



Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Marilyn Dunlap testimony on 02-11-16

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To: bor@hawaii.edu

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 4:35 PM

Dear BOR:

Attached please find the written version of the oral testimony that I gave today at the BOR Committee on Long-Range Planning and Facilities meeting.

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Testimony for the Board of Regents Committee on Long-Range Planning and Facilities

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 2:30 pm

Information Technology Building, Room 105A/B

Prepared by Dr. Marilyn F. Dunlap, Specialist, Pacific Biosciences Research Center, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Good Afternoon Chair Kudo, other members of the Committee and other distinguished guests.

My name is Marilyn Dunlap. I am a faculty specialist in the Pacific Biosciences Research Center where I also serve as Associate Director of the center and as Director of the Biological Electron Microscope Facility. I am here today in the latter capacity. The Biological Electron Microscope Facility, or BEMF, was established as a core microscopy research and training facility in 1984 and has been housed in the first floor of Snyder Hall since then. Our facility houses scanning and transmission electron microscopes, fluorescence and laser scanning confocal microscopes and a laser tweezers/laser microdissection system. It houses the only transmission electron microscope in the State of Hawaii. The BEMF operates as a recharge center through RCUH and with subsidies from PBRC.

In any given year we serve researchers from over 60 laboratories across the UH Mānoa campus as well as visiting faculty from other universities and users from local biotechnology and high technology companies and federal agencies. Notably, we also provide transmission electron microscopy services to the State of Hawaii Bioterrorism Unit. From the UH Mānoa campus the users are undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, staff, and faculty from departments in the College of Natural Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, College of Engineering, the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology.

While the BEMF was initially established to support imaging for the biological sciences, we also support users from the materials and engineering sciences. Our users study viruses of plants, animals and humans, examine endemic and invasive invertebrates, investigate animal-bacterial interactions, and develop innovative fuel cells, photovoltaics and biosensors.

We also conduct laboratory demonstrations and workshops for undergraduate classes in the UH Mānoa departments of Biology, Microbiology, Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, and for students from public and private K-12 schools and STEM training programs.

Although we have enjoyed the central location of Snyder Hall, the existing building has been crumbling around us. We have had to deal with floods (both external and internal), insufficient electrical power and air conditioning, limited fume hood capacity, failing infrastructure, and occasional pest infestations.

We look forward to the prospect of a new building that would have space designed specifically to support our sophisticated and unique instrumentation and our users' imaging needs and to being housed with faculty and students from Microbiology, Botany, Biology and PBRC to enhance integrated research and education. As someone who came to UH Mānoa as a graduate student in 1968, I can say it is high time for a new building that can support 21st Century interdisciplinary research and training in the life sciences.

Thank you.