents for the Community Colleges and believes that a study of the complex issues is needed.

Although there are states that have governance structures devoted to community college systems, in a state as small as Hawai'i there is merit in including all ten campuses in one system. We gain economies of scale, we enhance our ability to articulate courses and programs within the system, and we lessen the competition that happens when systems compete with one another for scarce resources.

The recent finding of the ACCJC, the community colleges' accrediting commission, that the current organization is not serving the community colleges as well as it might is a cause for concern. It is important to note that the current organization is a result of the reorganization of 2002 and the current administration is moving deliberately to review and modify the system organization to ensure evenness throughout the system and to improve the system's coherence. A new leadership structure for community colleges is under review--and was a matter of discussion prior to the commission's finding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.