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The Honorable Chris Lee, chair
and members of the Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Representatives:

Subject: SB 928 HD 1

The bill proposes that a constitutional amendment be placed on this fall's general election ballot to eliminate the Regents Candidate Advisory Council, which now recruits, screens and recommends to the governor candidates for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

The bill does state a rationale for this proposed change.

Senate Standing Committee Report no. 911 dated March 1, 2019, the Senate's most recent correspondence on this bill, states that "having the most effective members possible on the board is most important," but there is no explanation as to how amending the constitution will achieve this objective.

At the time the constitution was proposed to be amended to create the RCAC, there was much discussion, and the voters approved the amendment. There has been little if any subsequent or recent public discussion indicating public dissatisfaction with the RCAC.

The RCAC is comprised of seven members, five of whom are appointed by the governor and one each by the president of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. So, as a practical matter, the governor controls the RCAC. If the RCAC were eliminated and the regents were appointed directly by the governor, the governor would be deprived of the benefit of the RCAC's recruitment, screening, and evaluation of prospective regents.

My personal experience is that the members of the RCAC are diligent, thorough, and develop their recommendations with the best interest of the university in mind.

In the absence of a reason to propose this constitutional amendment, I encourage you to hold this bill in your committee.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Randolph G. Moore

