

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 11, 2005

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1257

Honorable Members
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1257, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the University of Hawaii."

The purported purpose of this bill is to improve the governance of the University of Hawaii. The bill will establish a "candidate advisory council" for the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to "assist the governor in selecting members of the board by establishing the criteria for, screening, and recommending qualified candidates for membership on the board." In addition, this bill would increase the number of members of the Board of Regents from twelve to fifteen, effective July 1, 2007, and would amend the members' qualifications.

This bill is objectionable because it is premature. Senate Bill No. 1256, which passed the Legislature during the 2005 session, proposes a constitutional amendment that will require new members of the Board of Regents to be selected "from pools of qualified candidates presented to the governor by the candidate advisory council for the board of regents of the University of Hawaii, as provided by law." If the constitutional amendment proposed in Senate Bill No. 1256 is ratified, the statutory changes described in this bill could be introduced as legislation in the 2007 session and enacted in time to meet the new constitutional requirement.

Signing this bill would make the presumption that the voters will ratify the proposed constitutional amendment in 2006, a position that runs counter to our democratic principal of open

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and unbiased elections. Further, signing this measure could prejudice the results of the constitutional vote since eligible voters would know that the candidate advisory council had already become law.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1257 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii