

University of Hawai'i
Regents Candidate Advisory Council

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RCAC Releases Names of Finalists for Four Seats on the UH Board of Regents

HONOLULU – The Regents Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) has presented a list of candidates to Gov. Neil Abercrombie to fill four seats on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents for terms beginning July 1, 2012. The outgoing regents whose terms will end on June 30, 2012, include Ramón de la Peña (Kauai County); Dennis Hirota (City and County of Honolulu) Teena Rasmussen (At Large); and Matthew Williams (Student).

The RCAC was created after the passage of the Hawaii Board of Regents Candidates Act, a 2006 legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. Hawaii voters overwhelmingly cast their vote to require the Governor to select board of regents candidates from a pool of qualified candidates screened and proposed by the RCAC.

Approximately six years have lapsed since the passage of the constitutional amendment and the creation of the RCAC. All 15 members currently serving on the UH Board of Regents were selected by the Governor from lists provided by the RCAC.

The RCAC selection process is completely transparent; all candidate lists are compiled only after the RCAC completes its comprehensive review and selection process, which is solely and exclusively merit-based. The triggering of the need for a list of regent candidates as well as the submittal of the Council candidate lists, strictly follow prescribed processes and procedures set forth in either state statutes or the Council's administrative rules.

As part of the Council recruitment process, members actively solicited input from the following:

- Current and former university regents,
- University students, faculty, and administrators,
- Government, business and community leaders, and
- The public

These outreach efforts enhanced the Council's recruitment process and helped focus our search for candidates who possessed skills that further complement and increase board synergy and enhance the board's governing abilities. Our outreach also triggered the Council's highest applicant to vacancy ratio to date.

RCAC began this recruitment cycle during early fall 2011. Council members personally recruited candidates and contacted and encouraged government, business, and community leaders to nominate regent candidates. The Council placed print advertisement and issued press releases encouraging regent candidates to apply. Sixty-one (61) applications were received; all seven members of the RCAC thoroughly and comprehensively

screened each application. As mandated by Act 58, applications for the student seat were screened by the University of Hawai'i Student Advisory Group who tendered their recommendations for student regent candidates to the Council for its consideration.

Upon consideration of the applicants' educational background, experience, qualifications, and complementing skill set each candidate could add towards strengthening board governance and synergism, twenty-seven (27) candidates were interviewed in November and December.

Council members interviewed all 27 candidates and had each candidate understand the extraordinary personal time commitment (a minimum of 40 hours per month) that is required when serving as a university regent. Upon completion of the candidate interview process, the Council commissioned extensive background and reference checks on its candidate finalists. Having completed all its screening processes, the RCAC finalized the list of candidates and presented the following names to the governor.

Gov. Abercrombie must select nominees for the Board of Regents from this list. The State Senate must confirm the Governor's appointments during the current legislative session. The Council is also awaiting the governor's nomination decision on two Hawai'i County board seats currently held by holdover regent Carl Carlson and interim regent Barry Mizuno.

The finalists for the four seats are:

City and County of Honolulu Seat

- John Dean
- Ronald Ho
- Carol Mon Lee
- Keith Vieira

Kaua'i County Seat

- Klaus Keil
- Tom Shigemoto

At Large Seat

- Gregory Chun
- Patrick DeLeon
- Benjamin Kudo
- Georgia McMillen

Student Seat

- Jeffrey Acido
- Matthew Williams

The Council believes each finalist offers exceptional and complementing skills that will further strengthen board governance and synergy, serve as a tremendous resource for the University and its President, and help guide and focus the institution's strategic directions in teaching, research, and community service.

RCAC Chair Fujii expressed his appreciation to the many individuals who applied during this recruitment period and encourages those not selected to re-apply during future recruitments

The RCAC was created by Act 56 of the 2007 Session Laws of Hawai'i in conformity with Article X, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution and its members, are selected by various community constituencies namely the UH Alumni Association, the Emeritus Regents Association, the UH All Campus Council of Faculty Senate, the UH Student Caucus Executive Council, the Hawai'i State Senate, the Hawai'i House of Representatives, and the Hawai'i State Governor. The RCAC operates in a wholly nonpartisan manner.

The Board of Regents is the governing body of the University of Hawai'i and consist of fifteen (15) members whose representation include seven (7) from the City and County of Honolulu; two (2) from the Hawai'i County; two (2) from the Maui County; one (1) from the Kauai County; two (2) At Large; and one (1) University of Hawai'i student.

Members of the Board of Regents as well as the RCAC serve voluntarily and are not paid.

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