Aloha,

Please find my oral testimony to the UH BOR regarding the reorganization of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation from this morning (1/28/16) attached to this email.

Thank you.

Michael Angelo
Hello and good morning. My name is Michael Angelo and I am the current Chair of the Committee on Administration and Budget for the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa.

I am here today to speak on the matter of the proposed reorganization that removes the Office of Research Compliance from the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa’s Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and places it into the University of Hawaiʻi System’s Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

On Jan. 20th, 2016 the Mānoa faculty Senate voted 96% in support of opposing the proposed reorganization and we are asking the Board of Regents to not approve the proposed reorganization on the bases that I present before you today.

In August 2015, the University of Hawaiʻi Board of Regents, based on the recommendations from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education directed the UH President to develop, consult as required, and present for approval, administrative reorganizations designed to: 1) reduce costs and improve efficiency/effectiveness of support services via consolidation/realignment of responsibilities at system and campus level offices; 2) establish clear lines of authority; and 3) minimize duplication of effort.

The proposed reorganization does not reduce costs.

The reported cost savings of $1.1 million is not verifiable. The Committee on Administration and Budget has requested a detailed analysis of how the cost savings are achieved from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation on multiple occasions. However, this information was not provided. Furthermore, the Committee on Administration and Budget has learned that some of the proposed cost savings would be achieved through the planned transfer of $650K in General funds into the University of Hawaiʻi System to pay for positions through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaiʻi and achieve the purported ‘cost savings’ in fringe benefits. This information was not provided in the reorganization proposal.

The Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa was appointed at the 9/17/15 BOR meeting at a compensation level of $315,000 per annum with duties that include overseeing the Office of Research Compliance. It is unclear how the proposed reorganization encourages cost savings by removing a portion of the duties of the Vice Chancellor for Research with a compensation level that includes oversight of the Office of Research Compliance.

The proposed reorganization may not improve the effectiveness of support services.
The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa generates approximately $345 million in research funding versus $65 million throughout the rest of the UH system. As such, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has the greatest need to access these services. According to the Office of Research Compliance, the Mānoa campus uses more than 80% of the services provided by the Office of Research Compliance. Placing the Office of Research Compliance at the System level of the University may decrease access to these services because the process may become less streamlined with the additional levels of institutional hierarchy.

Based on these reasons, the Mānoa Faculty Senate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa does not support the proposed reorganization and asks the Board of Regents to disapprove this reorganization.

Thank you.