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June 20, 2014

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Executive Director

The Honorable John Pérez
Assembly Speaker Emeritus, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1348

Dear Speaker Emeritus Pérez:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 1348, the measure you have authored that would establish the California Higher Education Authority responsible for, among other duties, measuring and reporting about the efficiency and effectiveness of the higher education segments in serving the state's needs, making recommendations about how to improve the performance of the segments and acting as a clearinghouse for postsecondary education information.

In researching its 2013 report, *A New Plan for a New Economy: Reimagining Higher Education*, the Commission experienced difficulty in obtaining data about the operations and performance of the different segments within the state's higher education system. The Commission attributed this deficiency, in part, to the lack an agency tasked with providing coordination among the systems and developing higher education policy for the state, as envisioned by the Master Plan. The Commission observed that collaboration among the higher education segments is not culturally instinctual, as demonstrated by efforts to develop transfer and articulation agreements among the segments, despite the fact that such a partnership would serve the best interests of the students and the state as a whole.

The Commission found that a coordinating body is essential to ensuring that the state's public higher education institutions coordinate their activities and develop joint strategies and recommended the creation of an oversight body with the authority to obtain financial, workload and outcomes data from all institutions of California public higher education. The Commission further recommended this oversight body have the authority to require coordination among segments on data collection and transfer policies.

Assembly Bill 1348 would implement the Commission's recommendations and as a result, the Commission supports this measure.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission