

Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Paloma and Members of this Committee,

My name is Jill Nunokawa and in my personal and public capacity, I write and speak to encourage authentic transparency in the kuleana process and actualization. I have witnessed the ongoing strife and suffering caused by the utter lack of disclosure, transparency, accountability, diversity and inclusion at the University of Hawai'i for almost ten (10) years. The absolute failure to genuinely address; student housing needs, student mental health needs, student rights under Title IX, student, faculty and administration's representation and integration of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as the hyper-hypocrisy of advertising and representing UH as a "Native Hawaiian Place of Learning" while simultaneously and secretly securing hundreds of millions of dollars in the Department of Defense funding for military task orders, many of which are top secret and hidden from public and Board of Regent oversight. These facts alone mandate an immediate halt to the current business and profit as usual at UH.

Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was the first day of the public process to select the next UH President and yet, the outcome appears to be pre-determined. There are disturbing rumors of a pre-selection shoe in and this is intensified by the fact the UH Board of Regents has moved its May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting from the UH Maui Campus to UH Manoa, thereby cutting off the Maui residents from testifying in person unless they fly to Oahu. This exact date coincides with the 3 public hearings as reported by the Maui News on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regarding the Department of the Air Force (which is under the Department of Defense) is proposal to construct and operate the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site Small Telescope Advanced Research (AMOS STAR) facility on the island of Maui. This DOD development would consist of up to seven (7) new telescopes on Haleakala. The DOD has contracts with the UH System that currently place the Air Force operations on Haleakala, where toxic spills have still not been fully cleaned and cleared. This is part of the overall expansion plan for the military in general and for the DOD through the UARC at our beloved University of Hawai'i system.

The Air Force also has military task orders that are processed, implemented and operated through UH at the Maui High Performance Computing Center (MHPCC) in Kihei. The reigning UH President has been the Principal Investigator on these DOD contracts for decades. This fact combined with the current President also holding the title of UH-Manoa Chancellor has been a huge conflict of interest at UH-Manoa and in our community. The UH Strategic Plan, which is in place till 2029, reinforces UH's commitment and states as an imperative to fulfill kuleana to Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i. It states, "GOAL: Model what it means to be an indigenous serving and indigenous-centered institution: Native Hawaiians thrive, traditional Hawaiian values and knowledge are embraced, and UH scholarship and service advance all Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i." One of the objectives listed states, "Play an active role in the reconciliation of injustices, advancing language parity, and improving the lives of Native Hawaiians across the islands."

This stated commitment, imperative and written goal attempts to address and reconcile the history of the military in Hawai'i from the illegal overthrow of the sovereign nation of Hawai'i to the reason why Pu'uloa was bombed in 1941, the destruction and obliteration of water sources

on Kaho'olawe and Kapukaki (Red Hill), Makua Valley and Pohakuloa as active firing areas, and the current occupation and control of approximately 25% of the lands on this Pacific Basin archipelago.

To play an active role in the reconciliation of injustices prohibits further destruction and development for the DOD and its military task orders. This is especially true at our public institution of higher education. Our stated strategic plan is irreconcilable with the DOD's mission and instigates further harm to Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai'i by contributing to generational trauma and the pricing out of paradise many are suffering through now. Maui, especially after the fires that caused catastrophic damage to lands, resources and people, has limited housing and access to water and sewer treatment plants. Building more military operational facilities and using UH to front and launder DOD funding is in direct conflict and is irreconcilable with its own stated strategic plan.

The rumored successor currently receives DOD funding through the College of Engineering. The next UH President must demonstrate an evidenced-based history of prioritizing students and the public mission of a university. They must have demonstrated transparency, accountability, inclusion and diversity in their professional endeavors. They must articulate the commitment necessary to lead during times of great change, conflict and controversy within higher education and be able to quantify and evidence a pattern of authentic actualization of accountability to diverse stakeholders and indigenous peoples in principle, practice and purpose. They must have the necessary qualities and integrity to actually create, fund, sustain and support an authentic Native Hawaiian Place of Learning at the University of Hawai'i.

We all recognize the historic importance of this time with the national Presidential election and the increase threats of nuclear disasters, wars, and climate chaos. We live and love on a once thriving archipelago that sustained hundreds of thousands of indigenous peoples prior to contact by Captain Cook. One of the great equalizers to these ongoing threats is public education, involvement and inclusion. In order to achieve any equalization, we must ensure the democratic processes are implemented and integrated with authenticity, accountability, and transparency. Many of these processes have failed to accomplish these goals and have created a great deal of distrust, disillusionment, disengagement, and disenfranchisement.

The time is now to build public trust by ensuring the public University of Hawai'i system is integrating its own strategic plan and reviewing the current conflict and clash with the purpose and mission of UARCs and the DOD military task orders through University systems.