A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the composition and term limits of members of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii is a matter of statewide concern that falls under its purview pursuant to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

The purpose of this Act is to amend the composition of the members of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Section 26-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) The University of Hawaii shall be headed by an executive board to be known as the board of regents. The board shall consist of [fifteen] eleven members. At least one member shall be a University of Hawaii student at the time of the initial appointment. [This member may be reappointed for one additional term even though the member may no longer be a student at the time of reappointment.] The governor shall reduce the terms of those initially appointed to
each seat on the board of regents to provide, as far as practicable, for the expiration of three terms each year; provided that the term of the student member shall not be reduced.

[At least twelve] The members, except for the student member, shall represent and reside in the specified geographic areas as follows:

1. Two members from the county of Hawaii;
2. Two members from the county of Maui;
3. One member from the county of Kauai; and
4. [Seven] Five members from the city and county of Honolulu[—]; provided that of the five members, three members shall represent and reside in the first congressional district of the State and the other two members shall represent and reside in the second congressional district of the State.

The board shall have the power, in accordance with the Hawaii constitution and with law, to formulate policy and to exercise control over the university through its executive officer, the president of the university. The board shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal organization and
management of the university. The board shall hold the
president of the university and university administration
accountable for decisions, actions, and leases that incur
additional costs to the university."

SECTION 3. Section 304A-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
"(a) The affairs of the university shall be under the
general management and control of the board of regents. The
board shall consist of [fifteen] eleven members who shall be
appointed by the governor from lists of qualified candidates
presented to the governor by the candidate advisory council,
pursuant to section 304A-104.6, and shall be confirmed by the
senate; provided that if the list of qualified candidates
includes fewer than three candidates at any time during the
nomination and confirmation process, the governor may request
that the candidate advisory council reopen recruitment for
qualified candidates. Members may be removed by the governor.
Except as otherwise provided by law, state officers shall be
eligible for appointment and membership.
The term of each member shall be five years, except as
provided for the initial appointment in section 26-11; provided
that the term of the student member shall be two years. Every
member may serve beyond the expiration date of the member's term
of appointment as a holdover member until the member's successor
has been appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate
in accordance with article X, section 6 of the Hawaii State
Constitution; provided that, notwithstanding any law to the
contrary, a holdover member shall not serve as a member of the
board beyond the end of the first regular session of the
legislature following the expiration of the member's term.
Members shall serve no more than two consecutive five-year
terms; provided that the members who are initially appointed to
terms of two years or less pursuant to section 26-11(a) may be
reappointed to two ensuing five-year terms. If a member is to
be appointed to a second term of five years, the senate shall
consider the question of whether to reconfirm the member at
least one hundred twenty days prior to the conclusion of a
member's first five-year term; provided that if the senate is
not in session within one hundred twenty days prior to the
conclusion of the member's first five-year term, the member
shall continue to serve until the senate convenes for the next
regular session or the next special session for which the senate is authorized to consider the question of reconfirmation."

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.
Report Title:
UH; Board of Regents; Composition

Description:
Amends the composition of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and reduces the number of board members from 15 members to 11 members. Specifies terms of holdover board members. Specifies that the Board of Regents shall hold the president of the University of Hawaii and university administration accountable for decisions, actions, and leases that incur additional costs to the university. (SB919 HD2)

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